

ICOM INSIDER

The Official Newsletter of the Islamic College Of Melbourne



TERM 1: Primary Wellbeing Days, Secondary Wellbeing Day, ILEAD Launch Day, ICOM Hijab Day, Be Kind Day, Important Dates, Reminders and more!

Principal's Message



Assalamualaikum warahmatullah wabarakatuh.

Dear parents, guardians and students,

As we open the doors to another academic year at ICOM, I am delighted to welcome back our returning students and extend a heartfelt welcome to those joining us for the first time. It was great to see the school come to life with eager students ready to dive into the year ahead. Our teachers and staff were equally excited, ready to guide and support our students through another period of learning and growth.

This term is particularly noteworthy as we unveiled our brand-new building, tailored specifically for our Foundation, Year 5 and Year 6 students. The opening of this state-of-the-art facility signifies ICOM's commitment to enhancing the educational landscape for our students, providing them with an environment that supports their academic and personal growth. We are excited for our students to benefit from these advanced learning spaces, designed to enrich their daily school experience and foster a love for learning. Along with this significant addition the rest of the primary building also received an upgrade, featuring updated carpeting and furnishings designed to blend seamlessly with the new construction.

The 'Meet the Teachers' information sessions offered a valuable opportunity for parents to engage directly

with our dedicated educators as well as gain valuable insights into the curriculum and updates on the school and its policies. A highlight of the Primary and Secondary sessions was the fantastic opportunity to introduce our School Student Representative Council (SRC) and honour the 2023 Year 12 High Achievers and Dux, celebrating their outstanding accomplishments. As Principal, I couldn't be prouder of these young leaders and future scholars. Their achievements reflect not only their hard work and dedication but also the supportive environment ICOM strives to provide. I am truly excited to watch them continue to flourish and grow.

Be Kind Day was a heart-warming celebration of compassion and empathy with students getting to dress in pastel hijabs and tops. The purpose of this special day was to draw awareness to the profound benefits of kindness both to oneself and to the school community at large. Throughout the day students engaged in a series of team-building and bonding activities. In addition to these interactive experiences, kindness-themed lessons were integrated into the curriculum, providing valuable insights into the impact of kind actions and words. This initiative was designed not only to celebrate kindness but to embed it as a fundamental value within our school culture, encouraging students to carry these lessons forward in their daily lives.

The Primary Athletics Carnival was a standout event this term showcasing the spirit and enthusiasm of our younger students. This year marked a significant milestone as for the first time, our Foundation to Year 2 students enjoyed their own carnival on the school oval. Over two separate days our junior and senior primary students enjoyed themselves as they enthusiastically participated in a variety of track and field events, from sprint races to long jumps. This event not only promoted physical fitness but also highlighted the importance of teamwork, perseverance, and the joy of participation.

Continue on page 3

Finally, the launch of the Diploma of Islamic Leadership at ICOM was a momentous occasion, graced by the presence of esteemed dignitaries, including the Grand Mufti of Australia, Dr. Ibrahim Abu Mohamad and several prominent religious figures from the community. This inaugural event marked a significant milestone in the school's commitment to providing comprehensive education that integrates Islamic principles and leadership skills. The presence of such revered guest also highlighted the importance of this program in nurturing future leaders within the Islamic community.

At the Islamic College of Melbourne, we pride ourselves on providing our students with a nurturing learning environment that sets them up for success. With our dedicated and experienced staff, supported by the commitment of parents at home and the enthusiasm of our students, I have no doubt that 2024 will be another productive year at ICOM, insha'Allah. As we move forward, I am excited to see what the rest of the term brings and to witness the continued growth and achievements of our students.

Dr Abdul M. Kamareddine
College Principal





Collection Notice for parents/guardians

2024 Student Residential Address and Other Information

The Australian Government Department of Education (the department) would like to notify you that we have requested for your child's school to provide residential address and other information.

Under the Australian Education Regulations 2023, the school is required to provide the department with the following information about each student at the school:

- names and residential addresses of the student's parent(s) and/or guardian(s)
- student residential address (**excluding student names**)
- whether the student is a primary or secondary student (education level)
- whether the student is boarding or a day student (boarding status).

