



**Iona Presentation Primary School**  
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September 11 2015

## From the Principal

Dear Parents and Students

I was speaking to Mrs Kay earlier this week, and she mentioned that she had started preparing camp for the Year 6 classes next term. My mind was cast back to earlier this year when I was lucky enough to attend camp with the Year 5 girls (not sure if the girls in my dorm thought themselves lucky to be with me, though. I can be a bit of a grump when sleep deprived!). On returning home, I was obviously showing signs of a successful (by camp standards) experience – fatigue, hat hair and unrecognizable clothes. The next morning when asked by one of my family what it was like to sleep in my own bed, my reply was simple but emphatic: ‘Wonderful’!

I’m sure that parents who have had children come home from camp can relate to this. When relating their experiences of food, bed and showers, it would become apparent to parents that home, in general, is regarded as being a ‘wonderful’ place.

Sometimes we can underestimate the important position the home has in the life of a child, no matter how humble that home might be. The following is an extract from Mother Teresa’s reflections:

*“Once I picked up a child of six or seven in the street and took her to ShishuBhavin (a children’s home) and gave her a bath, some clothes and some nice food. That evening the child ran away.*

*We took the child in a second time and a third time, and she ran away.*

*After a third time, I sent a Sister to follow her. The Sister found the child sitting with her mother and sister under a tree. There was a little dish there and the mother was cooking the food she had picked up from the streets.*

*They were cooking there, they were eating there, they were sleeping there. It was their home.*

*And then we understood why the child ran away. The mother just loved that child. And the child loved the mother. They were so beautiful to each other.*

*The child said ‘barijabo’ – it was her home. Her mother was her home.”*

The saying “home is where your heart is,” suggests that if home is to be a place of great importance and influence, then it must be a place where unconditional love can be relied on, where forgiveness is available when needed and where caring for people has priority over accumulation of possessions. Home is a place of great opportunity for emerging young people; here, value systems can be established, God’s love can be experienced and reflected through the love that family members express to one another. Mistakes can be made without fear of ridicule and, in general, life can be experimented with.

When our children grow to adulthood and move out to establish their own home, the success of this venture will depend somewhat on their own experience of home during their childhood and formative years. Maintaining and modeling all the “correct” things that are supposed to happen is most difficult if not impossible deal to achieve. What is important for us, as parents, is to keep our self-esteem high, have faith in our giftedness as parents and ask God that the Holy Spirit work through us for the benefit of our children. Good luck to our Year 6 class when they embark on this fantastic learning journey... and remember, home awaits you!

### Strategic Planning Evening

Thank you to the parents who attended our Strategic Planning Meeting with Carlyn Dyer on Tuesday night – a follow-on from a meeting held for teachers last week. We had 13 parents attend on the night and these enthusiastic parents gave us an extensive insight into what was valued and important to the parent body. We thank them for giving up their precious family time to assist us in developing our strategic plan. The next phase of this process is the formation of a working party. This working party will be made up of even numbers of parents and teachers and will work towards

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aligning and prioritizing the work of both staff and parents. The meetings have been scheduled for **Thursday 22 October** and **Thursday 29 October from 3.30 to 4.30pm**. Please place the dates in your calendar if you would like to commit to the meetings. Parents do not have to have attended the meeting to sit on the working party. A letter of invitation will be forthcoming.

### **Open Night**

I think you would be hard pressed to find any parent/grandparent who wasn't astounded by the beautiful work on display at Open Night yesterday evening. I have been watching the displays slowly take form over the past few weeks and to see it come to fruition has been a magical. Congratulations to the class and specialist teachers for the level of presentation you have all put into your learning areas. The students were rightfully proud to show off their work to their parents and siblings. The teachers have had many late nights mounting and displaying the work

Thank you to the instrumental tutors for their preparation of the students, and Mrs Perica, for coordinating the concert. It was a pleasure to watch the talent unfolding throughout the afternoon.

Thank you to Mr Graffin for the work he has been putting into the Makerspace project. I walked through the Blue Room yesterday and had to climb over the students, they were that engrossed in their robots (I'm sure none of them even realized I was in the room).

