



## Newsletter - Week 6 Term 2 2022

### From the Principal

#### National Reconciliation Week

National Reconciliation Week celebrates the relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-indigenous people and is held annually from 27th May to 3rd June.



The theme this year is *Be Brave. Make Change.* It is a challenge to all Australians - individuals, families, communities, organisations and government, to *Be Brave* and tackle the unfinished business of reconciliation so we can *Make Change* for the benefit of all Australians. National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

The dates for NRW are the same each year. These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey - the successful 1967 referendum, and the High Court Mabo decision respectively.

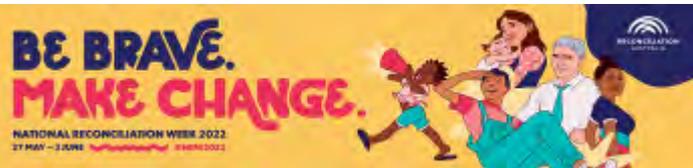
I hope you enjoy reading about the students' Reconciliation activities.



The photo below shows the site being prepared for the new building which will be situated behind The Hive.



Rachel McLennan



#### Farewell and Welcome

We say farewell to Stephanie Ryan, one of our Health and PE teachers. Stephanie will be on maternity leave for the remainder of the year as she is currently awaiting the birth of her 3rd child and we wish Stephanie and her family the very best. As a result we welcome John Slattery to our staff who will be taking over her classes.



#### Enrolling Siblings and School Tours

If you have younger children at home who will be starting school in 2023, please contact the office as soon as possible so that we can organise an enrolment form.

We will be advertising our next round of school tours at the beginning of Term 3. Please contact us if you are interested in being part of a school tour.

#### Building Works

The building works are progressing and we are all very excited and looking forward to the finished project. Most of the demolition is complete and the refurbishment is underway. We have some progress photos below.

### DIARY DATES

**The remaining Assembly will be held on Thursday of week 9 at 9:00am**

**Monday 13th June**  
Public Holiday

**Wednesday 6th July**  
Casual Day with gold coin donation

**Thursday 9th July**  
Reports go home to families

**Friday 8th July**  
Last day of term with early dismissal at 2:00pm

**Monday 25th July**  
Term 3 Commences

## National Simultaneous Storytime

National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS) is held annually by the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA). Now in its 21st successful year, it is a colourful, vibrant, fun event that aims to promote the value of reading and literacy, using an Australian children's book that explores age-appropriate themes, and addresses key learning areas of the National Curriculum for Foundation to Year 6.

This year's book was Family Tree by John Pyke and illustrated by Ronjoy Ghosh. *It started with a seed, and that seed was me. And, over time, laughter filled my garden ... A heartfelt celebration of family, community and the seasons of life, to cherish and to share.*



The Year 1 and 2 students in Room 12 talked about the book and about how our class was like a family too. We brainstormed all the important things and the people we need to have strong roots. We added these ideas to the bottom of our tree. We also talked about how once we feel like we belong and feel safe, we can get on with our learning and try our best. The leaves on the tree show our aspirations of what we want to be when we grow up.



Students from Room 12

## Year 6/7 High School Transition

Our Year 6 students have been given the opportunity to have additional transition visits to Parafield Gardens High School. The students will attend two half day transition visits. The high school teachers and leadership have arranged a number of lessons, bonding experiences and information sessions to help our students feel comfortable in the high school environment. During these visits the students are supported to navigate their way around the school, identify where to go for help and support, as well as becoming familiarised with a number of key staff members.

On Thursday 26th May we went to Parafield Gardens High School for a transition visit where there was lots to explore and many unique things to see. We went to the art room where we were shown how to sketch some cats and we learnt a lot of strategies for this task. We started with basic shapes like ovals and circles and then we added features such as the fur, the shape of the tail and facial features. We also got to add accessories like a top hat, shoes, bows and jewellery if we wanted to. Some people even added ice cream dripping down the cat. It was great fun.

We were served morning tea of pancakes which was cooked by some older students, supported by SSOs. They were sweet but we could also add syrup making them even sweeter! We also visited the library where we saw lots of books and paintings which were painted by some students.

We had a scavenger hunt to find lollypops in different parts of the school. When we went to the upper level to the English rooms we learnt about PEEL, which is a tactic used in paragraphs - P for point, E for evidence, E for evaluation and L for link. We will learn more about that next year. We looked at some of the classrooms, some of which were quite small while others were more like our rooms, although not decorated, making them a bit boring. We also learnt that we go to high school we will have our own Chrome Book laptop which is very exciting. Even though we won't be attending Parafield Gardens High School, it was still a great visit and we are looking forward to going to high school.

