



Calendar

15-27 Mar	NAPLAN period
7 April	Last day of Term 1

Parent Meeting and Welcome BBQ

It was lovely to see so many people turn up last Wednesday to our parent meetings and welcome BBQ. It was a great way to meet our new families and socialise with our community.

School Contribution Fee

All families in NSW public schools are asked to contribute to the ongoing costs associated with providing a quality education. Unlike some schools, Iona Public School does not have textbook fees and provides writing booklets, exercise books, worksheets, and many other consumables. Therefore, we ask you to make a small contribution of \$20 to cover the cost of folders, photocopy paper, exercise book, and computer consumables. Our Creative and Practical Arts contribution is \$40 (\$10 per term) supports paint and visual arts supplies (including Mother's/Father's Day and Christmas gifts).

This year we have subscribed to Sound Waves, Mathletics, iMaths, Think Mentals and Reading Eggs. These will be used weekly in class and can be accessed from home. The cost of covering the licence fees are: Kinder – Year 6 \$110. The voluntary contribution fee is \$50. Total per child is \$220. This can be paid, either in instalments or a lump sum, in cash at the office or using our online payment system, which is available through our website, using the make a payment button. <http://www.iona-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/>

We can also accept Back to School Vouchers.

Invoices have been sent home today.

2023 Home Reading Program

Children will be bringing home their new 'Home Reading Program' record book this week. Reading is the single most important skill your child will learn at school, and while many children have developed reading skills, further development depends on using these skills regularly. The booklet will be your child's only record for home reading and should be brought to school when they have reached 25, 50, 75, 100, 125, 150, 175 and 200 nights of home reading. Awards will be presented for every 25 nights of reading, up to a total count of 200 nights for the year. Children who reach the yearly 200-night target will receive a book at the presentation day assemblies at the end of the year.

Parents are asked to complete their child's reading book. Younger students will need extra support whereas older students will be more independent. Parents should sign for each night the child reads (holiday periods and weekends can be included). The time spent reading each night will depend on the age of the student, other homework tasks and family schedules.

*If your child reads more than one book in a night, please record this in the same box as it is the number of nights of home reading, not the number of books.

Year 6 Fundraising- Reminder

Could all Year 6 families please supply the school with a box of ice creams (e.g., Choc Tops, Bulla Crunches, Splits) for the Yr. 6 fundraising initiatives for the year. The leaders will be selling these on Fridays for \$2.00 each.

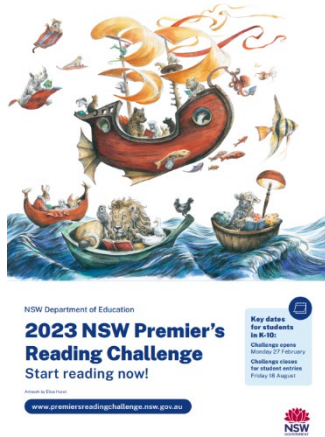
Icees are also back!!! These will be sold Monday - Thursday for 20c each during first break.

NSW Premier's Reading Challenge

The Premier's Reading Challenge opens on 27 February and runs until Friday 18 August 2023. The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely.

Students in K-2 have to read a total of 30 books (these will be completed in class for Year K and 1), while those students in 3-6 have to read 20 books in this time frame. The PRC rules have been updated for the 2023 challenge. Students can now include up to 10 choice books on their reading records and can count 5 books from an approved series as PRC books.

With a large focus this year at Iona on students reading every night, we know that we can all complete the Premier's Reading Challenge this year! Let's go Iona!!!



Absence from School

The current Covid-19 advice is that if children are unwell, they should not come to school. If they have flu-like symptoms they should use one of the RAT kits supplied (coming next week) to check for Covid-19 before attending school, however if they are negative but generally unwell, parents should use discretion on if they are well enough to attend school.

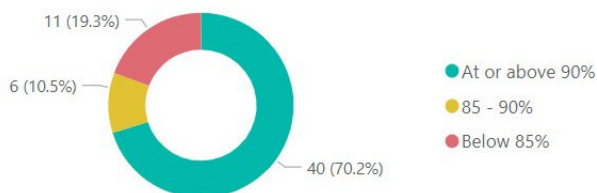
Please note: If your child is absent from school, you are legally required to explain the reason for their absence within 7 days of the absence. This can be done by, sending a note in to your child's class teacher on the day they return, or by sending the school an email. If your doctor provides you with a medical certificate for your child, a copy can be provided to school to support their absence if you choose. From time to time, families plan holidays during the school term. Family holidays are no longer an accepted category for exemption from school attendance. If your family is planning a holiday during a school term, please speak to the office staff about the process involved, in some cases you may meet the Department's guidelines for 'Extended Leave – Travel'. It is always best to do this in advance and to also inform your child's class teacher. We will provide more information about absences due to a family holiday in a newsletter in the coming weeks.

