

ICOM INSIDER

The Official Newsletter of the Islamic College Of Melbourne



TERM 1: Primary Kindness Week, Foundation Fairytale Fiasco, Primary & Secondary Athletics Days, Debating & Public Speaking, Important Dates, Reminders and more!

Principal's Message



Assalamualaikum warahmatullah wabarakatuh.

Welcome to Term 1 of the 2025 academic year! It has been wonderful to see our students return with enthusiasm, ready to embrace the opportunities this year has to offer.

I extend a special warm welcome to our Foundation parents and all new families joining the ICOM community for the first time. I am delighted to have you with us and look forward to supporting you and your children as you settle into this new chapter, In Shaa Allah.

At the beginning of the term, we held our Meet the Teachers Info Nights. This major event provided an excellent opportunity for parents to connect with teachers and learn about the exciting learning journeys planned for the year ahead. In addition, the leadership team and I had the pleasure of formally acknowledging our newly appointed SRCs, captains, and prefects for their leadership roles. It was heartening to see such strong engagement from families across all year levels and I hope you all enjoyed the warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Our Secondary Info Night also featured formal recognition of our 2024 VCE and IB Dux and high achievers, who were awarded certificates and monetary prizes for their outstanding accomplishments. May Allah SWT guide all our 2024 graduates in their next chapter.

The enthusiasm from the start of the term carried into the energetic Athletics Days. Yellow House Ilm triumphed in the Primary cohort, while Red House Hikmah and Blue House Iman secured victory in the Secondary Girls and Secondary Boys categories, respectively.

Secondary Wellbeing Days were also observed early in the year, setting the tone for a supportive, reflective, and positive year ahead. These days offered students a valuable opportunity to focus on their mental, emotional, and social wellbeing through a range of engaging activities and workshops. It was a meaningful start that highlighted the importance of prioritising wellbeing throughout the year.

This week we proudly celebrated ICOM Kindness Week in ICOM Primary School, embracing the core Islamic values of kindness, respect, and compassion in our daily interactions. To reflect the spirit of kindness, students and staff dressed in soft pastel colours, bringing a warm and inviting atmosphere across the school. Thoughtfully planned activities, including friendship bracelet making, special performances, and a whole school lunch, highlighted the joy found in both giving and receiving kindness.

With Ramadan approaching, I look forward to a spiritually enriching time within our school community. We will begin this blessed month with a special assembly on Monday, which will also mark the commencement of our Ramadan timetable. To help build excitement and anticipation, all students received a Ramadan gift bag this week. Additionally, we have planned Iftar and Qiyam nights in the coming weeks, offering opportunities for our students to come together in worship and reflection. I pray this Ramadan brings peace, reflection, and spiritual growth to you and your families.

Together let's strive to make this year a successful and fulfilling one for every student, In Shaa Allah. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in creating a positive start to 2025.

Dr Abdul M. Kamareddine
College Principal

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.
- With new items, including uniform and school items please make sure your child's names are clearly visible with labels attached to any new items students may be bringing into the school.
- Parents wishing to join the 2025 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, 14 March 2025.

1 March 2025

Ramadan Commences

10 March 2025

Labour Day Public
Holiday

12-14 March 2025

NAPLAN
(Years 3,5,7 & 9)

14 March 2025

Secondary School Iftar

21 March 2025

Primary School Iftar

27 March 2025

Last day of Term 1
for Students
Multicultural Day

14 April 2025

First Day of Term 2
for Students
Eid Festival

14-25 April 2025

Quran Competition
First Round of Testing

17 April 2025

Parent/Teacher
Interviews

18 April 2025

Good Friday Public
Holiday

21 April 2025

Easter Monday Public
Holiday

25 April 2025

ANZAC Day Public
Holiday



Collection notice for parents/guardians

2025 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 (address 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, known as the capacity to contribute (CTC) score. More information is available on the [CTC page](#).

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 the ABS linking names and address(es) with their personal income taxation data using the capacity to contribute calculations and analysis as a part of the Person Level Integrated Data Asset (PLIDA – previously known as MADIP). Find more information about PLIDA on the ABS website [PLIDA page](#)
- disclosed to an authorised person (for example, contracted auditor or identified departmental official) where the department may audit a school's collection submission. The authorised person compares the school's submission with the student enrolment information. The authorised person will not use the information for any other purpose
- disclosed to our service providers for the purpose of providing the department with information and communications technology support
- used or disclosed where it is otherwise required or authorised by law.