The school collects the above information by generating a **unique and unidentifiable** student reference number (SRN) for each student record. The school only uses the SRN for this collection. **The SRN cannot be used for any other purpose.** The number only indicates to the department that each record provided is for one student.

Purpose of the collection

The Student Residential Address and Other Information Collection (the collection) informs Australian Government school education policy and helps ensure funding for non-government schools is based on need.

The information collected is used to inform school funding calculations. It is combined with Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data to calculate a non-government school community's anticipated capacity to contribute to schooling costs.

In 2020, the department introduced a new measure of capacity to contribute: the Direct Measure of Income (DMI). The DMI is based on the median income of non-government school students' parents or guardians using the collection data. For more information see [Direct Measure of Income \(DMI\) Methodology](#).

Use and disclosure of personal information

Your personal information is protected by law under the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) (the Privacy Act). Personal information is information or an opinion about an identifiable individual. Personal information includes an individual's name and contact details.

Any use or disclosure of your personal information must occur in accordance with the Privacy Act, the *Australian Education Act 2013* and Australian Education Regulations 2023.

Your personal information provided to the department through the collection may be:

- disclosed to the ABS for the purposes of capacity to contribute calculations and analysis as a part of the Multi-Agency Data Integration Project (MADIP). Find more information about MADIP on the ABS website [MADIP page](#)
- disclosed to a contracted auditor where the department may audit a school's collection submission. The contracted auditor compares the school's submission with the student enrolment information. The contracted auditor will not use the information for any other purpose

Important Dates and Reminders

- Parents are reminded of the importance of attendance. Every day is important. Parents need to ensure students are at school by 8.35am every morning to ensure they commence the day at homeroom. Your continued cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated for the best interest of your child/ren.
- Parents are reminded to install SEQTA Engage to access important messages sent from the College.
- Parents are asked to keep their details, including email address updated with the College. You may do this through SEQTA Engage.
- Parents must advise the College of any medical conditions their child may have, whether it is severe or just a mild condition.
- The College cannot provide medication to students unless it has been prescribed to them. This includes hay fever tablets and paracetamol. If your child requires medication your child's name and directions must be on the label before handing any medication to the College nurse.
- Parents wishing to join the 2024 IPAC (Islamic College of Melbourne's Parent Advisory Committee) are asked to send an email expressing their interest to admin@icom.vic.edu.au by Friday 15 March 2024.

8 March 2024

Year 4 Sleepover

8 March 2024

Secondary Athletics Day

11 March 2024

Labour Day Public
Holiday

13-15 March 2024

NAPLAN
(Years 3, 5, 7 & 9)

12 March 2024

Ramadan commences

15 March 2024

Secondary School Iftar /
Year 12 Qiyam Night

22 March 2024

Primary School Iftar

28 March 2024

Multicultural Day

28 March 2024

Last Day of Term 1 for
Students

16 April 2024

First Day of Term 2 for
Students

19 April 2024

Parent Teacher Interviews

25 April 2024

Anzac Day Public Holiday

2024 First Day back

The campus was buzzing with excitement as students reunited with their friends and teachers welcomed their eager students back with open arms.

We also welcomed many new faces to our ICOM community. We wish them a great year ahead. Inshallah its a new chapter, filled with opportunities to learn, grow and make lasting memories together.



ICOM Hijab Day

What an amazing day we had celebrating ICOM Hijab Day!

The school was buzzing with vibrant energy as students proudly adorned themselves with colourful scarves and cultural clothes' of their choice.

Recess and lunch were absolutely jam-packed with exciting activities! From brain-teasing puzzles to challenging memory games, and the hilarious pin the hijab game, there was never a dull moment.

