



Iona Public School

Responsibility Respect Excellence

Learning Together in Harmony

Newsletter

Term 4 Week 5

Calendar

Term 4 2025

16 Oct-4 Dec	Well-I-Am Program – Girls Years 4-6 every Thursday
24 Oct-12 Dec	Swimming every Friday
11 Nov	Bake Sale
12, 19, 26 Nov	Kindergarten Orientation
19 Nov	1-2 League Tag Day
20 Nov	Colour Run
21 Nov	Assembly K-2
3 Dec	Fair Day
11 Dec	Presentation Day
18 Dec	School Presentation & Party Day

Term 4 is always an exciting term as we begin our orientation processes for next year's Kindergarten students in the coming weeks, whilst we begin our transition for Year 6 students moving on to high school. Assessment and reporting will be a key focus for staff alongside preparing for the end of year celebratory events to wrap up 2025. Please ensure you keep up to date with the latest news from school via our newsletter, website and Sentral Parent Portal.

Our new school website will go live on 13 November which Mrs Mahony, Mrs Preece and I have been working very hard on. We would love some parent feedback at our next P&C meeting on 2 December.

Earlier this term we distributed via our newsletter and SENTRAL for Years 5 and 6 information regarding EduChat. If you are a parent of these

students, please ensure that you have read the privacy notice before students have access on Monday 17 November.

The weather has begun to brighten up with average temperatures climbing from week to week. This is a timely reminder around our school expectations on wearing a hat. The NSW Department of Education has a sun safety policy which we enforce here at school. Research indicates that skin damage which can lead to cancer in adults is most often from sunburn in the first 15 years of a person's life. Our Uniform policy outlines that each child should wear a blue wide brimmed school hat during playtimes and sport activities when outside in the elements. Please ensure that your child has the correct hat each day for school, no caps or recreational hats please.

I am looking forward to purchasing some baked goods tomorrow to support Year 6!

Warm regards,
Rachel Leary

Year 1 & 2 League Tag

Year 1 and Year 2 students are looking forward to representing Iona at a League Tag event being held at Somerset Park Thornton on Wednesday 19 November. Players are to wear their school uniform, bring sunscreen, a hat, plenty of water and lunch.

Canteen available on the day.

Presentation Day Trophies

If your child received a perpetual trophy at Presentation Day last year, it is now time to return it to the school office so we can prepare for this year. Thank you.



(02) 49301415



Iona-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au



860 Paterson Road Woodville NSW 2321



<https://iona-p.schools.nsw.edu.au>



Kindergarten Orientation 2026

Kindergarten Orientation is an important stepping stone for our future students. It helps us to get to know them a little better and helps them to prepare for an exciting year ahead. Orientation runs over three different dates in November of this year. We encourage students to attend all three sessions. Times for all three sessions are 9:15am - 12pm. Students will require a packed lunch, including fruit break and a hat.

Session 1 - Wednesday 12 November 2025

Session 2 - Wednesday 19 November 2025

Session 3 - Wednesday 26 November 2025. Parents and caregivers information session and morning tea from 11am in the library.

49 30 1415
iona-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Book club Orders

Book club orders are being sent home today with your student. Order due back by Wednesday 3 December. If your order contains gifts that you do not want your child to know about, let Mrs Mahony know.

End of Year Class Party

Party day will be held for students on Thursday 18 December 2025. This will be held at school. The cost will be \$12.00 each.

Please complete **the tear off slip at the end of the newsletter** and return with payment by Thursday 11 December. Unfortunately, late orders cannot be accepted after this date. Additionally, please let us know if your child has an allergy or will be bringing their own lunch. We are so happy we can celebrate such a big year.

End of Year Presentations

This year's Presentation Ceremony will be held on Thursday 11 December at 9:30am at the Woodville School of Arts Hall. The class award Presentation Assembly will commence at 9.30am on Thursday 18 December under the COLA. Parents and carers are welcome to attend both presentations.