Welcome Back to ICOM

Alhamdulillah, it truly is heartwarming to see all the smiling faces walking through the ICOM gates, reunited with friends, teachers, and the familiar warmth of our school community. Your energy and excitement have filled our school grounds with life, and we couldn't be happier to have you back!

We hope the break provided you with an opportunity to recharge, spend quality time with loved ones, and reflect on the year ahead. Now, as we embark on this new academic journey together, we pray that Allah (SWT) blesses each of you with success, ease, and guidance in all that you do.

A new school year brings new opportunities to learn, grow, and challenge ourselves. It is a chance to set new goals, strengthen our faith, and strive for excellence in both our academics and character. May this year be filled with beneficial knowledge, meaningful friendships, and endless moments of inspiration. May Allah (SWT) grant you the strength to overcome challenges, the wisdom to make the right choices, and the determination to reach your full potential. Ameen.

As we navigate this journey, let's remember to be kind to one another, to support our peers, and to embrace every challenge as an opportunity to become better versions of ourselves. Let's work hard, stay motivated, and always keep our intentions sincere. With faith, perseverance, and a positive mindset, there is no limit to what we can achieve.

May Allah (SWT) bless this school year with success, barakah, and joy for all. Welcome back to another amazing year at ICOM!



2025 Foundation First Day

We are absolutely delighted to welcome 2025 Foundation Students into the Islamic College of Melbourne family. Inshallah, this is the beginning of an incredible journey filled with knowledge, friendships, and personal growth. Each day will bring new discoveries, creative explorations, and opportunities to develop confidence in a nurturing, Islamic, and supportive environment.

To our little stars, get ready for an exciting adventure ahead! This year will be filled with learning through play, fun activities, and new experiences that will shape your love for learning. We can't wait to see you explore, create, and shine bright as you take on new challenges and develop your unique talents.

To our parents and caregivers, we understand that this is a momentous occasion for you as well. Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education and for being our partners in their learning journey. Your support and involvement play a vital role in their success, and we look forward to working together to create a positive and enriching experience for them, Inshallah.

We ask Allah (SWT) to bless our Foundation students with a year full of happiness, growth, and success. May He grant them ease in their learning, strong friendships, and the confidence to thrive in this new chapter of their lives. Ameen.

Welcome to the ICOM family – we look forward to a fantastic year ahead!



Year 9: Water Well Fundraiser

In 2024, our Year 9 students took the initiative to organise and facilitate a remarkable fundraiser to support those in need. Each class embarked on their own unique project, ranging from tug-of-war competitions to bake sales and BBQs. Through their hard work and dedication, they successfully raised funds to build water wells in distant lands for communities deprived of basic human necessities.

We are elated to announce the completion of these projects and celebrate the opening of all six wells—one for each class! This incredible achievement is a testament to the students' compassion and commitment to making a positive impact in the world.

We pray that Allah SWT accepts their good deeds and grants them entry into Jannat al-Firdaws alongside the Prophet, who taught us: "The best charity is giving water to drink."

Thank you to all the students, parents, and staff who supported this noble cause. Your efforts have made a significant difference in the lives of many.

Mr Omar Dennaoui

Assistant Director of Student Services



ICOM Meet the Teachers Info Night

Alhamdulillah, we had a fantastic turnout at both our 2025 Secondary and Primary Meet the Teachers Information Nights. These events provided a wonderful opportunity for parents to gain insights into the curriculum, school vision, latest updates, pathways, and key programs at ICOM. It was also a valuable chance for families to connect with teachers and better understand the academic journey ahead for their children.

A highlight of both evenings was the celebration of student achievements and leadership. We proudly introduced our newly elected SRC, Debating, and School Captains for 2025 across both Primary and Secondary. Congratulations to all these students! Your leadership, dedication, and commitment to ICOM are truly commendable, and we look forward to seeing you make a positive impact on our school community.

Additionally, we had the privilege of recognising our high achievers of 2024. Their hard work, perseverance, and excellence were acknowledged with a plaque and a generous monetary gift from the College Principal, Dr. Abdul M. Kamareddine. MashAllah, their remarkable efforts have set a high standard for future graduates and serve as an inspiration to their peers.

