Alhamdullilah, the opening of the gymnasium and the multicultural day were two very happy occasions in one day. We enjoyed the community support and the positive media coverage whilst the students and staff were very happy with the addition of the state of the art gymnasium to the school facilities.

As always, my office is always open for you and we look forward to making Term 2 another great term for the students, parents and staff at ICOM.

Dr. Abdul M. Kamareddine
Principal

Dear Parents,

We had a busy and successful term one alhamdullilah and it was a great opportunity to see many of you at the Parent Teacher Interviews. Such interviews are an important opportunity for you to meet with your child’s teachers and discuss your child’s performance and areas for improvement.

During the Term 1 break, we had our first ICOM Umrah trip. Five Year 10 students with two teachers travelled to the most holy of lands and engaged in a life changing experience performing Umrah for the first time in their lives. They visited many important institutions such as the Quran printing complex, prophetic museum and many other important attractions. The students came back with lots of great memories and amazing experiences which they shared with the college students and staff. Furthermore, all these students are scheduled to give Friday Khutbas at the school.

On the debating front, the whole school was excited and happy with the victory that our Year 9 debating team achieved in the debating competition. ICOM’s Year 9 debating team won against Williamstown High while ICOM’s Year 10 debating team ranked second after Westbourne Grammar. I was impressed with the efforts and skills of our students in writing and presenting arguments. On this occasion, I would like to thank the debating teachers for the excellent training and support they provided to the students.

The PE department at ICOM couldn’t be any busier with all the successful events and programs they are running. In particular the weekly soccer and basketball matches have been a great success with students waiting for the matches and cheering for their favourite side. Furthermore, the morning breakfast club continues to be a success by providing healthy breakfast to students who come to school without breakfast. This is in addition to fruit Friday where all primary students enjoy a healthy fruit every Friday as part of an initiative aiming at educating students about the importance of healthy food and fruit intake.

Alhamdullilah, the opening of the gymnasium and the multicultural day were two very happy occasions in one day. We enjoyed the community support and the positive media coverage whilst the students and staff were very happy with the addition of the state of the art gymnasium to the school facilities.

As always, my office is always open for you and we look forward to making Term 2 another great term for the students, parents and staff at ICOM.
Reminders

- Students are to be at school no later than 8.35am in time for morning assembly. Any student who arrives after 8.50am needs to obtain a late pass from the administration office. If a student is late on 3 occasions, parents/guardians will be called and a meeting organised to discuss the lateness.

- For parents who have still not paid for the School Fees or Bus Fees, please do so by Monday 9 May 2016.

- Please ensure that students are given food or money for recess and lunch. Secondary students are allowed to buy straight from the canteen, however Primary students are to make a lunch order.

- Further to lunch orders, please make sure your child’s name and class is clearly written on the lunch order. There has been a few bags that have no name or class and the canteen are unable to hand it to students on time.

- Secondary students will be required to purchase the winter uniform for Terms 2 and 3. For female students, this includes the winter skirt. The college blazer and sports spray jacket are available at PSW and will be the only jackets allowed to be worn at school during the colder months.

- Parents are welcome to visit the Lost Property Basket to see if there are any items their child might have misplaced. The basket is located near the Prep classes. Please make sure your child’s name is clearly marked on uniform and school items.

- Any student with medical conditions, including asthma and allergies must inform the college immediately and provide any action plans and/or medications your child may require.

2017 Enrolments

We are currently taking enrolments for Prep for 2017. Unfortunately, due to the number of students currently enrolled at the Islamic College of Melbourne, the college will only be accepting expression of interest for students wanting to enrol for Year 1 to Year 11 for 2017.

Parents who submit an expression of interest form will be contacted if a place is available for their child next year.

For parents who have already enrolled their child but have not returned all the documentation please do so before the closing date.

Enrolments for 2017 close on Friday 17 June 2016
Year 4 Incursion

On Wednesday 27 April, the Year 4 students had an incursion about the Overview of landfill site in Hampton park landfill construction.