Sneha Room 21 and Aulona Room 22

## Festival of Music Choir

Recently students have started preparing for the Festival of Music Choir, learning songs with Ms Thomson.



Yesterday three girls from the choir, Ruth, Kayleigh and Ella went to Salisbury Heights School to audition for soloist roles within the choir.

We did an audition with Ms Thomson to see who was selected to go to the soloist audition. It was exciting to be chosen because we all love singing. We went to a school in Salisbury where there were students from other schools waiting for their audition. Before we went into the audition room the three of us practised our songs together and helped each other by giving tips. When it was our turn we went in together into a room with a microphone and a desk where two judges were sitting and there was also the pianist, who has been coming to some of our choir rehearsals. We were really nervous. Ruth sang first and she was very nervous and scared. Kayleigh was next and she had to sing a rap and then Ella sang. After Ella Kayleigh sang another song. Ruth and Ella were asked if they knew another song and they tried it. The judges seemed really pleased.

The judges had different expectations for each song and when Kayleigh sang the rap she showed a lot of energy which the judges enjoyed. Once the auditions were over we all felt much better and confident and perhaps we might get a part. We will find out soon if we have been selected as a soloist.

Kayleigh Room 34A Ella and Ruth 34B

## School Crossing Monitors

Thank you to our School Crossing Monitors for the last 2 weeks for their positive approach and enthusiasm.

Week 5 & 6:

Room 34B: Jai, Andrej, Agamveer, Pranay, Cathy, Ella, Ruth, Sakina, Samantha, Anoush, Jadon

# Reconciliation Week

Students across the school have been involved in activities to acknowledge Reconciliation Week. Activities included dot paintings, Aboriginal symbols, making posters, weaving and learning some of the terminologies. This culminated in a special assembly dedicated to Reconciliation Week hosted by students from Rooms 27, 28 and 29. After our assembly the students were also treated to special performances by Sean Choolburra, to close our Reconciliation Week celebrations.

Every morning the Reception students say their own 'Welcome to Country':

*Hello land, Hello sky, Hello you.  
The Kurna People were here first.  
We will be friends, share and care.*

*We will take care of the animals, plants and the people.*

The Reception children in Rooms 4 and 5 have been learning about Aboriginal symbols, one of which was 'meeting places'. Places of meeting or connection are usually marked as a circle or set of concentric circles. These markings can symbolise a bonfire, campsite or waterhole. Parallel lines connecting circles usually illustrate a journey of some kind, whereby travellers stop at a series of locations.

The students painted their own symbol for 'meeting places' on small rocks.



*Jessica used a cotton bud to paint her dots.*



**Trina**



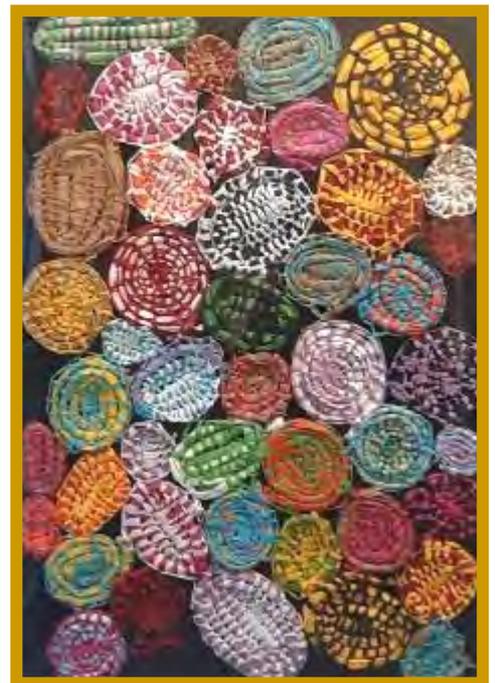
**Richard**



**Aria**



On Wednesday 1st June Kenny came to our school to teach basket weaving to the children from Rooms 4, 5, 21 and 25. They used 2 different colours of raffia to weave their mini baskets. The older children helped their younger partners with this tricky procedure making it a fun activity.