Parents also had the opportunity to ask questions, engage in discussions about their child's learning journey, and gain a deeper understanding of the expectations and exciting events planned for 2025. The evenings fostered a sense of collaboration between teachers and families, reinforcing our shared commitment to student success.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our staff, students, and parents for making these events a great success. May Allah SWT grant all our students continued success, wisdom, and guidance in their future endeavours. InshAllah, 2025 will be a year of growth, achievement, and excellence for our ICOM community.







Year 3 at the Melbourne Zoo

The Year 3 students had the opportunity to visit the Melbourne Zoo —an adventure that sparked curiosity and opened their eyes to the wonders of the natural world. In Science the students have been exploring the differences between living and non-living animals and how to classify animals based on their features. Stepping outside the classroom and taking learning to the zoo was exactly what was needed. Students had a fantastic time with a hands-on approach to learning.

Teachers and students enjoyed walking around and visiting a number of enclosures. From lions, to gorillas, penguins and frogs the Year 3s saw it all.

After a long and tiring day students were excited to share what they learnt and saw on the Melbourne Zoo exploration.

Year 3 Department



Year 5: Parliament Process Incursion

On February 12th and 13th all students in year 5 participated in a Humanities – Civics and Citizenship interactive incursion called Parliament Process.

The objective of the incursion was to learn about Federal Parliament, government and democracy through the interactive incursion.

Through this incursion students examined the democratic process in Australia. They learnt the roles of the three levels of government and how the Australian Federal Parliament relates to the Westminster system.

Students engaged in an interactive federal election and learnt about preferential voting and absolute majorities. They participated in a Federal Parliament role play to illustrate how bills become laws. Students formed political parties and added their own opinions to the debate, allowing their creativity to flourish.

The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and learnt many educational facts in the process. Hopefully we have inspired one of our students to become a political leader in the future!

Year 5 Department



Secondary Counsellors

It has been truly wonderful to see all of our students back after the holidays! We've loved hearing about your exciting adventures and seeing how much everyone has grown over the break. It's always such a joy to reconnect and hear your stories.

Over the past few weeks, we've been running anti-bullying sessions with classes, and we will continue these important discussions in the coming weeks. These sessions are a vital part of creating a positive and inclusive environment for everyone at school. We're so glad to see the students engaging and learning how to make our school a place where kindness, respect, and understanding are at the forefront.

We also had the pleasure of hosting two amazing Wellbeing Events. The treasure hunt was a particular highlight — we had so much fun designing it and even more fun running it with the students. The energy, laughter, and teamwork were truly uplifting!

As we move further into the year, we encourage all students to take care of themselves and each other. The start of the school year can be exciting, but it can also feel overwhelming at times. Remember to pace yourself, set realistic goals, and prioritise your wellbeing. Whether it's managing schoolwork, making new friends, or handling life's challenges, know that support is always available. If you ever need to chat, our doors are always open.

We have plenty more exciting activities and initiatives planned to support your wellbeing, and we can't wait to share them with you. Let's make this year a positive and fulfilling one for everyone. Wishing you all the best for the year ahead—we're looking forward to seeing what the rest of the year brings!

Mr Melih & Ms Malaika

Secondary Counsellors



Secondary Athletics Day

Weeks 3 & 4, ICOM witnessed two exhilarating Athletics Days, as our Secondary Boys and Girls took to the field in an incredible display of skill, determination, and sportsmanship.

Secondary Boys Athletics Day

The competition was fierce as students from HIKMAH, ILM, IMAN, and NAJAH gave their all in a variety of events, including Tug of War, Shot Put, Discus, Sprints, Long Jump, High Jump, and Javelin. Each athlete demonstrated not only their physical abilities but also resilience, perseverance, and true team spirit.

After an action-packed day filled with excitement and unforgettable moments, the students eagerly awaited the final results. Alhamdulillah, we are proud to announce that Blue House, IMAN, emerged as the champions! A heartfelt congratulations to all students for their dedication and enthusiasm, and a special acknowledgment to all four houses for embodying the values of strength, discipline, and unity.

Secondary Girls Athletics Day

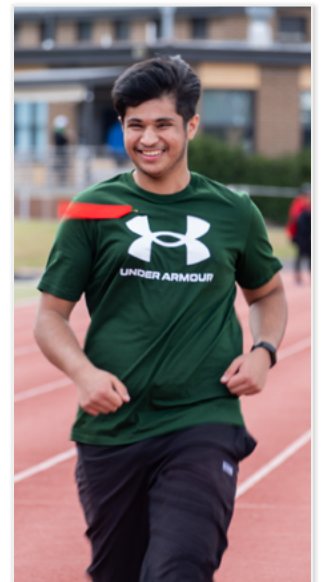
Following the boys' event, it was the girls' turn to shine! The atmosphere was electric as students from HIKMAH, ILM, IMAN, and NAJAH competed in a series of thrilling events, pushing their limits and showcasing outstanding teamwork and athleticism. From powerful performances in Tug of War to impressive feats in Sprints, Discus, High Jump, and more, the competition was nothing short of inspiring.