“Jaye Muir, Stakeholder Engagement Manager, from SUEZ recycling and recovery Australia visited our Year 4 classes and taught us about what happens to the waste rubbish (the rubbish that goes in the small bin). It goes into a landfill. She showed us an overview of a landfill site in Hampton Park landfill construction, how and where the garbage that can’t get recycled goes. Ms Muir explained how they make green energy out of waste rubbish. The trucks arrive at the gate where they weigh the rubbish and pay the price.

Firstly, the garbage goes in the truck and goes to the landfill. They will go to the tip which is made with loads of layers of materials clay & plastic etc. The cells are covered by two layers of a plastic fabric one black and one white.

Secondly, in the cell there will be a pumper which takes out all the gas to a small pond.

Thirdly, those cells will produce electricity for more than 9,000 houses.

At the end, the landfill is covered by dirt and an odour curtain which cleans the smell from the air. This curtain costs $1000 per day.

The incursion helped us to learn more about the rubbish and the landfill, and also encouraged us to tell our parents how to sort out the rubbish.

In conclusion, we need to cooperate, wake up and put our rubbish in the correct bin for better environment.”

Ibtisam Abdulahi, Jillnar Elbob and Marwa Al-Khalidi
Students of Year 4A

Iqra Reading Support (Iqra Club)

The Islamic College of Melbourne’s Quran Department has begun an IQRA Club to give extra support (either one on one or in small groups) to students who need help in improving their Iqra reading skills. This will assist them in reading Quran sooner, insha Allah.

The Iqra Club support will be available during lunch time from 12.55pm to 1.20pm Monday to Thursday’s in the Quran Room.

Your child’s Quran teacher will suggest that he/she needs extra support to avoid falling behind the expected level of reading. We suggest you to advise your child to attend Iqra Club at least once a week and get extra support from the teachers available at Iqra club.

Further details can be obtained by talking to your child’s Quran teacher or by contacting Sheikh Ajwad Hashim at a.hashim@icom.vic.edu.au.

Sheikh Ajwad Hashim
Islamic Studies and Quran Coordinator
The gymnastics program was a great success as all of our students who participated enjoyed the program and activities delivered by the trained instructors. All students from Prep to grade 4 developed physical wellbeing skills, life skills, brain development and motor development skills that are important for their overall progress.

Girls Basketball

Each Wednesday during recess, Ms. Julie coordinates a basketball game for the girls. The first week was a practice match between the secondary girls. Wednesday 4 May, Year 8 and 9 girls played against each other. The Year 8 girls won and therefore, will play against the Year 10 girls this Wednesday 11 May. Next week Ms. Julie will host a team of primary girls starting with the Year 5 girls.

Boys Soccer

This term Mr. Asik has organised an ICOM Boys Soccer Competition, which takes place every Tuesday lunch time. Many students come along to watch the games and all students who participate are very excited to be part of something so fun. So far there have been four games and the results were:

7B : 3 def. 7A: 0
8B: 3 def. 8A: 1
Year 9: 2 def. Year10: 1
Year 5: 3 def. Year 6: 2

FRUIT FRIDAY

Every Friday morning during term two, all primary school students are given a piece of fruit to enjoy during the day. Most students munch their fruit by recess as the fruit supplied is so irresistible. This initiative is to promote healthy eating habits and learn about the importance of eating natural and wholesome food.

ICOM Health and PE Department
ICOM Debating Teams

As of the beginning of 2016, ICOM students have been involved in, and members of The Victorian Debaters Association. This means that every six-weeks, our dedicated students from Years 9 and 10 formulate arguments to a given topic and represent the school with their opinions and reasons, for or against.

On Wednesday, 4 May, Bakr, Abdullah and Mohammed from 9A argued against the statement that “schools should provide free meals for students”. Their arguments were very convincing, persuasive and logical and we were complimented for this by the adjudicator. Bakr also won the best speaker award for the debate, which is an excellent achievement and credit to our college.

The Year 10 team, made up of Mohammed, Nasser and Salman from 10A, argued against the “introduction of a performance-enhancing drug league of sporting”. Again, their arguments were very well formulated and presented, with Nasser getting a special mention by the adjudicator for his skills in speaking publicly, however, unfortunately they lost the argument to Westbourne Grammar.