Selective High Schools and Opportunity Classes

Selective high schools and opportunity classes are specialist school settings that group together high potential and gifted students. Please see the attached information flyer regarding key information and dates if you are interested in enrolling your child. The application link will be available at Selective high schools and opportunity classes from 6 November. <https://education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/parents-and-carers/choosing-a-school-setting/selective-high-schools>
Friday 20 February 2026: Applications close

Year 5 Leader's Elections- Reminder

Our Year 5 students will be presenting their leadership speeches on Thursday 4 December 2025 with our elections carried out on the same day. Following tradition, our leaders will be announced that afternoon at 3pm. We wish them good luck as they present themselves to the rest of the school.

Years 4–6 Bake Sale Fundraiser – This Tuesday!

Our Years 4–6 students are excited to be hosting a Bake Sale Fundraiser this Tuesday at lunchtime under the COLA.

During the recent Student Council meeting, students voted to organise a bake sale as their next fundraiser — and they can't wait to share their delicious creations with the school! All money raised will go towards the **Year 6 Farewell Gift**, celebrating our senior students' final year at Iona Public.

Treats will be priced between 50c and \$3, with a variety of **nut-free** goodies available. Families of Years 4–6 students are welcome to send in baked goods on the morning of the sale. Please ensure items are nut-free, labelled with ingredients, and individually portioned where possible.

Thank you for supporting this fun, student-led event — and helping our Year 6 students finish their primary years on a high note!

P&C Meeting

Our next P&C meeting will be Tuesday 2 December at 8:15am in the library. Please come along and support our wonderful school.

Christmas Hamper

P&C has once again provided a collection basket for contributions to our "Christmas Hamper" which is presented to the Salvation Army each year. The basket will be placed in the entry foyer of the office area where it will be convenient to receive your most welcome donation.



Jack turned 10 on 30 October
Thea turned 10 on 1 November
Matilda turned 7 on 8 November

Class News

K-1

While Mr Burgess has been away – he got married. Congratulations to him and his new wife. He will have lots to report on when he returns.

2-3

The Masterminds have been hard at work diving into the adventurous world of Fantastic Mr Fox these past weeks. They've explored the sneaky cunning and clever character traits that make Mr Fox such a legend (and maybe secretly wish they had a bit of his wily charm!). They've each penned their very own description of a mysterious fourth farmer—watch out, because these farmers might just be even trickier and grosser than the original three!

Meanwhile, in mathematics, the Masterminds have been cracking the code of fractions and patterns like true number detectives.

I'd like to congratulate the Masterminds for their outstanding behaviour and work ethic over the past few weeks during my professional learning and website updates. I have received only exemplary feedback about their conduct and effort.

Mrs Leary

4-6

It's been another busy and exciting fortnight in our classroom!

In Mathematics, Stage 3 students have been learning how to calculate discounts of 25%, applying their knowledge to real-life shopping scenarios. Stage 2 students have been working hard on division with regrouping, using hands-on materials and strategies to build confidence and accuracy.

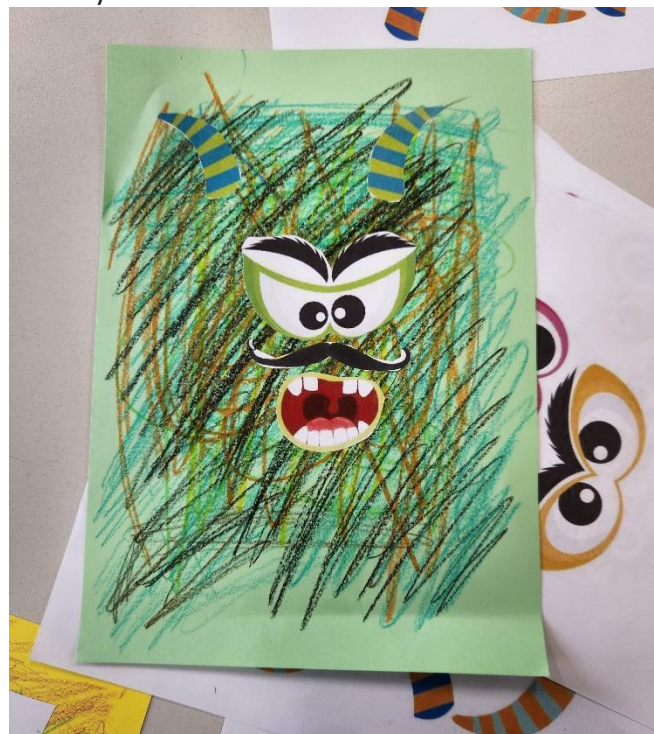
In English, students are learning about genre, with a focus on identifying the text and language features of informative texts. We've been exploring how writers organise facts, use technical language, and present information clearly to their readers.

