



Calendar

Term 1 - 2024

23 Feb	Leaders Morning Tea
27 Feb	Parent Meetings
8 March	Life Ed Van - Incursion
13-22 March	NAPLAN
28 March	Easter Hat Parade
29-1 April	Easter break
2 April	Taronga Park Zoo
12 April	Last day of Term

Class Meetings & Meet and Greet – Tuesday 27

Feb

All parents and caregivers are invited to attend class meetings on Tuesday 27 February. During this meeting teachers will outline their expectations for the year, how their classes are organised and answer many of your questions. Parents are welcome to stay after the meeting for a less informal meet and greet with teachers and other parents. Please see the following times for meetings.

K-2 – 3:30pm - 4:00pm

3-6 – 4:05pm – 4:35pm

Library News

Students will have library on the following days:

K-2 – Wednesday

3-6 – Thursday

Please ensure all students have a library bag on these days.

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, Maths Trek, 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 for 2024.* This can be paid, either in instalments or a lump sum, in cash at the office or using our online payment system, through Sentral Parent Portal App. Invoices will be processed next week.

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) to begin 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.



Swimming Carnival Recap

The swimming carnival was a day filled with excitement and outstanding participation. We are incredibly proud of all our students for their perseverance and sportsmanship. A special congratulations goes to Tom for his outstanding performance, earning him the well-deserved title of age champion. Additionally, we witnessed a momentous occasion as Theo broke an 11-year-backstroke record. None of this would have been possible without the support of our parents and helpers who contributed their time and efforts to make the day run smoothly.





2022 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.

2024 Year 3-6 Camp

A reminder that 3-6 camp is held this year in Term 2 Week 4- 22-24 May, at Great Aussie Bush Camp. The cost for camp will be \$375 per student. A non-refundable deposit of \$50 is required by Friday 1 March 2024 and payment is to be finalised by 10 May 2024. Please remember that you can make payments by instalments over the coming term. Permission note will be sent out via SENTRAL. Medical notes will be sent out later in the term. Please return these by the due dates.

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.

NSW Department of Education

NSW GOVERNMENT

Every Day Matters

When it comes to attending school, every day matters

If your child misses as little as **1 day per fortnight**, they will miss **4 weeks of school per year**, which adds up to over **1 year missed over their school life**.

Make sure your child doesn't miss out on the important things like:

- Learning
- Strengthening friendships
- Build skills through fun

Scan the QR code to learn more

Feeling Unwell

We can all minimise the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases by maintaining good hygiene practices at home and work. Our COVID-19 baseline measures will continue in 2024 to help reduce the risk of transmission among students and staff. We ask our school community to please follow the following guidelines:

- stay home if unwell, and do not return to school until symptom-free;
- practice good hygiene by washing hands often;
- make sure COVID-19 vaccinations are up to date.

Canteen Update

Thank you to our volunteers who have signed up on our canteen roster. This term we still have two days free, so if you have a spare few hours on 22 and 29 February we would love you to come and join the canteen community. Please call the office to add your name to the list.

Term 1 2024 Thursday Canteen Roster



Date	Volunteer
22 February	
29 February	
7 March	Rebecca Irwin
14 March	Donna Irwin
21 March	Tilly Morgan
28 March	Rebecca Irwin
4 April	Donna Irwin
11 April	Meg Schofield

Don't forget to also look at the new menu attached to today's newsletter

Baker's Delight Hot Cross Buns Fundraiser

Once again, we will be having a Hot Cross Bun fundraiser. Please find the order form at the bottom of this week's newsletter. Orders must be returned to the school no later than 15 March. Orders will be ready for collection from the school on 21 March.

Easter Hat Parade

On Thursday 26 March students will participate in an Easter Hat Parade at 2:15pm. This is always a wonderful afternoon of celebration that the students thoroughly enjoy. Students will make these during class time. Teachers will provide more information in the coming weeks. Parents/ carers and community members are most welcome to attend.

The P&C are running an Easter Egg raffle which will be drawn after the Easter Hat Parade and would appreciate if parents and community members could once again donate eggs/ Easter items for the raffle. These can be dropped off to the office.

Peer Support

Last week our Year 5 and 6 leaders engaged in the Peer Support training. We are commencing Peer Support in Week 5 on Tuesday afternoons. The whole school participates in this program for 30 mins each week. Our Peer Leaders facilitate a group of 8-10 younger students, who work together on several structured activities. Each teacher supervises 2-3 groups in their class.





We are working on a module called Keeping Friends; helping explore the concept of friendship, building relationships and developing skills in empathy and critical thinking. The first lesson enables children to get to know everyone, agree on how they work together, and cooperate with others. They also begin to think on the meaning of friendship. We encourage you to talk about Peer Support weekly as it helps reinforce concepts learned each session.



DUNGOG HIGH SCHOOL

YEAR 5/6 INFORMATION EVENING

Tuesday 27 February, 2024
5-7pm

Students and their families are invited to attend an information evening at Dungog High School to learn about the school, the facilities and what we have to offer future students.

Guests are welcome to tour the school and have the opportunity to meet with our staff.

Located in the Dungog High School Multi-purpose Center (MPC).

A free sausage sizzle will be provided.

