ICOM INSIDER

The Official Newsletter of the Islamic College Of Melbourne



Principal's Message



Assalamualaikum warahmatullah wabarakatuh.

What an eventful term it has been! With a wealth of activities, achievements, and growth across the school, term three has truly been inspiring. From engaging in diverse activities to overcoming challenges, we've witnessed our students rise to every occasion. Alhamdulillah, their efforts continue to make us proud. Primary Arabic Week was a major highlight for our students this term. Students immersed themselves in a variety of activities designed to deepen their understanding and appreciation of the Arabic language. From captivating storytelling sessions and calligraphy workshops to exciting challenges, the week beautifully showcased our commitment to embracing the language of the Holy Quran. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Arabic faculty for their dedication in organising such a valuable program.

Another memorable experience this term was the Year 9 boys' and girls' camps. The boys ventured to Golden Valley, while the girls headed to Allambee. Both camps featured outdoor challenges and activities designed to encourage team building, personal growth, and independence. It was wonderful to see them step out of their comfort zones and fully embrace these valuable experiences and develop essential life skills. I also want to extend my gratitude to the teachers who provided

their guidance throughout the camps, making these experiences possible.

A great focus of this term was raising awareness about mental health through R U OK Week. Throughout the week, students participated in various activities and discussions focused on creating a supportive and compassionate school environment. Mindful colouring, decorating cupcakes, and face painting were just some of the wellbeing activities that took place. On R U OK Day, students wore yellow accessories to promote awareness. Through various fundraising activities such as bake sales, we raised over \$6,000 to sponsor water wells in several developing countries In Sha Allah – a beautiful act of service. As our beloved Prophet PBUH said, "whoever fulfilled the needs of his brother, Allah will fulfill his needs; whoever brought his (Muslim) brother out of a discomfort, Allah will bring him out of the discomforts of the Day of Resurrection." I'm proud of the empathy and understanding our students displayed, and I encourage everyone to keep these conversations going beyond R U OK Week.

Earlier this term, I shared the exciting news that our Year 7-8 and Year 9-10 girls had qualified for the Bachar Houli Cup finals. I'm now thrilled to announce that our Year 7-8 girls team secured the championship trophy, while our 9-10 girls team earned an impressive second place. Congratulations to all the players and coaches for their hard work, dedication, and outstanding achievements. Your efforts have made us incredibly proud!

In the last week of term we celebrated STEM Week, packed with a variety of engaging activities. The week featured several incursions and a lively STEM Fair, where live experiments, a reptile show, and hands-on activities such as crystal making encouraged both parents and students to get involved. On STEM Day, students embraced the theme by dressing up in STEM-inspired costumes. It was wonderful to see the school filled with mini astronauts, scientists, and engineers, all eagerly taking part in the fun.

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We concluded term three with Parent Teacher Interviews, one of the most important days of our school calendar. An essential opportunity for parents and teachers to come together and discuss each student's progress and development. I want to thank all the parents and guardians who took the time to participate, as your involvement plays a crucial role in your child's success. The strong partnership between home and school is key to ensuring that each student reaches their full potential, and we look forward to continuing this collaboration in the terms ahead.

As we close out term three, a group of our Secondary School students and staff are preparing to embark on their Umrah and Turkey leadership trip over the term break. We wish them a safe and spiritually enriching journey, one filled with profound experiences and personal growth. May this trip inspire them to become compassionate leaders, and we look forward to the valuable insights they will bring back to share with us.

The final stretch of the school year, Term 4, brings with it end-of-year celebrations, graduations, semester exams and countless opportunities for our students to shine. Together, let's ensure they continue to thrive and finish the year with a deep sense of faith and accomplishment. I wish you all a safe and enjoyable break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back for a successful Term 4 In Sha Allah

Dr Abdul M. Kamareddine

College Principal





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Important Dates and Reminders

- Parents are reminded that in Terms 1 & 4 students are to be wearing the summer uniform, as per the Uniform Policy.
- 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 are reminded of the importance of attendance and punctuality. We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring your children are at school by 8.35am every morning to ensure they commence the day at homeroom on time.
- Please ensure that you inform the College or update your details on Seqta Engage if your personal details have changed, such as emergency contact numbers, phone numbers, address, etc.