A huge well done to all our Year 4–6 students for their wonderful performances on Grandparents Day! The acrostic poems were heartfelt and creative, and the 'Grandparents and Technology' skit had everyone laughing. You all did an amazing job representing our school with pride and humour!

Mrs Bird

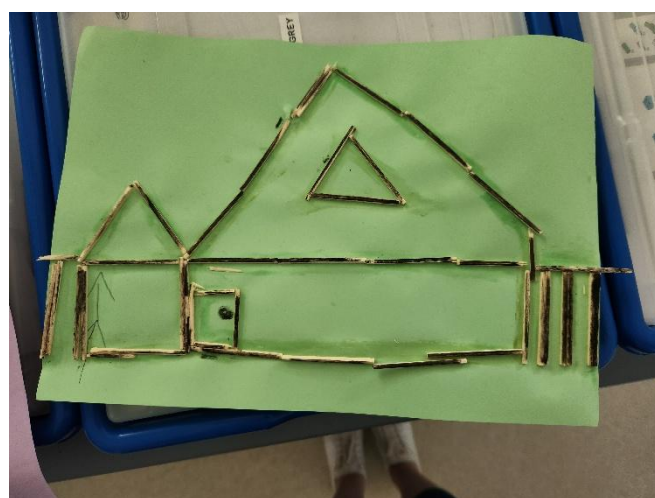
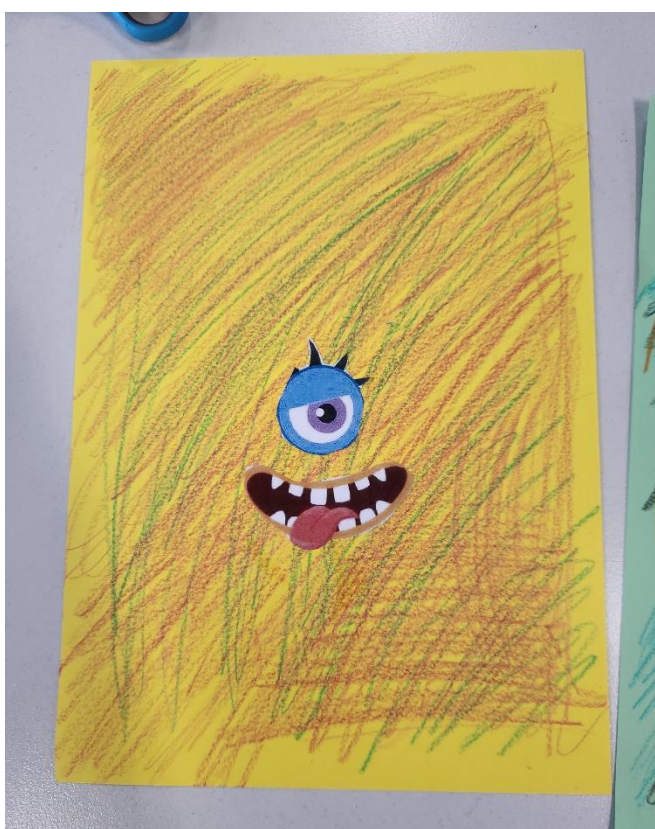
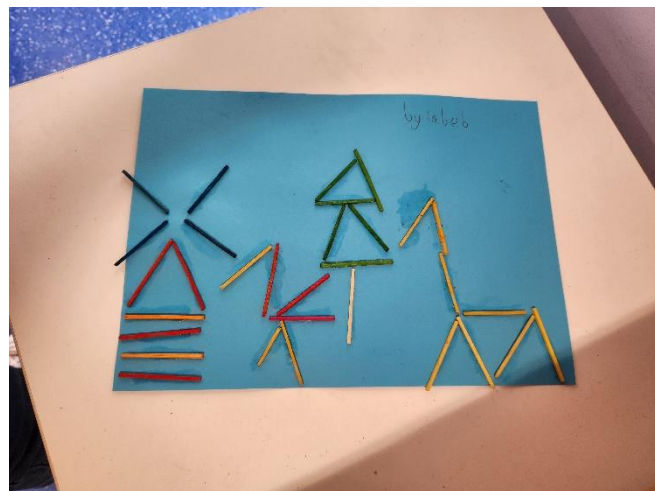
Lunchtime Craft