The Year 9 team won a tense debate against Williamstown High School. This win was significant in ICOM history as it was our first win in debating. The boys did well and it paves the way for bigger and better performances in the future, inshallah.

It is excellent to see our students doing such a great and dedicated job.

Mr Mostafa Haroun (Student Welfare Coordinator), Miss Kristen Bryan (English Teacher) and Mr Mark Roca (English & Humanities Coordinator)

Year 8 Microbiologists

In our Year 8 Science classes this term, we have been learning about cells and how they are the building blocks of all living things. Cells can only be seen through a microscope. During our practical class, we were given access to (very expensive) light microscopes which we used to examine various types of cells.

We were provided with different samples to choose from; from sugar grains, onions and celery, to dead bugs and hair samples. It was really interesting seeing the samples up close, and comparing the differences and similarities. We enjoyed seeing the pretty images that came up, some prettier than others. Overall, the experience was of great fun and we learnt about how to use microscopes and handle them with care. You could say we really felt like real scientists.

Qaisara Mohd. Azizan (8B)

Year 7 Excursion to the Western Treatment Plant

The year 7s visited the Western Treatment Plant. They had a bus tour of the plant and learnt about:

- the sewage treatment process
- collecting methane gas to generate electricity
- conservation in the wetland.

They also made a model city using legos and used real water with sound effects and track lighting to understand the ways that water can be recycled in horticulture, agriculture, industry and recreation.

Mrs Sahrina Shafiz
(Science and Maths Coordinator)
SAFETY: Seat belts and restraints

Seat belts save lives. If you are involved in a collision and you are not wearing a seatbelt you are 18 times more likely to be seriously injured than someone who does wear a seatbelt. It is important to ensure that each child/passenger is using a seat belt, and not sharing!

The following 10 essential steps can be found on the Kidsafe Website (http://www.kidsafe.com.au/crguidelines)

1. “The use of any restraint is preferable to not using a restraint. It is the law that each person in a motor vehicle has their own restraint.

2. Infants are safest if they remain in their rear facing restraint as long as they still fit in their rear facing restraint. While the law allows children over 6 months to use either a rear facing restraint or a forward facing restraint, the rear facing restraint offers better protection as long as the child fits in it.

3. Once a child is too tall for their rear facing child restraint, they should use a forward-facing child restraint (with built-in 6 point harness) until they are too tall for it. While the law allows children 4 years and older to use either a forward-facing child restraint or a booster seat, the forward-facing child restraint offers better protection as long as the child fits in it.

4. Once a child is too tall for a forward facing child restraint, they should use a booster seat with a lap sash belt until they are tall enough to fit properly into an adult seatbelt. While the law allows children 7 years and older to use either a booster seat or a seatbelt by itself, a booster seat offers better protection as long as the child fits in it.

5. For a child in a booster seat or an adult seatbelt, use a seating position with a lap sash (lap and shoulder) belt in preference to one with a lap only belt.

6. All child restraints and booster seats must be installed correctly and the child strapped in correctly according to the manufacturer’s instructions:
   - Always use a top tether strap for all rearward facing child restraints, forward facing child restraints and booster seats that have them.
   - Always thread the seatbelt through the correct path (follow colour coding available for newer re-

Ambulance Cover

Ambulance cover is important as you never know when an emergency may happen, especially with young children.

In 2013/14, there were 3,197,826 patients across Australia who were attended by ambulance personnel, as mentioned in the Productivity Commission’s report.

Emergency transportation and ambulance services are essential for urgent medical care, but are not covered by Medicare and are quite expensive. If your child is seriously injured or the college feels that they need to go to the hospital immediately, an ambulance will be contacted and parents will be informed.

Parents who have a health care or pension card are automatically covered for Ambulance expenses. Also, if you have private health insurance, please check your fund to see if you are covered.

Alternatively, you can obtain membership from Ambulance Victoria for your family. Please find how to on the Ambulance Victoria Website (http://ambulance.vic.gov.au/membership/)

Children 12 years of age and under are safest in the rear seat.

Seatbelts should never be used with the sash belt under the child’s arm or behind the child’s back, whether they are being used alone or with a booster seat.