RSVP Tuesday 20 February - 4992 3022



Class News

K-2

It has been a busy couple of weeks for the Waratahs as we continue to develop our classroom routine. However, I am pleased to say that every student has been fantastic and adjusted quickly. We began our phonics program 'Soundwaves' last week, as well our writing unit picking up from where we left last year with awesome writing pieces. In maths, we have been looking at identifying shapes and their properties to sort them into collections, and with Mrs Leary, the class completed self-portraits which are proudly hanging in our new look classroom (feel free to come and check them out!). As for our kindy's, they are well and truly settled in and developing friendships. Over the last 2 weeks they have been working on their letter and number formation and began their phonics program looking at consonant sounds. During our Maths Trek sessions, we have learned about counting to '3' and have looked at things that are 'long' and 'short', which I'm told by a few is 'way too easy'. Overall, it has been a hardworking, but enjoyable start to the year. I am very proud of how well every student has started the year and can't wait to continue!

3-6

Welcome to Week 4 of the school year! We hope everyone is settling into their routines and enjoying the learning experiences unfolding in our classrooms. Here's a brief update on what's been happening and what's to come:

Narrative Unit in Full Swing:

We are now fully immersed in our narrative unit, where students are delving into the fascinating world of narrative writing and characterisation. Our exploration is guided by the engaging mentor text, "Just Tricking", which is sparking creativity and inspiring storytelling among our students.

Maths Focus on Place Value and Number:

In Maths, our focus has been on mastering the fundamentals of place value and number. Students are sharpening their skills through various hands-on activities and problem-solving tasks, laying a solid foundation for future mathematical concepts.

Library Reminder:

A quick reminder that Library sessions with Mrs. Leary are held every Thursday. It's a wonderful opportunity for students to discover new books, explore different genres, and foster a love for reading.

I look forward to another productive and enriching week ahead. As always, please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Mrs Bird

AWARDS WEEK 3

Merit Awards

K-2

Arlo for outstanding effort during independent tasks

Ava for fantastic contribution to classroom discussions

3-6

Eleanor for being a responsible and engaged student

Health & Safety

Owen for playing safely on the soccer field

Sport

Edward for trying new sports

Environmental

Max for consistently picking up rubbish and lunch and recess

Peer Nominated Citizenship

Sienna for adapting to a new environment



Caleb will turn 7 on 23 February
Lucy will turn 8 on 25 February



Veg-tastic lunchboxes

Your child doesn't need to wait until dinner to eat their vegetables.

Swapping out sometimes foods for vegetables can help your child reach their daily vegetable needs.

Try:



Zucchini fritters



Green beans



Roasted sweet potato



Capsicum sticks



Corn



Pumpkin scone

For more veg-tastic lunchbox ideas scan the QR code or visit www.swapit.net.au/vegetables



Beginners to Advanced

FREE TRIAL LESSON

Learn to sing the fun way with a qualified level 1 teacher of IVA (Institute of Vocal Advancement)

Private or group lessons

Fast improvements

During school terms

No costly concerts

Located Duns Creek

Ages 8 years to Adults

Call or text Amanda 0424 297 315

Working with Children Check can be verified online



Stress-free fussy eating ideas

Fussy eating is common, but that still doesn't make it easy.

Does your child dislike foods because of their colour, texture or the way they are prepared?

Don't despair, SWAP IT will help with ideas on how to pack an everyday lunchbox for your fussy eater.

Try the **3:1 lunchbox rule** everyday:

- **Three** items your child likes
- **One** new everyday item



For more ideas on fussy eating scan the QR code or visit www.swapit.net.au/fussyeating



Canteen Menu Term 1 2024

Canteen Day- Thursday



Orders close 9am **TUESDAY** on the app 'My School Connect' (Download the free app from your app store). ** Please note, the closing day has changed from last year. It might be helpful to set a reminder on your phone, so you don't forget to order!*

Special menu items will be available on the My School Connect App occasionally. Please keep an eye out for these special menu items.

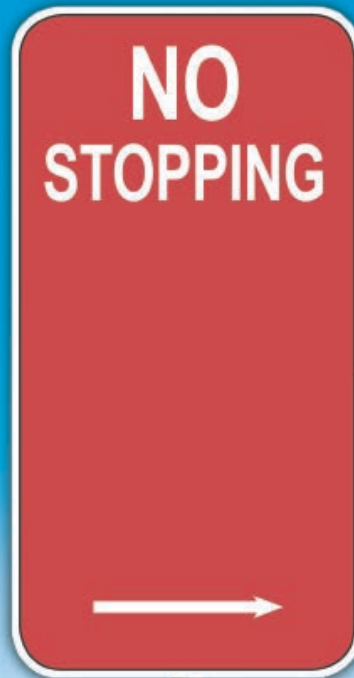
Drinks	Price	Hot Food	Price
Just juice poppers	\$1.50	Lean beef pies (Telarah Pies)	\$4.50
Plain milk poppers	\$1.50	Small chicken dippers (8)	\$4.00
		Large chicken dippers (12)	\$6.00
		Canteen- made pizza- Cheese (V)	\$3.00
		Canteen- made pizza- Cheese & ham	\$3.50
		Canteen- made pizza- Cheese, ham & pineapple	\$3.50
		Toasted cheese sandwich (V)	\$2.50
		Toasted cheese & ham sandwich	\$3.00
		Canteen- made lasagna	\$4.50
		'Chicken dipper' wrap with lettuce and mayo	\$4.50

WHAT DO THESE SIGNS MEAN?



YOU CAN STOP HERE FOR 2 MINUTES ONLY

You can drop your child off here but you must either stay in the car or within 3 metres of the car. Mobility sticker permit holders may stop for up to 5 mins.



YOU CANNOT STOP HERE

You cannot drop your child off here. Medical or other emergency stopping only is permitted.



YOU CANNOT STOP HERE UNLESS DRIVING A BUS

Children cannot be dropped here unless they are arriving by bus.

Hours of operation may apply to some signs. This means that the restrictions apply for those times only.

A road safety initiative of Port Stephens Council

A Road Safety Initiative of