Week 3 saw the creation of scribble monsters. Lots of fun and silly faces were made to brighten our day.





Week 4 we had to use our fine motor skills to glue down matchsticks to make our matchstick art.



Mrs Gibbs



Help shape the arts, events and culture in Port Stephens

Port Stephens Council is updating Our Incredible Place Strategy, a plan to support local arts, events and culture from 2026 to 2031, and we want your input!

Whether you're a community member, local creative, performer or event organiser, your feedback will help shape a vibrant, inclusive and creative future for our region.

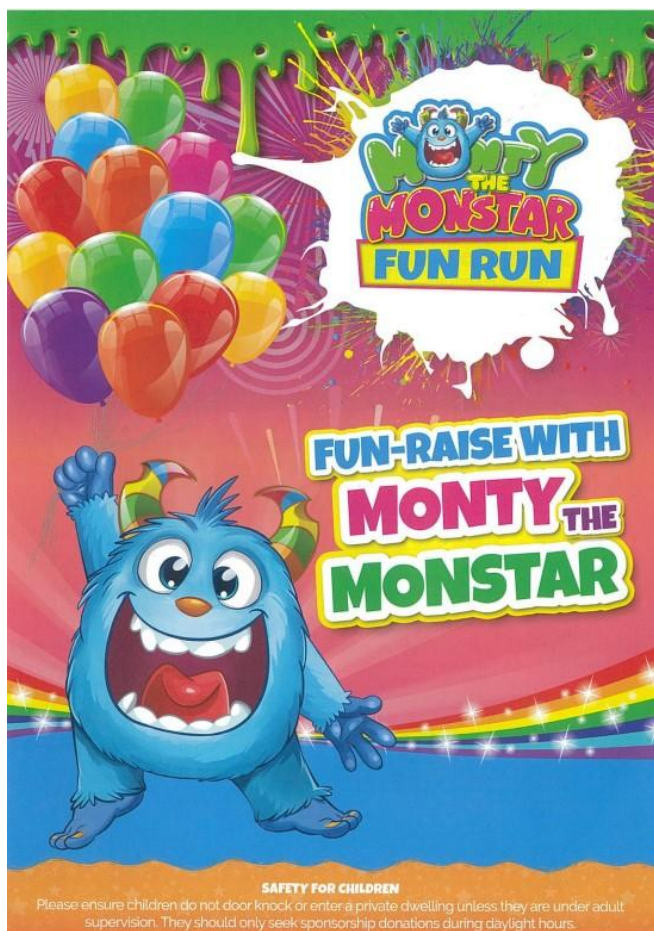
This is your chance to tell us what's important, what's working well, and what could be improved to reflect the identity and aspirations of our diverse community.