Attendance

As always, our attendance aim is to have 100% of students at Iona PS above 95% each day. Each newsletter we will share with you our attendance rate for the fortnight. Don't forget to remind your children that to be eligible for the daily attendance draw they need to be at school prior to 9am so they are in the running to win some awesome prizes!

A reminder that if your child arrives after 9am they MUST be accompanied to the office by an adult and signed in. Any child who arrives after 9am is recorded as late unexplained, and with no reasonable explanation is unjustified.

Attendance Level



NSW Department of Education

Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to:

- Learn
- Make friends
- Build skills through fun

Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...



Visiting Our School

All parents and visitors must report to the office when visiting the school. Signing into the school can be completed using the QR code on the front of the administration building and is a requirement for access to the school. Please remember to check out when you leave, to ensure all persons onsite can be accounted for in the case of an emergency. If you are unable to check in using the QR code, please come and see the ladies in the front office who will assist you with the check in on a school device.

Parent Tips and Tricks – Literacy at Home

Literacy involves listening, speaking, reading, writing, and spelling. It is the ability to communicate thoughts and emotions, ideas, and opinions and to make meaning from spoken and written messages.

Speaking and Listening- Part 1

Speaking and listening skills build the foundation for your child's learning at school. These skills help a child to be able to talk with others, create friendships and actively participate in all activities at school. If you speak a language other than English at home, it's important you continue to support your child to use their home language.

- Talk with your child about a range of topics, for example, things that happen each day.
- Share stories from your culture, your own stories, and your child's stories.
- Describe or talk about things as they are happening, for example, "We are going to walk to school today and go past the park."
- Listen to your child and encourage them to take turns. Show how to listen and interact in a conversation.
- When talking with your child ask questions that require more than a yes or no reply, for example, "What did you do at school today?"
- Use questions that start with how or why. For example, "How many birds do you see in the park?"
- When asking questions give your child time to answer.
- Make conversations fun. Make up funny or nonsense rhymes, talk and sing with your child.

Newsletter and Communication - Reminder

This year we will be sending out all notes and newsletters via the **Sentral Parent Portal**. We will commence with the issuing of parent access keys over the following weeks.

Our Monday newsletter will continue to be sent home fortnightly, on *odd weeks* of the term. It is extremely important that all families have liked Iona Public School on Facebook. We will continue with the Skoolbag app until the end of Term 1 while we transition to the new Sentral Parent Portal App.

NAPLAN

Students in Year 3 and 5 will be sitting NAPLAN between 15-27 March 2023. A flyer has been added to this newsletter for your information. If you have any enquiries, please contact Ms Tully or Mr Tarry.

Awards Week 4

Merit Awards were presented in:-

K-1

Oliver for helping others.

Ziah for commitment to improving in all areas.

2 - 3

Sarah for always giving her best effort to all class tasks.

Stella for fantastic persuasive writing!

Adharsh for terrific reasoning in math tasks.

4 - 6

Lainey for helping other students.

Phoebe for being a good role model to our younger students

Health & Safety

Caleb for making safe decisions in the playground.

Sport

Ari for trying out new sport activities.

Environmental

Sierra for keeping our school tidy, neat and clean.

Peer Nominated Citizenship

Keziah for caring for the school environment.

Teacher Nominated Citizenship

Theo for being a helpful and kind class member.

Canteen

Canteen orders need to be in by 9:00am on Wednesdays through the My School Connect App

Leaders Luncheon

Today our school leaders – Lainey, Ben Andrei and Sierra went to Irrawang High School as part of the Port Stephen's Council Leaders Luncheon. The students got to listen to a guest speaker and spend time with other school leaders in the Port Stephen's area.



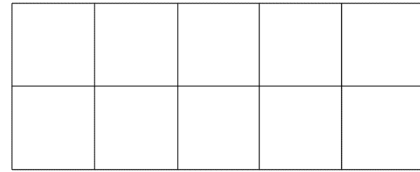
Class News

K/1

This week in Maths the Waratahs explored what being a "mathmagician" means, you may have noticed the beautiful wands coming home from school, they help us think Mathemagically! Collaboratively we decided that "mathmagicians" need to be brave, strong, curious and resilient. This is called the growth mindset. On Youtube there is a lovely short film called Pip which encapsulates this idea nicely, you may like to have a look. The students learned a lot from watching Pip be brave, be resilient, overcome setbacks and finally get to her goal. We are all trying our hardest to be like Pip in our Maths lessons.