After a day of remarkable achievements, Red House, HIKMAH, claimed the championship title! Congratulations to all our incredible athletes for their passion and determination, and well done to every house for their efforts—whether competing or cheering from the sidelines.

Both events were a testament to the spirit of our school community, reflecting the values of perseverance, resilience, and unity, as taught by the Prophet (pbuh). Well done to everyone for making these days truly unforgettable!







Primary Athletics Day

Over two action-packed days, our students from Foundation to Year 6 showcased incredible energy, enthusiasm, and sportsmanship at our Athletics Carnivals!

Our Foundation to Year 2 students took to the field with boundless excitement, tackling classic events like the Egg and Spoon Race, Sack Race, Go Fish, Tug of War, Vortex, and the Obstacle Course. The vibrant display of house colours and the joyful atmosphere made the day truly special. It was heartwarming to see our young athletes embrace the values of fairness, respect, and teamwork, reflecting the teachings of Islam in sports.

The excitement continued with our Year 3-6 Athletics Day, where students gave it their all across a range of thrilling events, including Sprints, Bocce, Tug of War, and more. The competition was fierce, but the spirit of unity and encouragement never wavered. After a day of determination and teamwork, the moment of truth arrived—our College Principal announced the winning team. Cheers erupted as the yellow house, ILM, was crowned the champion, a well-deserved victory for their dedication and effort.

A huge congratulations to all our students for their outstanding participation and sportsmanship. No matter the results, each and every one of you is a champion!







Debating & Public Speaking

ICOM Debaters Shine in Round 1 of the DAV Schools Competition

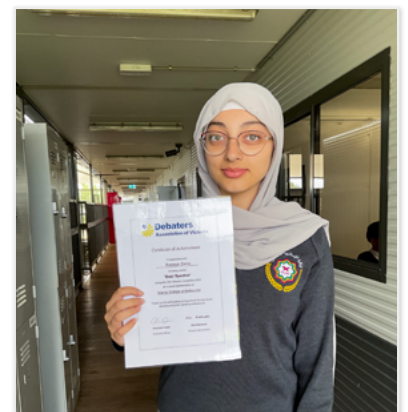
On Tuesday, 25th February, Islamic College of Melbourne proudly participated in Round 1 of the Debaters Association of Victoria (DAV) Schools Competition, held at Williamstown High School. This event is the largest English-speaking school debating competition in the world, bringing together students from across Victoria to develop their public speaking, critical thinking, and teamwork skills.

ICOM had an impressive close to 60 students competing across 12 teams, demonstrating their passion for debating and excellence in argumentation. The season started on a high note, with ICOM securing 7 wins and 5 students being awarded Best Speaker in their respective rounds: Farheen Imran, Mariyah Malik, Rameen Zehra, Rida Khan and Saadia Ali.

This fantastic achievement is a testament to our students' dedication, preparation, and hard work. We look forward to seeing their continued success in the upcoming rounds. Well done, ICOM debaters!

Ms Luana Veronesi

Debating & Public Speaking Coordinator



Primary: Bullying Awareness

Alhamdulillah, last week we wrapped up the Bullying Awareness session for all students from Foundation to Year 6. These sessions were led by our dedicated school counsellors and provided students with valuable knowledge and tools to further our culture of kindness, empathy, and respect.

The key takeaways for our students in these sessions were:

- Understanding what bullying is—and what it is not
- Recognising the different types of bullying (verbal, physical, social, and cyberbullying)
- Learning about the role of bystanders and the importance of speaking up (upstanders)
- The Islamic perspective on standing up against wrongdoing, inspired by the teachings of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him):

"Whoever among you sees evil, let him change it with his hand. If he is unable to do so, then with his tongue. If he is unable to do so, then with his heart, and that is the weakest level of faith." (Muslim)

Together, we are committed to ensuring that our school remains a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for all our students. May Allah protect our students, our children, from any harm and wrongdoing, and grant them the ability to stand up for what is right and in the footsteps of our beloved messenger, Muhammad (SAW). Ameen.

