

School Newsletter

Term One - 2020



A Word from Our Principal

Dear Parents,
From an academic view point, the term has been really great. We have had many activities both in the classroom and in boarding.

Students have been on work experience in Alice Springs, and Clontarf have taken students away to Tennant Creek for an AFL match. The teachers really enjoy their time with students and how they learn.



The sickness (Coronavirus) that has arrived in Australia is a really bad thing. We have done everything possible to keep students and staff safe. Students have been told about hygiene and we hope that continues at home - hand washing is very important.

What happens next term? We are unsure, but as it is at present, school will reopen on 20th April. If this changes the CLO will be in contact with you.

Teachers are preparing to extend Yirara TV to include lessons. This will only happen if the NT Government keeps schools closed.

May God be with you and all of your family over the holiday break, keeping you all safe and well.

God Bless
Chris England

Under 15 Mixed Soccer

Over 10 weeks during Term 4, 2019 and Term 1, 2020 an under 15 mixed team from Yirara played in a 'Seven a Side' soccer tournament at Ross Park, Alice Springs.

There were four teams involved, mainly from the Development Programme run by the local soccer federation. Our players were very competitive but unfortunately lost in the first semi-final.



The Yirara team made many admirers with their fast attacking play and sportsmanship.

Message from Ingkaarta Basil

This term I've enjoyed speaking with students about the languages spoken in their home communities.

For many students, English is only one of two or three or four languages they can speak.

Yirara College is one of the most multi-lingual schools in Australia, or for that matter, the world!

At least 21 different languages are spoken by the students of Yirara. They include:

Western Arrernte
Central Arrernte
Alyawarr
Anmatyerr
Kaytetye
Warlpiri
Jingli
Mudburra
Pitjantjatjara
Yankunytjatjara

Luritja
Pintubi
Warumungu
Warlmanpa
Warman
Yanyuwa
Garrwa
Eastside Kriol
Westside Kriol
Jawoyn



Currently Yirara is having good discussions about how we can encourage and support the First Languages spoken by Yirara College students.

Cheers and Blessing

Ingkaarta Basil

"Everyone heard them speaking in their own languages!"

Acts: 2:8

Hello from our Kintore Campus

At the beginning of 2020, we decided to try some new STEM activities with our older students. Mavis followed instructions carefully off a plan to construct a rather complicated solar house.



Zinata started wiring the electric system on the same ongoing project, but we've not completed this rather difficult task. Tanisha is in the process of constructing a solar chopper which we'll hopefully fly after completion.



We've also occasionally been playing some darts in the afternoons to improve our mental maths skills and of course get to learn a new game. We think we have a few emerging champions that are up and coming in the days ahead!



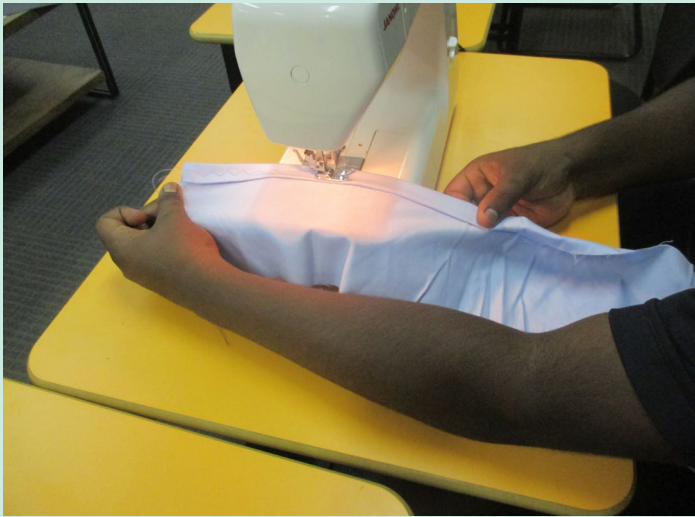
Finally we've tried to use our giant pick-up sticks game. This is brilliant for small motor co-ordination. Well, let's not say anymore at this stage, but for the fact that we're going to have to do a lot more work on this one! All the new ventures have been lots of fun and the students thoroughly enjoy participating.

Graham and Sherill - Kintore Campus

Love is patient, love is kind, love does not put itself first.
1 Corinthians 13:4

Senior Electives

Twice a week, Senior students have chosen from a selection of Electives aimed at offering them life skills for their future. They were able to join Clontarf, Girl's Academy, Guitar Building, Hair Colouring, Cooking, Piano, Tourism, Weights and Sewing.



In the sewing class, students were introduced to using an electric sewing machine. At first, they learnt how to refill a bobbin and then take the cotton through to the needle, ready to start.