We have been creating our own tens frames, a good mathematician does *use* a tens frame, we make a tens frame. It would be amazing if during quiet play and drawing time at home or even

after dinner you could sit together and get your child to teach YOU how to create a tens frame. In the end you should have a frame with ten small squares like this one:



Once we have our tens frame, we work on representing numbers, you could ask; what would 4 look like, what would 8 look like, how else could we represent 8, what do you notice about it? The children could use small toys as counters, sultanas or anything on hand. This is a creative play opportunity for children to consolidate their learning by sharing it with YOU. This is not intended to be stressful, rather an opportunity to show what they know! If your child thinks they would like a challenge they could create two of these frames, which will become a twenty frame and use it to represent larger numbers. Very tricky and can be lots of fun 😊

We also got out our loose materials this week to explore the attributes of shapes, their features, and their fancy shape names. In the picture below we have used pencils and textas to create some brilliant shapes. Well done Waratahs!



2/3

We have had another busy couple of weeks in 2/3! Students are working on persuasive texts – trying to convince others to have the same opinion as we do. Some of our quality work can be seen below. We've also been working on our spelling through Soundwaves program and have been spelling detectives, looking through books to find words that follow particular spelling rules.

During math sessions we are working hard on recognising number patterns and understanding place value. Skip counting and times tables are also a big focus and I mentioned this at the parent meeting on Wednesday as something students could be doing as homework tasks. It was nice to meet many of the 2/3 parents on Wednesday. A class handout was sent home on Thursday for those who couldn't make it.



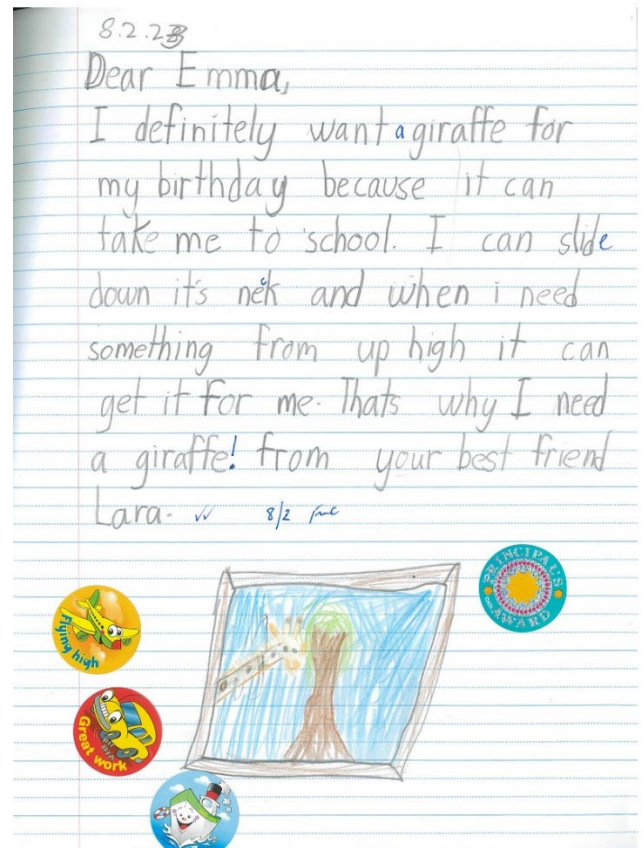
4-6

Thank you to everyone who turned up to the parent meeting. If you were unable to attend and would like to know any information, feel free to catch us at the gate or send us an email.

At the meeting we explained homework tasks. This year students are asked to log their reading in the red diary we sent home and students are asked to revise or learn specific times tables. Starting this week, students are asked to learn their 2x tables and will be quizzed on it in class Friday week 6 and so on. I have set Studyladder tasks for homework which is just tables revision.

Week 5- Learn 2x	Week 6 Friday- Quiz
Week 7 - Learn 5x	Week 8 Friday- Quiz
Week 9- Learn 10x	Week 10 Friday- Quiz

Quality Work 2/3





SEASON 2023 WINTER COMPETITION

Eligible kids play FREE!