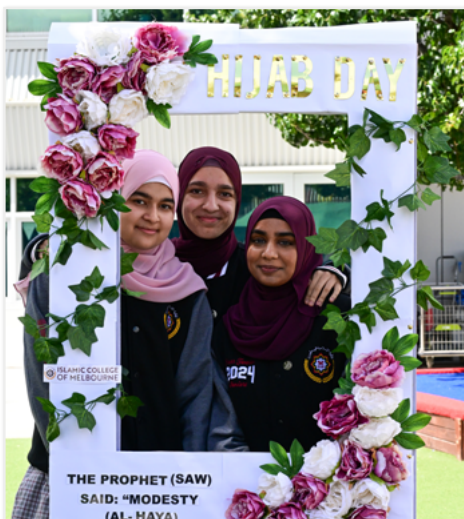
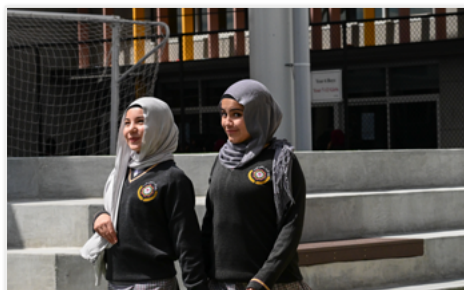
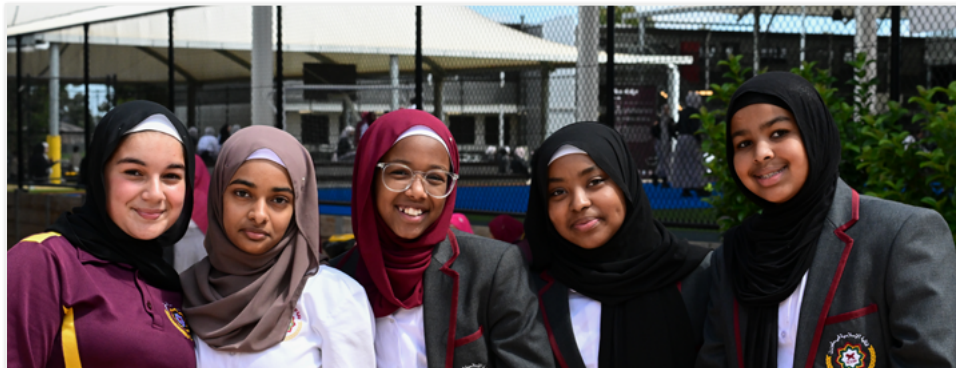
The hijab booths allowed everyone to experience the beauty of wearing a hijab, fostering understanding and unity. It was heartwarming to see students embracing different cultures and traditions.

Crown making stations and arts and crafts booths brought out the creativity in everyone. The photobooths captured the joyous moments, and the storytelling sessions had students captivated as our amazing teachers shared inspiring stories.

And let's not forget the flower crown station – because who doesn't love a bit of floral flair? It was a hit, giving students the chance to wear their creations and strike a pose for the camera.

In every corner, laughter, learning, and friendship bloomed. It truly was a remarkable day filled with love, respect, and cultural appreciation.





Year 5 Wellbeing Day

We are thrilled to share the tremendous success and overwhelmingly positive response to our recent Year 5 Wellbeing Day. This special day was designed to focus on holistic development, fostering a sense of community, and empowering our students with essential life skills.

The day began with a Guest Speaker address to our students about the hijab and modesty in Islam. This not only provided valuable insights into the significance of the hijab and modesty, but also encouraged open-mindedness and respect among our students.

The students were treated to an engaging presentation on personal development. The students learned about themselves and the change they will experience. These discussions were aimed at equipping our students with the tools they need to navigate the challenges of adolescence and beyond, all centred around Islam and teachings of our Prophet (SAW).

The students came together for a lunch which allowed for all to enjoy delicious food and build connections. This laid the foundation for a warm and inclusive atmosphere for friendships to develop over the course of the year.



Our College counsellors, delivered workshops focused on mental health and emotional well-being with coping skills being the focus. These sessions provided a safe space for students to express their thoughts and feelings while learning coping mechanisms for life's challenges.

Wellbeing is not complete without the attention to physical wellbeing. Our students actively participated in a sports program that promoted teamwork, coordination, and a healthy lifestyle which was led by the College's Physical Education Faculty.