Thank you to Mrs Martino for organising the Library Fair. What a great opportunity for children to develop a love of reading through book ownership.

Thank you to the P&F for organising the Sausage Sizzle which gave a real community 'feel' to the evening. Our P&F must be the hardest working group in WA. We appreciate all you do for the school.

Thank you to John Boley and Karen Cross who work quietly behind the scenes, anticipating everyone's needs to ensure everything flows smoothly.

Lastly, thank you to parents and grandparents for showing such interest in your children's education. We are blessed to be on the same journey with parents, working in the best interests of our children.

### **Families Leaving**

Families with children from Kindergarten to Year 5 who are leaving Iona Presentation Primary at the end of 2015 are kindly asked to inform the office **in writing** as soon as possible. This allows the school to plan for next year's classes and enrolments. It would be appreciated if the families with boys in Year 3 would also inform us in writing of the intended schools as it facilitates transfers.



#### **ADVANCED NOTICE:**

**PHOTO DAY: TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER**

**WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER**

**CARNIVALS: JUNIOR HOUSE THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER**

**SENIOR HOUSE FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER**

### **Congratulations**

On behalf of the whole Iona community, I would like to congratulate Ms Rebecca Neesham in being chosen as a recipient of the E. Paul Torrance Coaches Award for her contribution to the Future Problem Solving Program in 2015.

As parents would have read on the Admin blog last week, our FPS team has again qualified for the National competition and is off to Brisbane first week of Term 4. The success of the team is a reflection of Rebecca's tireless energy and the quality program that she consistently provides. It is fitting that she be recognized for her contributions on the national stage. Congratulations, Rebecca from the Iona community. A well deserved award.

May God bless your week

Jennifer Anderson  
Principal (Acting)

## Important Dates

Term 3 2015			
Sept 12	FPS – Iona Hosting	Sept 18	Shipwreck Gallery Year 2
Sept 15	P&F Meeting	Sept 19	Opti State Finals
Sept 17	Italian Excursion	Sept 21	Board Meeting
	Year 6 Mass	Sept 24	<b>LAST DAY OF SCHOOL TERM</b>
Sept 18	Assembly Year 1	Sept 25	<b>Pupil Free Day – School closed</b>
<b>TERM 4 COMMENCES MONDAY 12 OCTOBER</b> <b>PLEASE REMEMBER – SUMMER UNIFORM TERM 4</b>			

## Prayer

Very few people would be unaware of the humanitarian crisis occurring in Syria at the moment. Heart-breaking images of men, women and children fleeing a war-torn country and the realities of the dangers that they encounter are projected into our homes each day. Let us keep all refugees in our prayers as we pray the words of Blessed Mother Teresa.

*God, our Father*  
*We pray for all those in our world who are suffering from injustice.*  
*For those who are discriminated against, who are suffering from injustice.*  
*For those who are discriminated against because of their race, colour or religion.*  
*For those imprisoned for working for the relief of oppression.*  
*For those hounded for speaking the inconvenient truth.*  
*For those tempted to violence as a cry against overwhelming hardship.*  
*For those deprived of reasonable health and education.*  
*For those suffering from hunger and famine.*  
*For those too weak to help themselves and who have no-one else to help them.*  
*For the unemployed who cry out for the work but do not find it.*  
*Forgive us, Lord*  
*If we unwittingly share in the conditions or in a system that perpetuates injustice.*  
*Show us how we can serve Your children and make Your love a practical experience from us to them.*

*Amen*

## Other

### Tennis Lessons for Iona Primary School Girls

**Tennis** – Dalkeith Tennis Club is the official Tennis Australia host Club of Iona Primary School. Enrolments now open for Term 4 coaching programs. Holiday Clinics available September 28<sup>th</sup> – October 2<sup>nd</sup> and October 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> from 9.00am – 12.00noon.

**All welcome! Phone 9386 6906** or secure enrolments on-line at [www.mastastroke.com.au](http://www.mastastroke.com.au)

After school programs for term 4 begin Monday October 19<sup>th</sup>.



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