When planning any journey with children, use a motor vehicle which allows each child to be in the appropriate restraint for their size.

Regularly check that child restraints are correctly installed and that the restraint is adjusted properly for the child’s size according to the restraint users’ manual. Using a restraint fitting service will help ensure that everything is used correctly and that your child is as safe as possible.”
Student Attendance

Students have a right to obtain a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

School participation helps students to develop important skills, knowledge and values which set them up for further learning and participation in their community. Students who regularly attend school and complete Year 12 or an equivalent qualification have better health outcomes, better employment outcomes, and higher incomes across their lives.

Missing school can have a major impact on your future – a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they’ll have missed more than a year of school. It is important that children develop habits of regular attendance at an early age.

In an effort for the State Government to raise standards in schools, they have started to monitor absences and serve infringement notices to parents. If a student has been absent from school on at least five full days in the previous 12 months and the parent has not provided a reasonable excuse for these absences, the school can notify a School Attendance Officer at the Education Department to investigate.

The school highly encourages parents to make medical and dental appointments out-of-hours only not. If your child has an appointment in the morning, the college will expect parents to drop their child at school once it is complete.

Further information about attendance can be found on the Department of Education and Training website (http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/participation/Pages/attendance.aspx)

ICOM Gym Opening

The Islamic College of Melbourne held its opening ceremony of the new state of the art Gymnasium on Friday 22 April 2016. This was a great event with guests and parents joining in the festivities. Guests on the day included the Federal MP of Lalor, the Mayor of Wyndham City Council, Councillors, Imams and community leaders.
**Umrah Trip**

ICOM has introduced an Umrah Program this year for Year 10 students. It was announced at the beginning of the year that three boys will be chosen for the trip based on their academic performance and exemplary characters. They will also have to sit for an Islamic Studies Test.

Alhamdulillah, this year five students from Year 10 went for the Umrah Trip which included a ten days trip to Makkah and Madina to perform Umrah.

The students left Australia on 29 March, 2016 along with two teachers. They first visited Madina and then went to Makkah. They visited a number of historically and religiously important places in both Holy Cities. After a successful Umrah Pilgrimage the group returned home on 9 April. The students enjoyed their spiritual journey a lot and they shared their experience with their peers and other students.

**Sheikh Ajwad Hashim**  
Islamic Studies and Quran Coordinator

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My name is Hameeduddin from Year 10. I am going to talk to you briefly about my experience of visiting the Holy City of Makkah, although I enjoyed a lot staying in the City of Madina.

Makkah is the holiest place on Earth. That's where the First Masjid, the Holy Ka'ba is. Ka'ba was first built by Prophet Adam (A) and thousands of years after it was rebuilt by Prophet Ibraheem (A) or Abraham as he was known in Bible.

Seeing the Ka'ba for the first time made me so excited. I was looking at it may be for five minutes. It was an amazing feeling! A spiritual connection! It was the beautiful things I have ever seen. It is the most Sacred Place for Muslims around the World.

Every day, 24 hours a day all throughout the Year, thousands of people make Tawaf of that Great House.

“Every prayer at this Sacred Mosque is better than One Hundred Thousand Prayers in any other mosque” as the Prophet (S) said.

We stayed 4 days in Makkah; we made every effort to get the best out of our Journey.

We went to the Cave of Hira at the top of the Mountain of Light or Jabal An-noor. It was an amazing experience. It was the place where Angel Jibreel visited Muhammad (S) and brought Allah’s message, the Last Testament, Al-Quran.

I want to visit those Holy Cities once again. I thank Allah (SWT) for this great opportunity. I also thank our school and my parents for arranging this unforgettable experience. May Allah reward you all! And may Allah grant you all the chance of visiting the Holy Cities of Makkah and Madina!

By: Hameeduddin Mohammed (Year 10A)

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My name is Nasser Elsouki from Year 10. I am going to talk to you briefly about my experience of visiting the Holy City of Madina last month during our Umrah Trip.