How to get involved?

Online – via the survey or Join the Conversation
Email us at

haveyoursay@portstephens.nsw.gov.au

For more details visit - pscouncil.info/our-incredible-place



School Colour Explosion

We will be running this event on Thursday 20 November starting at 2pm. Parents are invited to come along and join in the fun. Cash donations and prize ordering needs to be made by Friday 21 November.

Good for kids
good for life



Summertime Snacks

Healthy, refreshing, and easy snacks are perfect for keeping kids energised during summer play.

Why not try these tasty summertime snack ideas:

- Make fruit skewers from slices of watermelon, berries, grapes, and pineapple
- Freeze grapes or mango for an easy grab-and-go snack
- Blend yogurt with fresh fruit and freeze in moulds to make smoothie popsicles
- Freeze plain milk poppers or reduced fat yoghurt pouches
- Add frozen berries to reduced fat yoghurt
- Veggie sticks with hummus
- Water with fresh frozen berries or lemon
- Frozen fresh juice ice blocks or cups
- Smoothies made from frozen fruit and milk



Hunter New England
Local Health District

@HNELHD: GoodForKids@health.nsw.gov.au
#https://goodforkids.nsw.gov.au

Good for Kids acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land that we live and work on as the first people of this country, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

A guide to selective high schools and opportunity classes

Selective high schools and opportunity classes are specialist school settings that group together **high potential and gifted** students.

Learning with classmates who have similar abilities helps students' academic development and wellbeing.

Students still follow the NSW curriculum, but teachers may use special teaching methods for high potential and gifted learners.

Within each co-educational opportunity class and selective high school there will be an equal number of places available for girls and boys.

Selective high schools

There are 4 types of selective high schools:

- **fully selective** high schools – these are schools where all students have been selected based on the placement test
- **partially selective** high schools – these are schools that have a mix of selected students and local area students
- **agricultural selective** high schools – these are schools that emphasise the study of agriculture and all students are selected on their academic ability. Some of these schools also provide boarding where students live at the school
- **Aurora College** – these are online selective classes. They are provided at local public high schools in rural and remote areas.

Opportunity classes

Opportunity classes are for high potential and gifted students in Years 5 and 6. They are offered in a number of public primary schools across NSW.

Aurora College provides online opportunity classes for rural and remote students in their local primary schools.

Where are they located?

Selective high schools and opportunity classes are available across metropolitan, regional and rural NSW. Check the maps below for a school near you.

- [Find an opportunity class](#)
- [Find a selective high school](#)

How do I know if it is the right fit for my child?

Does your child:

- enjoy learning
- have intense curiosity
- display a good memory
- ask complex questions
- require fewer repetitions when learning new things
- display creative ways of thinking
- become intensely focused in their area of interest or passion?

If some of these sound like your child, an opportunity class or selective high school might be a good fit.

How do I apply?

Parents apply during the application period online at: shsoc.education.nsw.gov.au

2027 entry into an opportunity class or selective high school

The application period for 2027 entry is from **6 November 2025** to **20 February 2026**.

What year is my child in when I apply?

Opportunity classes

Parents apply when their child is near the end of Year 3 in 2025 or at the beginning of Year 4 in 2026.

Selective high schools

Parents apply when their child is near the end of Year 5 in 2025 or at the beginning of Year 6 in 2026.

Learn more on our website about the [application process](#) and residency requirements at [who can apply for opportunity classes](#) and [who can apply for selective high schools](#).

The placement test

After you apply, your child must sit a test. Students are then selected for placement based on their test performance.

When is the test?

The test will be available across a 2-day period:

Selective high school test: Friday 1 May and Saturday 2 May 2026

Opportunity class test: Friday 8 May and Saturday 9 May 2026

Students attend one test day only and do **not** need to bring their own computer to sit the computer-based placement tests.

Where will the tests be held?