7 October 2024

Curriculum Day

8 October 2024

First Day of Term 4 for Students

21 Oct - 7 Nov 2024

Year 12 IB Exams

29 Oct - 20 Nov 2024

VCAA VCE/VET Exams

5 November 2024

Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

15 November 2024

Foundation Concert

21 November 2024

Year 12 Graduation

29 November 2024

Year 6 Graduation

6 December 2024

Secondary Awards Night

ICOM STEM Week

ICOM students had an unforgettable and action-packed experience during ICOM's STEM Week! The entire week was filled with interactive, competitive, and hands-on activities that truly brought science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to life. From thrilling incursions such as the Professor Bunsen show, Mad About Science, Robotics and Software Development, and the explosive Tik Tik Boom! demonstrations, to hands-on spectacular science experiments, there wasn't a single dull moment inside or outside the classroom.

Our Primary students dived into nature with exciting insect hunts, tested their engineering abilities in the "Who Sank the Boat?" challenge, and displayed their creativity by colouring and designing posters around this year's STEM theme—sustainability. Each class had the opportunity to perform fun and engaging lab experiments, including lava lamps, volcanoes, flame tests, and chromatography, sparking their curiosity and enthusiasm for science.

For Secondary students, the week was equally dynamic with incursions on Robotics and Software Development, a Maths Show, and live science experiments. The highlight was the STEM assembly, where students competed in a STEM-themed Hot Seat Millionaire challenge, showing off their knowledge and quick thinking.

































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Adding to the excitement, students from both Primary and Secondary enthusiastically embraced the spirit of STEM by dressing up as their favorite scientists, innovators, and pioneers in the field. From Albert Einstein to modern-day tech innovators, the creativity on display reflected the students' passion for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The colorful costumes added an extra layer of fun and immersion to the already thrilling week of discovery and hands-on learning.

The week culminated in a grand STEM Fair, which was a highlight for the entire school community. The fair was packed with engaging activities, including interactive science experiments, mesmerizing reptile displays, and exciting science shows performed by students themselves. The event also showcased an impressive collection of student artwork from Art class, blending creativity and innovation in a celebration of both STEM and the arts. It was a vibrant, dynamic space where curiosity and learning were at the forefront.

STEM Week at ICOM was truly a celebration of innovation, exploration, and creativity. It left students feeling inspired, motivated, and eager to continue their STEM journey, both in and out of the classroom. The enthusiasm and excitement that filled the halls during this special week will undoubtedly fuel their passion for years to come.





















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ICOM: R U OK Week

Our school community recently celebrated an inspiring and action-packed R U OK? Week, with both Primary and Secondary students participating in a range of meaningful activities aimed at raising mental health awareness. Throughout the week, students were encouraged to reflect on the importance of checking in on each other, practicing mindfulness, and supporting their friends and peers.

In the Primary School, students enjoyed a variety of creative and engaging activities. One of the highlights was the mindful coloring of a giant R U OK? board, where students added their own artistic touches, turning it into a vibrant display. They also got hands-on by making friendship bracelets, badges, and flowers, while others enjoyed having their faces painted. The week was filled with fun, but also carried an important message about mental well-being. Our wonderful SRC students set up a pizza and lolly stall, with all proceeds donated towards mental health awareness. Another key highlight was the Art and Poetry competition, where students expressed their thoughts on R U OK? through beautiful art and meaningful poetry. Some of the poetry drew inspiration from the Holy Quran and Hadith, emphasizing the importance of supporting our brothers and sisters and promoting mental well-being.

In the Secondary School, students engaged in equally impactful activities. Each class visited the R U OK? marquee, where our college counselors shared valuable lessons on how to check in on friends, ask "R U OK?", and seek help when needed. Students also added positive messages to giant R U OK? letters and embraced creative self-care by decorating their own cupcakes. The focus on teamwork was highlighted during a fun game of Bocchi, testing students' collaboration skills, followed by an exciting Donut Eating Challenge. Stalls selling delicious meals and desserts were set up, with all proceeds going towards mental health awareness.

Both the Primary and Secondary students gathered for a special R U OK? assembly to wrap up the week. Each assembly featured performances that highlighted the importance of inclusiveness and mental health, with a powerful message about the simple yet impactful act of asking, "R U OK?". Our SRC students played a crucial role in the week's success, even distributing R U OK? cupcakes to all staff members as a token of appreciation for their ongoing support.

Alhamdulillah, this year's R U OK? Week was a resounding success, filled with thoughtful, creative, and engaging activities that brought our community together in support of mental health awareness.