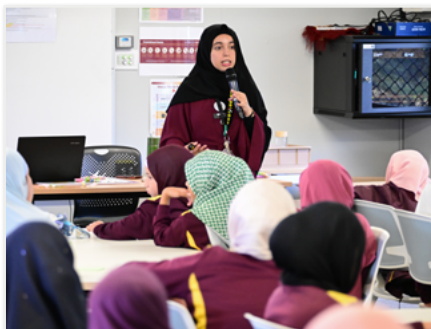
To complement the physical activities led by them, self-defence sessions were incorporated and delivered by external professionals. Led by experienced instructors, and known athletes in their respective disciplines, these sessions instilled a sense of confidence and equipped our students with valuable techniques to ensure their personal safety.

Alhamdulillah, the overwhelming positive feedback from students highlights the success of our Year 5 Wellbeing Day. We believe that investing in the overall well-being of our students not only enhances their academic performance but also prepares them for a successful and fulfilling future.

We look forward to continuing our commitment to the holistic development of our students in the years to come.

Omar Abdo

Director of Faith and Student Services



Year 6 Wellbeing Day

On Year 6 Wellbeing Day, our students were able to explore the programs provided by internal and external professionals – some being renowned athletes in the Oceania region.

The purpose of the day was for our students to be challenged outside of their comfort zone, as this is where genuine and exponential growth occurs.

Students were involved in:

- Large-sided sports competitions to highlight that no matter how advanced personal skills may be, teamwork is essential to be successful on a large scale.
- Shared lunch which allowed student to mingle with those they may not be familiar with, share jokes with each other, and smiles – as evident in the photos.
- Workshops delivered by our counsellors to enable personal growth, and learn key coping skills to deal with life and its many, and varied, challenges.
- Self-defence sessions which placed our students in uncomfortable, but realistic, situations that require composure and skills to succeed. Our students learnt about the key difference between self-defence and attack, and how to safely disengage from dangerous situations.

Our aim is to provide our students with education and experiences that will allow them to grow into fulfilled Muslims so that they are able to contribute to those around them, and the wider community.

We will continue to share our many positive initiatives inshallah. May Allah empower our students to develop into community-oriented Muslims. Ameen.

Omar Abdo

Director of Faith and Student Services





Growing and Knowing

The secondary college has welcomed our newcomers; the year 7 students with a bang. We had a full day organised for them, starting with the three full periods dedicated to getting all their secondary affairs from receiving book packs to managing their new lockers sorted with their homeroom teachers.

We then invited them to a two-period session on the topic of "Growing and Knowing" in gender segregated venues run by their Islamic Studies teachers. The aim of this session was to educate them on the important Islamic topic of Cleanliness "Tahara" and Adulthood in Islam "Bulugh". The students left the session with a "Growing and Knowing" pack that is full of important hygiene products and goods for their age.

The day ended with a year level assembly addressed by their Student Service Coordinator, before they were invited to a lunch/high tea as a positive way to end the wellbeing day.

The Secondary Student Services faculty wishes the year 7 a great and smooth start in Secondary in 2024.

Omar Lahham

Director of Student Services



Year 1 Reptile Encounters

In Term 1 the Year One, had an exciting event that took place on Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd of February 2024 - the "Reptile Encounters" incursion.

During this engaging experience, students had the chance to delve into the diverse needs and habitats of various reptiles. They discovered the unique characteristics and behaviors of Australian reptiles, encountering creatures such as the green tree frog, Spiny leaf stick insect, Frilled neck dragon, Shingleback lizard, Murray River turtle, Saltwater crocodile, and Olive python. Through hands-on interaction, students gained a deeper understanding and appreciation for these fascinating animals.

It was truly an unforgettable experience for all involved!

Aida El Haouli
Year 1 Team Leader





Foundation First Day

February 6 marked a momentous occasion as our little ones embarked on their first day of school, kicking off a wonderful journey of learning, growth, and friendship!