The tests will mostly be held in local NSW public high schools. Students will be allocated a test centre location based on where they attend school. Parents need to take their child to the test centre on test day.

What's in the test?

The test assesses how well students understand what they read, reason using mathematics and their thinking skills. Applicants for selective high schools are also tested on their writing skills.

Learn more at: [Placement test](#).

When will I find out about my child's results?

After your child sits the test, you will get an email in Term 3 with their test performance and next steps. If your child is offered a place, you will get information on how to enrol.

The Equity Placement Model

The [Equity Placement Model](#) helps all students to have fair access to selective high schools and opportunity classes.

Under the Model, up to 20% of student places at each selective high school and opportunity class are held for high potential and gifted students:

- from low socio-educational advantage areas
- of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background
- from rural and remote locations
- with disability.

The held places are offered to students based on their performance in the placement test.

Learn more at [Fair access](#).

Supporting gifted students in all NSW public schools

Selective high schools and opportunity classes are just one of the ways that the NSW Department of Education supports high potential and gifted students.

High potential and gifted students are supported in all NSW public schools to reach their full potential. Learn more about the department's [High Potential and Gifted Education Policy](#).

Need more information?

Check the following webpages for more detailed information.

Webpages for parents and carers

- Selective high schools and opportunity classes: education.nsw.gov.au/shs-oc
- Selective high schools: education.nsw.gov.au/shs-yr7
- Opportunity classes: education.nsw.gov.au/oc

Webpages for students

- Selective high schools and opportunity classes – information for students: <https://edu.nsw.link/shs-oc-students>
- Applying for an opportunity class: Student resource hub – edu.nsw.link/OChub
- Applying for a selective high school: Student resource hub – edu.nsw.link/SHShub

Social media

Join our official department Facebook groups:

- Selective high school placement: edu.nsw.link/shs-fb
- Opportunity class placement: edu.nsw.link/oc-fb

Contact Us

Contact the Selective Education Team at:

Email: set@det.nsw.edu.au

Phone: 1300 880 367

Telephone interpreter service: 131 450

If you need an interpreter to assist with your enquiry please call the telephone interpreter service and tell the operator:

- the language you need
- the phone number you want to call.

The operator will call the number the Selective Education Team phone number (1300 880 367) and get an interpreter on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.

End of Year Party Day – Thursday 18 December

Name: _____

Class:- _____

\$12.00 per person, includes pizza, drink and treat bag. Additional Pizza \$6.00

Pizza Choice (Dominoes Mini Pizza)

Pepperoni		Double beef + onion	
Godfather		Ham + Cheese	
Margherita		Simply Cheese	
Spicy Veg Supreme		Hawaiian	

Drink Choice

Bottled Water		Can of soft drink		Popper	
---------------	--	-------------------	--	--------	--

****Order and payment due to school by Thursday 11 December****

End of Year Party Day – Thursday 18 December

Name: _____

Class:- _____

\$12.00 per person, includes pizza, drink and treat bag. Additional Pizza \$6.00

Pizza Choice (Dominoes Mini Pizza)

Pepperoni		Double beef + onion	
Godfather		Ham + Cheese	
Margherita		Simply Cheese	
Spicy Veg Supreme		Hawaiian	

Drink Choice

Bottled Water		Can of soft drink		Popper	
---------------	--	-------------------	--	--------	--

****Order and payment due to school by Thursday 11 December****

End of Year Party Day – Thursday 18 December

Name: _____

Class:- _____

\$12.00 per person, includes pizza, drink and treat bag. Additional Pizza \$6.00

Pizza Choice (Dominoes Mini Pizza)

Pepperoni		Double beef + onion	
Godfather		Ham + Cheese	
Margherita		Simply Cheese	
Spicy Veg Supreme		Hawaiian	

Drink Choice

Bottled Water		Can of soft drink		Popper	
---------------	--	-------------------	--	--------	--

****Order and payment due to school by Thursday 11 December****