*The finished baskets have been joined together to make a beautiful piece of artwork which will be framed and displayed in our refurbished building.*

# Reconciliation Week

Aaradya Room 29

Mr Luke's Art students in years 3 and 4, were inspired by the Papunya Art Movement to create these amazing dot art pictures. This form of indigenous Art started in the 1970's and has taken the world by storm. Originally the artists would draw their art in the sand and then smooth it over as the work contained sacred symbols. When the artists transferred their work to canvas they replace the sacred symbols with dots so everyone could enjoy looking at the artworks.



Aiza Room 29

Azeen Room 32



Catharine Room 27

Princesa Room 27

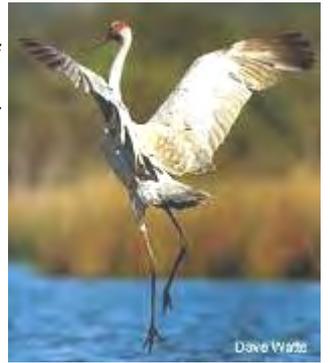


Advaita Room 32

# Reconciliation Week



The Year 2 students in Room 24 enjoyed viewing a video of the Bangarra Dancers doing their Brolga dance. A number of traditional Aboriginal legends and dances are associated with the brolga, using dance movements that mimick the this bird's graceful actions. After watching the Bangarra Dancers the children moved around the room like brolgas. They had to 'think like a brolga to be a brolga'.



The year 1 students in Room 7 and their PAL class, Year 4 students in Room 27, have been discussing the meaning and importance of 'reconciliation'. With Aboriginal music playing in the background the students worked together making *joining hands* as part of Reconciliation Week.



# Reconciliation Week

The Year 2 students in Room 11 have been learning about Birrguu Matya - Bush Game. This fun little board game is played just like Tic Tac Toe or Naughts and Crosses. The 'board' is made from felt and transforms into a little bag to hold the stones. This game has been played by Aboriginal people on the ground, using sticks and stones. It was used to develop skill, patience and lateral thinking.

*Miss KK gave us some coloured material and we drew 4 lines on our board. We even did some weaving to make the cord for our little bag. Then we threaded the cord through the holes so it made a little bag to hold the stones.*

*Two people play the game and the stones are 2 different colours. When you open the little bag you can make it go flat and you can see some lines on it. There are 9 spaces and you can put your stones on the spaces. You take turns and the first one to get 3 in a row wins points. The little stones have got Aboriginal symbols on them. We made our own games and first we had to think of a pattern then we drew the patterns in pencil and then we painted over them. We only used brown, yellow and black paint.*

**Baylee-Jade Room 11**



*Perez and Annabelle loved playing the game.*



Over the past 2 weeks as part of Reconciliation and also incorporating the Indigenous Round of AFL, the students took part in a competition to design their own Indigenous AFL jumper. There were so many wonderful entries making it a difficult decision, however we have selected the designs as shown below. Sahar's design was so detailed and possibly the best we have seen over the past few years.

Congratulations to the winners - Sahar, Vincent and Alexia.

**Mr C**

**Year 5/6 Winner - Sahar Room 22**

**Year 3/4 winner - Vincent Room 29**

**Year R-2 Winner - Alexia Room 11**

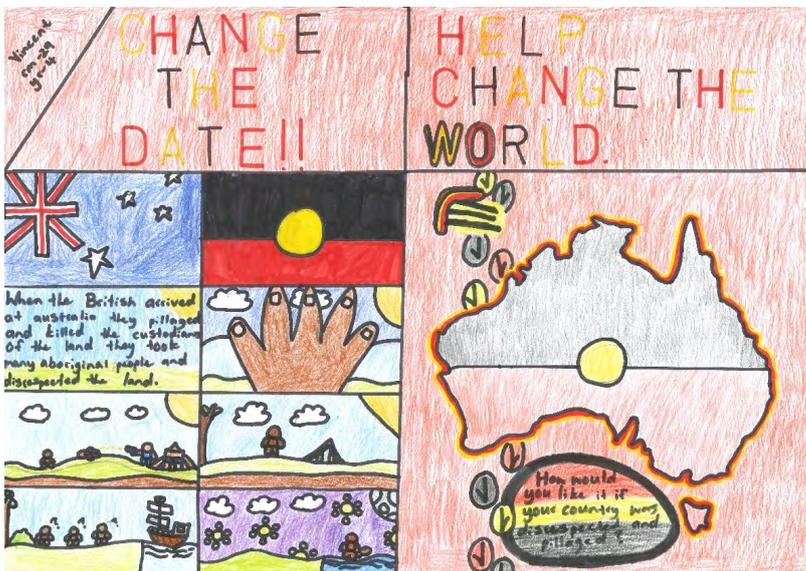


# Reconciliation Week



The Year 3 students have been writing acrostic poems about Reconciliation and have shared their thoughts and opinions. The words included:

**R**espect  
**E**veryone belongs  
**C**ourage  
**O**pportunity  
**N**ecessary  
**C**ommunication  
**I**nclusive  
**L**anguage  
**I**mportant  
**A**pology  
**T**reaties  
**I**nformed  
**O**ptimistic  
**N**ation Wide



In Room 29, we have been learning about the Indigenous identity. Did you know that Indigenous Australians have lived in Australia for over 50,000 years?

Indigenous Australians have a very special connection with this land. For thousands of years, they co-existed with nature, developing tools made from available resources and only fishing and hunting in ways that were sustainable.

On the 26th of January in 1788, everything changed. European settlers travelled from England by ship to the shores of Australia. Captain Arthur Phillip raised the British flag at Sydney Cove and proclaimed it an English colony. This was an invasion.

They forced indigenous people to change their lifestyles in order to be more like them. They were violent and not very friendly.

They said the land was Terra Nullius which meant it belonged to nobody. However, the land did belong to somebody. It belonged to the indigenous people.

January 26 is the anniversary of invasion day. Do you think that it is acceptable that we celebrate our diverse country on this date? We think it's time that we changed the date!

Around the school, you will notice that we have put up some posters that we designed. We hope you have the time to stop and think about the importance of our message.

The year 4 students in Room 27 have been learning about what Australia was like before the Europeans arrived. They learnt that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people had a strong link to the land and how they belonged to country. They also learnt that the Europeans failed to understand the way of life and customs of the Indigenous people. The students have also been learning about persuasive writing, so with all the knowledge that they have gained, they have looked at the following statement: **Australia Day should be moved to a new date - Do you agree or disagree?**

**Australia Day should be moved to a new date**  
*Australia Day should be moved to a new date. It was a day full of conflict and reminds the Indigenous People of their past and therefore should be changed to January 1st. My reasons are clear.*

*Firstly 26th January was a day full of conflict. There was fighting and Captain Phillips came uninvited. They took over the land from the Indigenous People and destroyed them.*

*Additionally, on this date, it reminds Indigenous Australians about the terrible past. It was dreadful and so terrible. Children and women were taken away, so Australia Day shouldn't be a day to celebrate. It should be moved.*

*Finally, Australia Day should be moved to 1st January. This was the date when all of the states of Australia came together - when Australia became a whole country. It is also New Year's Day, so you can celebrate both days.*

*In conclusion, Australia Day should of course be moved and here are my reasons. It was a day full of conflict, reminding people about the past and it should be moved to 1st January. Don't you want to have a mindset about peace and caring? Why would you want to think about conflict?*

**Catharine Room 27**

# Reconciliation Week

Our students were very privileged to be entertained by Sean Choolburra to close our Reconciliation Week celebrations. Sean was born and raised in Townsville and is one of Australia's leading Indigenous performers. He trained and toured with the Bangarra Dance Company and was the creator and leader of the Ngaru Dancers. He has performed at schools and colleges throughout Australia, Canada, Japan and New Zealand for over 30 years. His performance for our students included dance, stories, comedy and didgeridoo playing. He is also the voice of 'Maynard', who is a character in the children's cartoon series 'Bluey'. All the children and staff thoroughly enjoyed his energetic performance.



*Sean is the voice for Maynard from 'Bluey'.*



*Jayce from Room 11 was chosen to hold Sean's rainforest shield and spear while Sean performed a dance. During the dance Jayce's character was turned into a willy wagtail bird with the shield as his tail.*



*I was chosen with some others to play the clapping sticks to the music. Sean danced like a crocodile. Two boys played the didgeridoo as well. My favourite part was the dancing at the end and Bentley won the challenge so Sean gave him a trophy. It was a star.*

**Perez Room 11**

*Sean wore a grass skirt and he had paintings on his body and also on his arms and legs. He did a crocodile dance and a bird dance where kicked up the leaves. The paintings are called clan paintings because each family has their own design.*

*He had a dance competition with Bentley from Room 9 and Bentley danced so well. Everyone clapped for Bentley so Sean gave him a trophy.*

**Lily Room 10**