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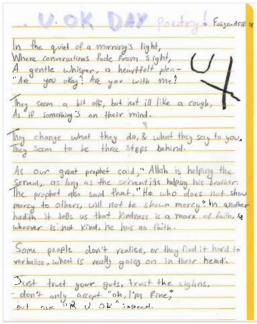


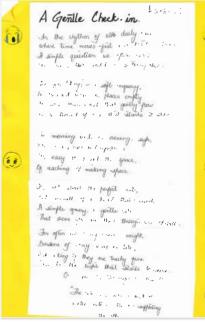


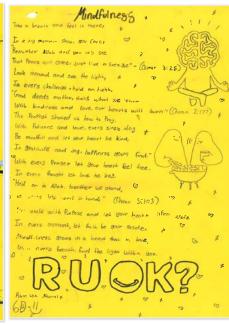


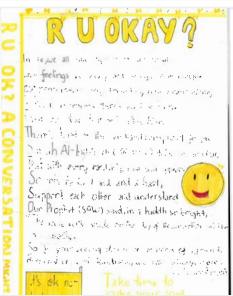


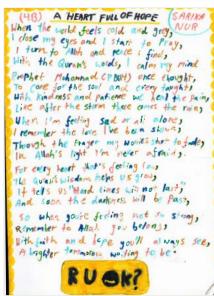
R U OK Week - Primary Poems



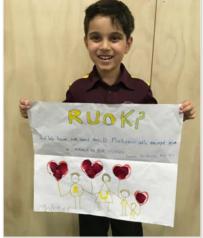










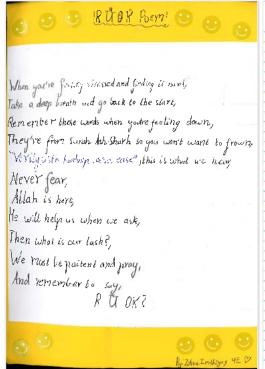


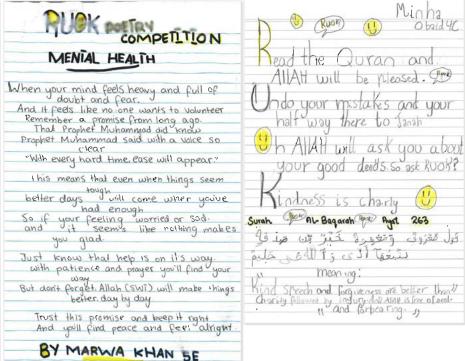


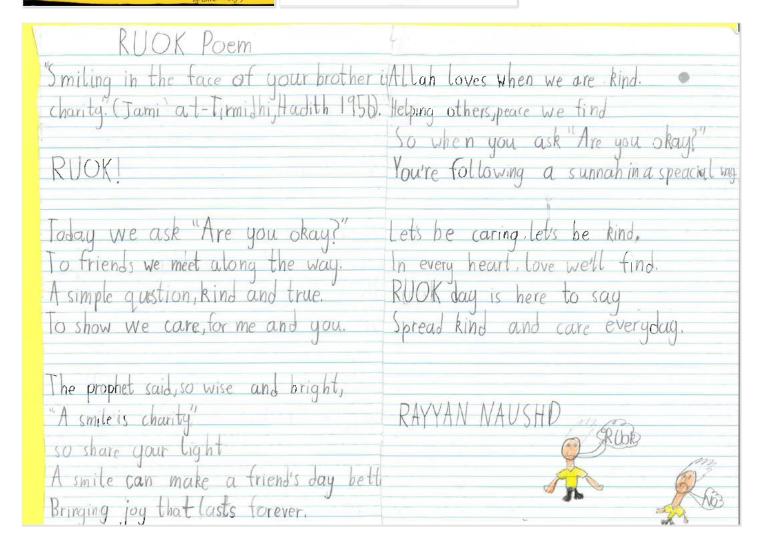


1st, 2nd and 3rd Foundation Students - Poem winners

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Year 10: Melbourne Grand Mosque

As part of the upcoming 'RUOK?' campaign, our Year 10 students embarked on excursions as part of their Leadership, Careers and Pastoral Care (LCPC) subject. Each homeroom visited one of prominent mosques Melbourne's West: the Australian Islamic Centre, Melbourne Grand Mosque, and Virgin Mary Mosque. These visits were not just about learning; they were an opportunity for our students to engage with the community and spread awareness of critical issues affecting Muslims today.