Explored the different stitches and how to make a hem so the material did not fray. Next, material was selected to make their own pillow case. This fabric was pinned to a paper pattern and cut to size.

Finally, they were able to begin properly. You should have seen them go!!

They were fast, confident and neat. They can take this skill back to community; helping to mend clothes and make



things for their homes. If they can get a machine, possibly even make some money or swap favours between each other?

The pillow cases turned out beautifully and they were so proud to take them back to Dorm and brighten up their rooms. Most importantly, as one of the ladies left I saw her cuddling her pillow as she got on the bus to travel home. Something to take back and share with family. Well done!

Miss Andrea

Tourism Elective

On Wednesday afternoon Senior fellas visited the National Road Transport Hall of Fame as part of the Tourism Elective.



In the Tourism elective students have been learning about places that tourists like to visit while they are in Alice Springs and the employment possibilities in the tourism sector.



The fellas enjoyed looking at the old trucks and buses, and some of the first road trains. They also checked out the big rigs in the Kenworth display and sat behind the steering wheel of a smaller truck. The fellas enjoyed learning about the history of the trucking industry as well as more about tourism in Alice Springs.

Weights Elective

During Term 1 2020 fellas went to Anytime Fitness in Alice Springs for a Health and Weights program.



The elective worked on correct training methods, how to behave in a gym, using machines and weights, how to put them back and importantly in this time cleaning the equipment before and after use to stop cross contamination.

The fellas learned about nutrition and maintaining muscle, which muscle groups to train and where they are on the body.

The program encouraged fellas to enjoy training and gave them the knowledge to help in their community.

Art Elective

One of the main themes that we focused on this term was the use of symbols and symbolism in Art.

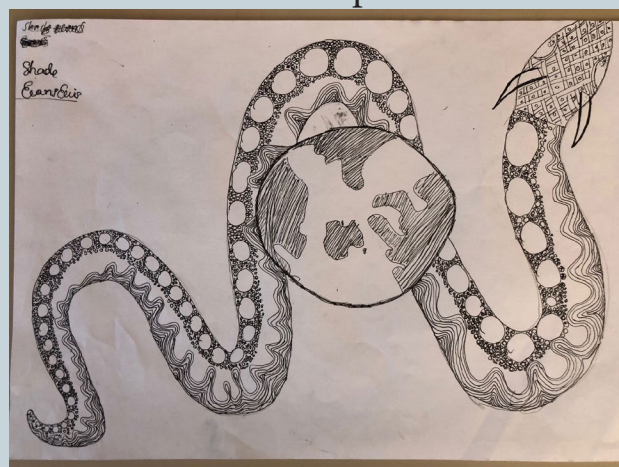
We began looking at the work of street artist Keith Haring and discussed how this artist uses particular symbols to convey meaning in his work.

We had some good class discussions around symbols and their meanings and students had lots of good ideas. Then we got into art making.



Some of the Middle School classes painted a small canvas using our knowledge of symbols.

Others incorporated symbols into their poster for Harmony Day, while others drew important symbols in their own culture, such as the Rainbow Serpent.



Christian Studies

In Christian Studies lessons in Term 1 students have been reading stories from the Bible about God rescuing his people, fixing things up and giving his people second chances.

In class there were discussions about the “Bad News” of sin and a paper chain was made to represent the wrong things people do.

There is also the “Good News” that Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for these sins. Jesus breaks the chains of sin and sets his people free to live with him. God loves all people and he will forgive those people who show that they are sorry, giving them another chance.



Thursday and Friday mornings the Yirara Aunties lead the singing for Chapel and then join students in a Christian Studies lesson.



Clontarf Academy



It has been a whirlwind of a term down in the Clontarf Academy with some new faces among the staff and plenty of activity for the fellas.

Thank you to all Yirara staff for the many ways you have supported us over the term. We love the Yirara fellas to taste success inside and outside the classroom, to chase new experiences and to start thinking early about what sort of man they want to become – and we can't do that without your hard work and commitment.



Thank you also to the families and communities who entrust their young fellas to our care. We will always strive to help you grow your children into men that everybody can be proud of.

Year 7s and newly arrived Year 8s went on an Induction Camp where they learned all about the values of the Clontarf Foundation and experienced a trip to beautiful Ormiston Gorge.



Our Year 12 Leadership Camp saw a large group of Year 12s from Yirara, Centralian and Tennant Creek Academies get together to plot their path to a successful graduation with goal setting, problem solving and a whole lot of group bonding. Massive thanks to Miss Molly for being a part of it!



Fellas from Yirara and the two Centralian Academies came together for the annual Clontarf Clean-up on Anzac Hill before school to send a powerful message to the community about their pride in themselves and this town and we congratulate them for their efforts.