Mr Omar Abdo

Director of Student Services



Year 6: Smoothie Bar Incursion

The Year Six Smoothie Bar Incursion was a highly activated day which focused on Business and Economics 'Effects of consumer and financial decisions'.

Students developed their skills in teamwork, critical thinking, problem solving, creativity, financial literacy, communication and presentation skills.

In this hands-on and delicious incursion, students were challenged to create a smoothie product and marketing campaign that promoted health and wellness in their community.

While they worked in teams, students discovered what it took to become a business owner. They investigated the preferences of their target market, design and learned about cost and profit before trialing their delicious and nutritious blends.

Once they had the ultimate smoothie recipe, students used their creativity and design skills to produce marketing materials and promoted their product and brand.

Then it all comes down to The Pitch!

At the end, teams presented their products showcasing it's brand name, theme, menu, slogan and brand ambassadors to the target audience.

Ms Mehnaz Naqvi
Year 6 Head of Faculty



Primary: Kindness Week

Alhamdulillah, at ICOM, kindness is more than just a word—it's a value we live by. This past week, our students embraced the power of kindness through meaningful activities that encouraged empathy, friendship, and generosity. From our Spreading Kindness Performance and Friendship Bracelet Making to Face Painting and the inspiring Friendship Wall.

A major highlight was our SRC Fundraiser, where students enjoyed delicious treats while raising money for a noble cause. We are beyond proud to share that, thanks to the generosity of our incredible students (and their parents), we have raised over \$4000 for the orphan appeal.

Our Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said, "I and the person who looks after an orphan and provides for him, will be in Paradise like this," putting his index and middle fingers together. May Allah reward you all for supporting the cause through the students and grant you and your family endless blessings. Ameen.

Ms Yuksel Ismael

Assistant Director of Student Services / SRC Coordinator





Foundation: Fairy Tale Fiasco

On Thursday, February 27th, and Friday, February 28th, Foundation students participated in an engaging and interactive incursion titled Fairytale Fiasco. This drama workshop provided students with an opportunity to explore the imaginative and creative world of fairytales in a dynamic and hands-on way.

During the workshop, students entered Fairytale Land, only to discover that things were not as they seemed—a mysterious spell had been cast, causing mice to meow, dwarfs to grumpy and dragons to lose their ability to fly. Through dance and performance, students reenacted classic fairytale stories they had studied throughout the term, bringing them to life in an exciting and memorable way.

The experience fostered creativity, confidence, and collaboration, making learning both enjoyable and meaningful. It was a truly magical experience for all involved!

Ms Aida El Haoui

Foundation Head of Faculty



Primary Library News



It is with great joy that we welcome back the students for another year. The library has continued to be a hub of activity for all students, while the year Twos have been excited to explore the library and borrow books during recess and lunch.

Library orientation was an essential part of welcoming back previous students and introducing our new students to the library. During this session students learned about the borrowing rules and how to use the library catalogue.

We also hosted a love your library day, where students wrote about their favourite parts of visiting the library, along with our first Craft & Color club for the year. It was wonderful to see so many students getting involved in both.

Wishing all students an exciting reading journey ahead.

Ms Amie Callaghan
Primary Librarian



Secondary Library News



Asalamu Alaikum Warahmatullah Wabarakatuh,

Welcome back to another year at the ICOM library where creativity and knowledge awaits you in 2025.

We are thrilled to begin this term with a fresh selection of fiction and non-fiction books. Students eagerly filled the shelves with their favorite titles, making their way to borrow books that sparked their curiosity and imagination. From gripping novels to thought-provoking non-fiction our students were excited with our new selection.

In addition to the new books, we have expanded our magazine subscriptions to include top-tier publications like The Economist, National Geographic, Time, and many more. These new additions will keep students informed on global issues, culture, and science, supporting both academic learning and personal interests.

We are committed to keeping our collection vibrant and diverse, ensuring that every term brings new resources and opportunities for exploration. This is just the beginning – we'll continue to update our library to inspire learning and creativity.

The Creative Writing Competition has sparked a tremendous amount of interest, with many students already signing up. We can't wait to see the incredible stories that will come from this wonderful initiative!

The library is truly a place where imagination meets knowledge and we look forward to seeing all students take full advantage of everything it has to offer.

Ms Nadia Moosa

Secondary Librarian