At each mosque, students focused on a specific issue: homelessness, mental health problems, and the struggles faced by our brothers and sisters in Gaza. With sense of responsibility, they communicated these challenges to the mosque communities, urging fellow worshippers to take action. A key highlight of these excursions was the initiative taken by the students to cook and distribute sausages and soup to worshippers, free of charge. This act of kindness was not only a way to draw attention to the causes they were supporting but also an opportunity for worshippers to contribute through donations. The students' efforts were met with overwhelming generosity, resulting in students raising over \$10,000 collectively.

These excursions were more than just a school activity; they were a testament to the independence, leadership, and initiative of our students. The experience provided them with valuable life lessons, as they navigated the challenges of organising and executing their plans. The students returned with a deeper understanding of the issues facing their fellow Muslims, and the satisfaction of knowing they made a difference. Most importantly, they had fun, building bonds with their classmates and the broader community in a meaningful way. Their actions reflect the values we strive to instil in all our students at the ICOM.

Mr Hassan ElKurdi

Year 10 Student Services Coordinator













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2024 ICOM Senior Debaters - Lunch

Celebrating the 2024 ICOM Senior Debaters Lunch: A Year of Triumphs and Teamwork

The Islamic College of Melbourne (ICOM) recently held its annual Senior Debaters Lunch, a cherished event that brings together our passionate debaters to celebrate their dedication and achievements throughout the year. With a team of 75 strong, every member was recognised for their commitment to debating, each receiving a special award to commemorate their participation in this year's competitions.

The lunch provided an opportunity to reflect on the outstanding accomplishments of 2024. One of the most notable highlights was our Year 9 Boys' Team making it to the finals, showcasing their skills, teamwork, and resilience in high-stakes debates. Additionally, we celebrated a long list of Best Speaker accolades earned by various students throughout the season, a testament to their eloquence and critical thinking.

As we look back on the year, we are filled with pride for the collective efforts of our debaters, who have consistently demonstrated their ability to argue persuasively, think on their feet, and support one another through rigorous rounds of competition. The success of this year's program would not have been possible without the unwavering dedication of our students, their families, and the ICOM staff who guided them along the way.

We look forward to building on this year's successes and continuing to nurture the next generation of confident and articulate leaders at ICOM.

Mr Jarrod Carrington

Debating & Public Speaking Coordinator









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ILIAS at Werribee Zoo

The Year 9 ILIAS students recently participated in an enriching, full-day excursion to the Open Range Zoo as part of their VET subject, Certificate II in Applied Language (Arabic). This unique experience allowed them to step outside the traditional classroom setting and apply their language skills in a practical and engaging environment.

ILIAS, which stands for Islamic Leadership & Integrated Arabic Studies, is a comprehensive three-dimensional subject that integrates the Quran, Arabic, and Islamic thought. It is designed to develop students' proficiency in these areas, preparing them for both personal and academic growth. The VET Arabic component is equivalent to a Unit 1 & 2 VCE subject, providing a robust framework for their future studies.

During the excursion, the students actively participated in a role-playing activity, simulating real-world scenarios where they used Arabic in the workplace. In addition, they completed major written assessments, demonstrating their ability to communicate effectively and professionally in Arabic, which is one of the key requirements of the subject unit, Application of the Language (Arabic) in the Workplace.

It was truly inspiring to see the ILIAS students embrace this opportunity with enthusiasm and creativity. Their willingness to engage fully with the program outside the classroom setting demonstrated their growing confidence in using their language skills in practical contexts. The excursion was a wonderful reminder of how learning can extend beyond the walls of the school and provide students with real-world applications of their studies.

Mr Mohammed Hijazi College Imam & Tarbiyah Coordinator









Primary Arabic Week

Our students truly shone during Primary Arabic Week, immersing themselves in the beauty and depth of the Arabic language and culture through a variety of captivating activities. The week was packed with engaging assemblies tailored to each level, allowing students to explore the significance of Arabic, which holds a special place in Islam as the language of the Quran and the key to understanding the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

The assemblies featured mesmerising Quran recitations that left the audience in awe, uplifting songs that highlighted the musicality of the language, and interactive role-plays that brought Arabic conversations to life. Students also took part in informative presentations that explored the rich heritage of the language, while showcasing impressive projects that demonstrated their creativity and growing mastery of Arabic. The excitement didn't end there, as students were recognized for their achievements, with exciting prizes awarded to those who excelled, and Arabic trivia sessions testing students' knowledge and encouraging further learning.