The school's ground was buzzing with excitement as bright-eyed children, eager to explore the world of knowledge, walked through the doors hand in hand with their proud parents. The air was filled with excitement, anticipation, and curiosity, setting the perfect tone for an amazing academic adventure.

Parents joined their little scholars in their classrooms, where our dedicated teachers warmly welcomed both students and families.

Wishing all our Foundation students a fantastic school year filled with laughter, learning and unforgettable experiences.



Dodgeball Competition

Week 2 of Term 1 was nothing short of spectacular, with our secondary students showcasing their talents both on and off the dodgeball court! Not only did they bring the house down in an EPIC dodgeball competition, but they also took the stage to pitch why they are the suited candidate to take on the role of House Captain.

Students proudly sported their house colours, cheering, and chanting for their teams. The excitement, passion and competitiveness was visible with students diving, ducking and dodging their way to victory.

Congratulations to all our Secondary students for giving their all and making this friendly competition a day to remember. You all displayed an incredible sense of community and excellent sportsmanship. Whether it was red, blue, green, or yellow, the sea of colours was a testament to the unity and spirit of our school.



Year 7 Sleepover

It was the much-anticipated sleepover for the Year 7 students, on separated Fridays, one for the boys and one for the girls, the school was filled with adventure and camaraderie. Students gathered at the base of a towering rock climbing wall, excitement buzzing in the air as they prepared to conquer the challenge ahead.

With harnesses tightened, they began their ascent, cheering each other on with every foothold gained. Despite some initial nerves, they found courage in the support of their friends and the thrill of reaching new heights.

After an exhilarating session of rock climbing, soccer, basketball and boardgames, students gathered around a crackling campfire, sharing marshmallows, stories and laughter beneath the starlit sky. The warmth of the flames and the sound of crackling embers created a sense of unity among the groups.

As the night wore on, students and teachers gathered for a delicious, warm bbq where each and every boy and girl tested their cooking skills and their faces illuminated by the flickering firelight. It was a deliciously messy affair, but the laughter and memories made it all worthwhile.

As the flames dwindled and exhaustion crept in, they retreated to their tents, hearts full from a night of adventure and friendship, eager for the next chapter of their journey together.





Be Kind Day

Week 4 was a sea of pastel hues at ICOM as our incredible students adorned themselves in pastel hijabs and tops celebrating Be Kind Day, radiating positivity and spreading good vibes with every step.

Throughout the day, our school turned into a playground of kindness, with stations filled with joy and creativity. From face painting, colouring and kindness jars emphasising the importance of the Prophet Muhammad's (pbuh) teaching of kindness and compassion, and today we embodied those values in all our activities.

During lunchtime, students were involved in a play where they acted out the impact cruelty has on a person and how acts of kindness can break down barriers and foster genuine connections.

The power of Kindness is considered a fundamental virtue in Islam. In a World where you can be anything, Be Kind!



ILEAD Launch Day

Alhamdulillah, we are truly blessed with the launch of the Diploma of Islamic Leadership at ICOM, and it was an honour to have the esteemed Grand Mufti of Australia, Dr Ibrahim Abu Mohamad, grace us with his presence. The atmosphere was filled with the wisdom and guidance of numerous respected sheikhs and Islamic figures who joined us in this momentous occasion.

The launch commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran by one of our ILIAS (Islamic Leadership and Integrated Arabic Studies) students.

Following this, our College Principal, Dr Abdul M. Kamereddine, took the stage, sharing inspiring words and introducing the Diploma of Islamic Leadership. The Principal's speech highlighted the significance of this educational initiative, emphasising the transformative impact it aims to have on our students live and on the Muslim community.

The Grand Mufti graced us with his wisdom. His speech resonated deeply echoing the importance of Iman and remaining steadfast in our faith regardless of the obstacles we may face.

The launch ended with a religious Nasheed led by our ILIAS students welcoming the blessed month of Ramadan.

As we embark on this journey of faith, knowledge and leadership, we ask Allah swt to infuse our hearts with gratitude, compassion and commitment.