Soccer Registrations

Gresford Vacy Football Club

Catering for players of all ages, levels and abilities
Teams from Under-6s (players turning 5 or 6 in 2023) to All-Age Men and Women
Junior mixed and girls-only teams available

Register and pay online at: playfootball.com.au

- >> All players receive a free playing shirt <<
- >> All NEW players also receive free socks, shorts & dress shirt <<
- >> All juniors receive a free training ball <<

Category	EARLYBIRD Rego Fee	Less \$100 Active Kids Voucher	GVFC Game Fees	Total EARLYBIRD cost for the season
Kick-off (preschool)	\$50	N/A	nil, zero, zilch, nothing (included in rego fee)	Only \$50 rego – no game fees
Miniroos 5-7 years	\$100	\$0	nil, zero, zilch, nothing (included in rego fee)	Nothing if using Service NSW \$100 Active Kids Voucher (otherwise \$100)
Miniroos 8-11 years	\$120*	\$20	nil, zero, zilch, nothing (included in rego fee)	Only \$20 if using Service NSW \$100 Active Kids voucher (otherwise \$120)
Interdistrict 12-18 years	\$170*	\$70	nil, zero, zilch, nothing (included in rego fee)	Only \$70 if using Service NSW \$100 Active Kids voucher (otherwise \$170)
Senior amateur	\$250*	N/A	Saturday & Sunday: \$100 upfront or \$10/game Friday nights: \$130 upfront or \$13/game	Saturday & Sunday: \$350 (rego + game fees) Friday nights: \$380 (rego + game fees)

* Eligible Kids Free* are school-aged children aged 5 – 7 years who register using their Service NSW \$100 Active Kids Voucher
* Earlybird prices valid until February 28, 2023. Regular registration fees are \$140 (8-11 years), \$190 (12-18 years), \$270 (seniors)
* All registration fees to be paid online at time of registering
* Voucher information available at <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-active-kids-voucher>

For more information contact:

Club president Jim Doyle on 0407 307 800 or Club secretary Jack Cowled on 0427 385 603
Web: www.scorps.com.au Email: gresfordvacyfc@outlook.com

NAPLAN Information for parents and carers 2023

Why do students do NAPLAN?

NAPLAN is a national literacy and numeracy assessment that students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sit each year. It is the only national assessment all Australian students have the opportunity to undertake.

As students progress through their school years, it's important to check how well they are learning the essential skills of reading, writing and numeracy.

NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through the school curriculum and allows parents/carers to see how their child is progressing against national standards and over time.

NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process. It doesn't replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance, but it can provide teachers with additional information about students' educational progress.

NAPLAN also provides schools, education authorities and governments with information about how education programs are working and whether young Australians are achieving important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

Your child will do the NAPLAN tests online

Schools have transitioned from paper-based to computer-based assessments. All Year 3 students will continue to complete the writing assessment on paper.

Online NAPLAN tests provide more precise results and are more engaging for students. One of the main benefits is tailored (or adaptive) testing, where the test presents questions which may be more or less difficult depending on a student's responses.

Tailored testing allows a wider range of student abilities to be assessed and measures student achievement more precisely. A student's overall NAPLAN result is based on both the number and complexity of questions they answer correctly. Your child should not be concerned if they find questions challenging; they may be taking a more complex test pathway.

What does NAPLAN assess?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through their regular school curriculum.

Students sit assessments in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. The questions assess content linked to the Australian Curriculum: English and Mathematics.

All government and non-government education authorities contribute to the development of NAPLAN test materials.

To find out more about NAPLAN, visit nap.edu.au.

Participation in NAPLAN

NAPLAN is for everyone. ACARA supports inclusive testing so all students have the opportunity to participate in the national assessment program.

Adjustments are available for students with disability who have diverse functional abilities and needs.

Schools should work with parents/carers and students to identify, on a case-by-case basis, reasonable adjustments required for individual students with disability to access NAPLAN. Adjustments should reflect the support normally provided for classroom assessments.

To help inform these decisions, you may consult the NAPLAN public demonstration site, the Guide for schools to assist students with disability to access NAPLAN, or our series of videos where parents/carers, teachers and students share their experiences in using NAPLAN adjustments.

In exceptional circumstances, a student with a disability that severely limits their capacity to participate in the assessment, or a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background, may be granted a formal exemption.

Your school principal and your local test administration authority can give you more information on adjustments for students with disability or the process required to gain a formal exemption.



Targeted Early Intervention Program (TEI)

TEI worker's help with:

- Culturally Focused Care
- Health and Wellbeing
- Financial Management Assistance
- Social & Housing Support
- Community Support Networks
- Education, Skills & Parenting Support
- Building & Maintaining Connections
- Advocacy & Strengthening Families

Our Service

Our TEI or Aboriginal Family, Child and Young Person worker's support families and young people ages 0-18 years, expectant parents, single parents, grandparents, carers where someone identifies as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander decent residing in the Cessnock, Maitland and Dungog LGA's.

Our team works alongside each family and young person's individual circumstances, towards a positive outcome.