The Arabic department brought the richness of the language to life with a series of engaging activities throughout the week. One of the standout moments was the creative storytelling sessions, which captivated students as talented storytellers, including our College Principal Dr. Abdul Kamareddine, sparked their imaginations. These storytelling sessions not only entertained but also deepened students' connection with the language of the Holy Quran, inspiring a renewed appreciation for the beauty and significance of Arabic.

A calligraphy incursion for our Year 5 and 6 students was another highlight of the week, where a professional calligrapher guided them in crafting their own names using the elegant strokes of Arabic script. Our younger students also enjoyed hands-on experiences during recess, creating beautiful calligraphy pieces to take home, which gave them a deeper appreciation for the artistic side of the language.

































The energy and excitement reached its peak with our Amazing Race event. Students raced through six thrilling challenges, demonstrating both their teamwork and their Arabic skills. The joy on their faces was priceless as they engaged in each task, and every participant took home a special gift as a keepsake, ensuring the memories of this fun-filled day will last for a long time.

As part of our continued efforts to engage students with the language, we dedicated a special period to the magic of listening, viewing, and reading. Students enthusiastically delved into visual stories with their peers, participated in whole-class readings, and listened to captivating Arabic stories online. This activity not only helped students revise valuable vocabulary but also empowered them to memorize story names, boosting their confidence and motivation to continue learning Arabic.

The week wrapped up with a heartfelt thanks to our dedicated Arabic department and all who contributed to making this celebration of Arabic language and culture a huge success. Alhamdulillah, this year's Arabic Week was a memorable and enriching experience for all involved. As we move forward, may we continue to master the Arabic language and enable our students to better understand and connect with the language of the Holy Quran, Ameen.













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Year 9 at the ACE Karts

On the 26th of August, Year 9 Automotive students had the opportunity to visit ACE Karts, where they engaged in hands-on learning aimed at developing essential driving skills. During the visit, students focused on improving their hand-eye coordination by practicing the use of the accelerator and brake. The day included an informative lesson provided by the facility's experienced instructors, where students were taught the basics of driving, including how to operate a vehicle smoothly and the critical importance of driving safely and responsibly.

Following the lesson, students participated in three driving sessions on the karting track, giving them a chance to apply what they had learned in a practical setting. Over the course of these sessions, students made noticeable improvements in their driving technique. On average, each student was able to reduce their finishing lap time by 7 seconds. This significant progress was largely due to their growing understanding of how to correctly use the brakes and accelerator when necessary, as well as maintaining heightened awareness of their surroundings, which is vital for safe driving. Overall, the experience at ACE Karts provided students with a valuable foundation in driving skills that will benefit them in future automotive endeavors.

Mr Munib Arshad Year 9 Head of Faculty







Year 1: Pyjama Day

On Friday, August 23rd, the Year One students enjoyed a fun-filled Pyjama Day. They've been learning about weather in science and practicing procedural writing in class. The day was brimming with activities tied to their Term 3 lessons. The students began by decorating teddy bear cookies, sharing their favourite teddy bears, and proudly showing off their pyjamas.

They also took part in a pyjama hunt, culminating in a class parade that featured a special visit from the principal. As a bonus, each student received a gift pack that included a toothbrush and toothpaste!

Ms Aida El Haouli Year 1 Head of Faculty























Year 2: A Journey Back in Time

Our Year 2 students recently enjoyed an exciting excursion to the historic Werribee Mansion, where they stepped back in time to explore what life was like in the past. The mansion, once home to the wealthy Chirnside family, provided a fascinating glimpse into Victorian-era living. The students explored the grand rooms, learning about the lifestyles and customs of the time.

One of the highlights of the day was the toy room, filled with antique toys that gave the children a sense of how kids from the past played. Another favourite activity was the hands-on experience in the laundry room, where students learned how people used to wash, dry and iron clothes before modern machines.

Beyond the mansion, the students visited the mansion farm, where they saw some chickens and learned about farming practices of the past. They also explored the beautiful surroundings, including the serene lake and the charming grotto and even a tree with hangings bats!

The excursion was both educational and enjoyable, offering the students a memorable day filled with learning and discovery!

Ms Ghiwa El Hawly

Year 2 Student Services Coordinator





















Year 11: Self-Esteem Education & Development

The recent Year 11 self-esteem incursion, which aimed to empower students as young adults dealing with body image, media influence, and relationships was a success. During the event, students explored how the media shapes our perceptions of beauty and self-worth, learning to challenge unrealistic standards and foster a healthier, more positive body image.

The sessions on respectful relationships were particularly impactful, as they delved into effective communication, conflict resolution, and the importance of building healthy friendships. These discussions provided valuable insights into navigating both online and offline interactions with respect and understanding.