Alhamdulillah, it was an amazing journey. After a long 17 hours flight we arrived in Madina. I was so excited to visit the city of the Last Prophet of Allah. It was the city from where the light of Islam spread to the rest of the world. It was the city that welcomed the Prophet and His Companions when they were denied and persecuted at their birth Place Makkah.

The Prophet’s Mosque is huge that can accommodate over 2 million people. It was always full with Pilgrims from all around the World. It was an amazing feeling when you enter the Holy Mosque. We went to the Rawdah the place where the Prophet (S) was buried. It was a wonderful feeling when you greet the Prophet (S) by Saying Assalamu Alaika Ya Rasoolallah”.

Prophet (S) said “every Prayer at this Masjid is better than 1000 prayers in any other Masjid except Masjid Al-Haram in Makkah”.

We stayed in Madina for 4 Days. We prayed every daily prayer at Prophet’s mosque. We also visited the Mount Uhud, where many Sahaba (R) died at the battle of Uhd. We also went to ‘Baqee’ where many Sahaba and many great People in the History of Islam were buried.

Madina is a beautiful City. I am so privileged to have a chance to visit this City. I want to visit Madina once again Insha Allah. I thank Allah (SWT) for this great opportunity. I also thank our School and my Parents for arranging this unforgettable experience. May Allah reward you all! And may Allah grant you all the chance of visiting the City of Madina!

By: Nasser Elsouki (Year 10A)
On Friday, 22 April, 2016, students and staff celebrated Multicultural Day. Students and staff enjoyed the day by dressing up in their chosen country’s traditional outfits and decorated their classes.

The whole school gathered in the new Gymnasium, where they were welcomed with a Quran recitation by Sheikh Abdallah Hawwari, singing the National Australian Anthem and speeches by the Principal, Dr Abdul M. Kamareddine, the MP of Lalor, Ms Joanne Ryan, Mayor Adele Hegedich and School Board Chairman, Mr Khaled Ajaj.

Two nasheeds were performed by Mr Mustafa Asik, Baker Abdulhamid 9B, Ali El Hawli 8B, Hussein Hussein 8B and Omar Abdulhamid 5A. After the nasheeds, students then participated in the parade, where they showed everyone their traditional outfits. Students also participated in many class activities where they were able to explore and learn about other cultures from their peers.

Overall the day was a huge success and on behalf of the college, we would like to thank all students, parents, staff and guests who joined the festivities.
Media Release

The below article was published on the Star Weekly Newspaper and can be found at http://www.starweekly.com.au/news/reason-to-celebrate/#

Islamic college has reasons to celebrate

“The cloud above us has been lifted,” Dr Kamareddine said.

For the multicultural day, students dressed up in traditional costumes from different countries, celebrating multiculturalism and family heritages.

“It is great to see costumes from all different countries and cultures,” Dr Kamareddine said. “Nobody can claim that Australia belongs to one background – we are all Australian.”

Dr Kamareddine told students: “It is you, with your peers from other schools that will shape this country into the future.”

Federal Labor MP Joanne Ryan, wearing a sari, said the day was a great opportunity to celebrate the students’ family backgrounds.

“It’s a real joy to hear you all sing the [Australian] national anthem with such gusto,” she said.


The following article printed in the Wyndham Leader on 3 May 2016 and can be read on the wyndhamleader.com.au website.

IT WAS a new state of play for students at the Islamic College of Melbourne who celebrated the opening of their new gym.

The state-of-the-art facility was unveiled after 12 months of construction. Delighted youngsters were keen to show off their sporting skills in the gym at the Tarneit school.

Principal Dr Abdul Kamareddine said the staff and students were excited to use the “fantastic” new facility of the college.

“It is really just fantastic, and we really needed the facility to ensure the kids could participate in PE programs, even if it rained,” Dr Kamareddine said.

He said the students were already enjoying the gym.

The school also celebrated the successful outcome of becoming compliant with the requirements of the Commonwealth Department of Education and Training.

Principal Kamareddine said everyone in the school community was “very, very relieved”.

In November last year, the college was one of six schools across the country slapped with a “non-compliance” notice for alleged breaches of the Australian Education Act.

Laws require schools to operate not-for-profit and ensure funding provided is used only for school education.