We can help link families and young people with community support networks and provide a safe place for Aboriginal families and young people to gain strength, reflect, and succeed.



1A Chelmsford Drive
Metford NSW 2323
M: 0439 770 789 or 0488 026 171
Ph: (02) 4015 700
E: afcyp@mindaribbalc.org

What if my child is absent from school on NAPLAN days?

Where possible, schools may arrange for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the school's test schedule.

What if my school is closed on NAPLAN days?

Schools with compelling reasons may be given permission to schedule tests after the 9-day test window.

What can I do to support my child?

Students are not expected to study for NAPLAN. You can support your child by reassuring them that NAPLAN is a part of their school program and reminding them to simply do their best. Some familiarisation and explanation of NAPLAN is useful to help students understand and be comfortable with the format of the tests. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the types of questions in the tests and will provide appropriate support and guidance.

ACARA does not recommend excessive preparation for NAPLAN or the use of services by coaching providers.

See the types of questions and tools available in the online NAPLAN assessments at nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site.

NAPLAN timetable

The NAPLAN test window is 9 days. This is to accommodate schools that may have fewer devices.

The NAPLAN test window starts on Wednesday 15 March and finishes on Monday 27 March 2023. Schools are advised to schedule the tests as soon as possible within the testing window, prioritising the first week.

Test	Scheduling requirements	Duration	Test description
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 3 students do the writing test on paper (on day 1 only) Years 5, 7 and 9 writing must start on day 1 (schools must prioritise completion of writing across days 1 and 2 only, with day 2 only used where there are technical/logistical limitations) 	Year 3: 40 min Year 5: 42 min Year 7: 42 min Year 9: 42 min	Students are provided with a 'writing stimulus' (sometimes called a 'prompt' – an idea or topic) and asked to write a response in a particular genre (narrative or persuasive writing)
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be completed after the writing test To be completed before the conventions of language test 	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 50 min Year 7: 65 min Year 9: 65 min	Students read a range of informative, imaginative and persuasive texts and then answer related questions
Conventions of language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be completed after the reading test 	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 45 min Year 7: 45 min Year 9: 45 min	Assesses spelling, grammar and punctuation
Numeracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be completed after the conventions of language test 	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 50 min Year 7: 65 min Year 9: 65 min	Assesses number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability

How is my child's performance reported?

Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each assessment. This scale indicates whether the student is meeting expectations for the literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate fully in that year level.

A NAPLAN individual student report will be provided by your child's school later in the year. If you do not receive a report, you should contact your child's school.

How are NAPLAN results used?

- Students and parents/carers may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help identify students who need greater challenges or extra support.
- Schools use results to identify strengths and areas of need to improve teaching programs, and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review the effectiveness of programs and support offered to schools.
- The community can see information about the performance of schools over time at myschool.edu.au.

Where can I get more information?

For more information about NAPLAN:

- contact your child's school
- contact your local test administration authority at nap.edu.au/TAA
- visit nap.edu.au

To learn how ACARA handles personal information for NAPLAN, visit nap.edu.au/naplan/privacy.

IONA PUBLIC SCHOOL - UNIFORM ORDER 2023

CODE	ITEM	Colour (circle)	SIZE	SIZE	PRICE	QUANTITY
52205	Short sleeve sky polo	Sky blue	3-16		\$12.50	
5220LS	Long sleeve sky polo	Sky blue	3-16		\$15.00	
3886BP	Box pleat Short	Navy	4-16		\$22.00	
G386SK	Skort	Navy	4-16		\$20.00	
4310SL	Track pant	Navy Red	3-16		\$18.50	
5270ZS	Rugby short	Navy	3-16		\$13.50	
5310JK	Jacket fleecy zip	Navy Red	3-16		\$22.50	
5310LR	Jacket hood Fleecy zip	Navy Red	3-16		\$28.00	
5880JK	Polar fleece Jacket	Navy Red	4-16		\$25.00	
5880VE	Polar fleece Vest	Navy Red	4-16		\$18.50	
5963DC	Dry Jacket lined in polar fleece	Navy Red	4-16		\$37.50	
PSW	Box Pleated Tunic	Navy	4-10		\$55.00	
TOTAL	-	-	-		\$	

HATS - \$10 , SPORT SHIRTS - \$20, SHORT - \$20 & SKORTS - \$20

MAY BE PURCHASED FROM THE OFFICE.

CASH , EFT OR DIRECT DEPOSIT – BSB 062 813 Account Number 0090 4129 Ref (name)

CHILDS NAME:

ORDERS AND PAYMENT DUE 10 MARCH 2023