I was especially impressed by student's engagement in the self-talk segment, where they learned how the way they speak to themselves can influence their confidence and mental well-being.

At the end of the event, students also received a special gift—a collection of motivational quotes and practical strategies—designed to support them in thriving during this pivotal time in their lives. It was encouraging to see many of the students reflecting on how these tools could be applied to daily routines.

Let's continue working together to maintain a respectful, confident, and connected Year 11 community.

Ms Katherine Lu Year 11 Student Services Coordinator



















Year 4 visit Melbourne Museum

In September, Year 4 students were buzzing with excitement – full of enthusiasm to visit the Melbourne Museum to extend our learning about Science and Humanities topics.

We had an opportunity to watch a 3D movie,' Arctic', where we learnt how human activity is impacting our environment and bringing change to the Earth's surface. We also visited the First Peoples Gallery, where students could see an exhibition celebrating Victoria's Aboriginal people's history, culture, achievements, and survival.

Students were thrilled to enter the nest of Bunjil, the wedge-tailed eagle. We enjoyed the presentation, where we learned more about the most complete Triceratops in the world. We also enjoyed the walk in the Millari Gardens, where we looked at the plants and waterways that are significant to the Aboriginal people of southeastern Australia and the traditional uses of Indigenous plants. The 600 million Years gallery walk was popular as we saw hundreds of real fossils, animations, and models of life on Earth through the geological time periods.

Overall, it was a successful excursion where we learnt so many new things.

Ms Ritu Shαrmα Year 4 Head of Faculty



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Year 1: Science Planetarium

On Monday, August 26th, and Friday, August 30th, the Year One students went on an excursion to Science Works. They had the exciting opportunity to visit the Lightning Room, where they learned how water, air, and heat create lightning, rainbows, clouds, and rain. Wow! This was the highlight of the day.

Following that, the students embarked on an adventure with Tyco Goes to Mars, where they discovered the major features of Mars, including the ancient volcano Olympus Mons and the vast canyons of Valles Marineris.

Finally, the students explored two different exhibitions: Sports works and Think Ahead. They learned how their hearts and lung's function while observing their muscles and bones in action. Additionally, they had the chance to design their own 3D future city with vertical gardens and flying car factories. What an experience!

Ms Aida El Haouli Year 1 Head of Faculty





















Primary Library News



Term 3 has been a wonderful time in the library.

We have hosted R U OK? week with students creating their own posters to display in the library along with mindful activity sheets and helpful conversation starters. It was great to see so many thoughtful students checking in on their friends and the library staff.

Arabic week was a highlight for the library staff and favourite with the students., with our first Arabic games club running every day. Students had a variety of Arabic memory games, puzzles and problem solving activities to choose from.

With new books arriving throughout the term, the library continues to be a haven for our resident bookworms and a hub for groups of students to work on class projects.

STEM week has wrapped up the term nicely, we have had a lot of 'Teachers' and 'Scientists' come in and say hello and our range of new books focusing on all aspects of STEM have been popular with our younger students.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday and we look forward to seeing you all again next term.

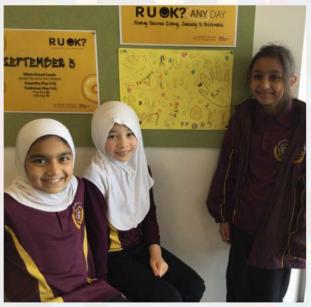
Ms Amie Callaghan

Mr George Demetrios Head Librarian

Primary Librarian













Secondary Library News



Asalamu Alaikum Warahmatullah Wabarakatuh,

Term 3 has been an exciting time in the library, filled with fantastic events that brought our school community together.

We kicked off with R U OK? Day, where students wore yellow to show support and raise awareness for mental health. It was inspiring to see everyone come together, wearing yellow and sharing positivity.

Next, we dove into STEM week, which spanned two action-packed weeks. The library hosted an engaging Robotics and Software incursion for our Year 9 students. They had the chance to dive into hands-on coding and interact with professionals in the field, gaining valuable insights and skills.

To wrap up the term, we celebrated by encouraging students to dress up in their favourite STEM costumes. From scientists to conveyancers and builders, it was wonderful to see such creativity and enthusiasm. The spirit of STEM truly shone through.

We look forward to more exciting activities in the library next term.

Ms Nadia Moosa Secondary Librarian **Mr George Demetrios** Head Librarian