Primary Library News



It has been a busy start to the year with the Primary students very enthusiastic about visiting the library.

Coloring club was off to a roaring start with budding artists keen to have their coloring sheets on the pinboard for display.

As a warm welcome to the new Foundation students we hosted a Big Book Story time where young students could meet the Librarian Ms. Amie and enjoy a story reading.

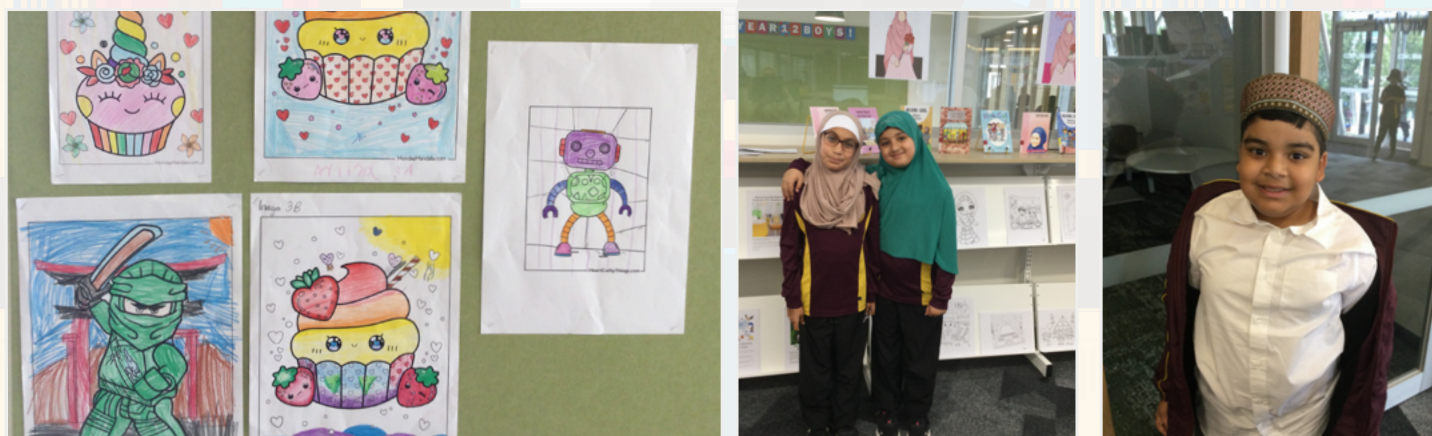
Embracing the school spirit, the library participated in Hijab day and Be Kind day with bright displays, special coloring sheets and engagement activities.

It has been wonderful to see all classes enjoying their library time and borrowing with excitement. We look forward to fostering the great readers of tomorrow!

We look forward to seeing everyone again in 2024.

Mr George Demetrios
Head Librarian

Ms Amie Callaghan
Primary Librarian



Secondary Library News



Asalamu Alaikum Warahmatullah Wabarakatuh,

We have an exciting year planned in the ICOM library for 2024 brimming with engaging learning programs and engaging activities.

As part of our ongoing commitment to foster a love of reading, we have continued with our Library Skills program. This program is for all Year 7 and Year 8 students.

While the primary focus of the Library Skills program is to facilitate reading for pleasure, it goes beyond that. It aims to equip students with essential skills. This includes understanding how to utilise the ICOM library resources and services and how to use the library effectively.

Furthermore, we aim for our students to explore the vast world of literature, expanding their horizons and fostering a lifelong love of reading.

Weekly clubs at the ICOM library can provide valuable opportunities for learning, socialising and exploring new interests. This year, we have several new clubs including the Book Club and Writing Club. Held weekly, the Book Club is a great opportunity for students to share their thoughts and ideas, allowing for a rich exchange of perspectives.

The Writing Club is tailored for aspiring authors. Specifically, it aims to create a supportive and constructive environment where members can hone their writing skills.

We look forward to an exciting and busy time in the ICOM library. This year promises to be one of growth and new developments insha'Allah.

Mr George Demetrios
Head Librarian

Ms Nadia Moosa
Secondary Librarian