Three senior fellas spent the day at Yeperenye Shopping Centre putting their working man credentials to the test. All three came back from the experience with a spring in their step knowing they can make great workers after graduation.

Throughout the term we have teamed up with Brumby's to deliver bread to Little Sisters and Karnte Town Camps. The fellas love the feeling of helping out in the community and flexing that empathy muscle.



Another ongoing activity has seen Cyril taking four fellas a week to Congress to complete a health check so they can take ownership of their health and know where to access service providers in town. Thanks Gilbert for all your help with this.



Science in Term 1

The Middle School, Years 7/8 and 9 classes all looked at biology this term. They looked at the impact of the seasons, the water cycle and different ways in which plants grow.

Year 9 students then focused on Bush Food and Medicine and the Year 7 / 8 classes looked at what related to different Biomes.

In Science, the Year 7/8's focused on the Desert Biome and looked at plants and animals found in different deserts. They measured the cooling of different surface areas which helped them understand that large ears on desert animals helps the animals cool more quickly.



Year 7/8's conducted an experiment to see the transpiration of leaves. Fresh dry leaves were placed in a plastic bag, and students looked at the condensation (water) that collected inside the bag a couple of days later, noticing that leaves from trees endemic to the desert, lost considerably less water than leaves from trees from the coast.



Year 9 classes discussed different edible bush foods from the Alice Springs region. Some Ruby Saltbush was planted in the garden area to enjoy in the future. Students found out other countries in the world also had native plants that treated similar ailments to the bush medicines used in Alice Springs.

Students researched different bush food plants and how they are used as medicine, or what parts can be eaten.

There was also a "Fun Day" when students learned about safety in the Science room and made Tea Bag Rockets. There were lots of smiles and laughter!

Year 7/8

This Term the Year 7/8 Classes of Yirara College have been looking into the meaning of Harmony Day. One of the ways we have been looking into it is by researching different cultures in our school.



We explored South African culture by interviewing two of our teachers, Rebecca Stephens and Fleur Moreng who were born there. We even got to listen to their elder grandfather Pa Isaac share his experiences and what Harmony Day means to him.

We also got to look into the Samoan culture of our other teacher Liko Alosio. He taught us some words in Samoan along with a special dance called the Sa Sa dance which the Samoan people use to swat away the flies.



In our academic learning we have been looking into the different climates and biomes in our country and around the world. We have been investigating both in Integrated Learning and Science the different animals and plants which live all around Australia.

Our 7/8 students have particularly enjoyed researching and learning about the different types of animals found in Central Australia, and specifically Alice Springs.

God loves the world. The world is loved by God.

John 3:16

Student Support

This term in student support our goal was building positive relationships with students.

For this to succeed, we decided to spend some time with students outside of academic hours and get to know students in the boarding space. We introduced activities and games that would see us engaging with our students and them getting to know more about us.



We also had our rewards day in week 5 where staff and students were engaged in fun activities for the afternoon, followed by a pool party and BBQ. This was to show our students how proud we are of their commitment to being here at Yirara and doing their best in school.



For us to build these relationships with students, we also have to ensure that we were strong and supportive with each other as Student Support. We encourage each other and support every decision that is made to ensure we can deliver our best to students and support them while they are here.

We look forward to what other activities and rewards we can bring for our students next term.

Nothing can separate us from the love of God: not death or life, not angels or demons, not the present or the future, not things above or things below.

There is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38

Pathways in Term 1

Yirara College Pathways team aim to support our young people in developing skills, knowledge and preparing them for success in the world after school.

Students have the options of furthering their learning through electives, work experience and vocational education, which is nationally recognised certificated training.

Some of our students are participating in Hospitality VET



training through the Department of Education RTO. They have been experiencing the whole process of cooking, from shopping, to cooking and feeding large groups of people.



During shopping students are learning about value for money, how to check ingredients, and use by dates. Hygiene, safety and being responsible in the kitchen are an important focus.



Literacy and numeracy are embedded in the training, reading recipes, measuring ingredients and checking temperatures and time. Their communication, teamwork and hard work produced delicious Oreo Cakes.

Year 9 Hermannsburg Visit

It was light rain when we left Yirara College for our excursion to Hermannsburg (Ntaria) some 130km west of Alice Springs. On arrival the Year 9 students and staff were greeted by Ingkaarta Neville Doecke. After 'Welcome to country' Ingkaarta showed us around the Bethlehem Lutheran church which sits just outside of the Historic Precinct.



We heard the story of the first Pastors travelling from Hermannsburg in Germany to bring the gospel to the Arrernte people of the Central desert area and of these remarkable translators who wrote 53 songs and hymns in the Arrernte language during the first three years. Every year, since the arrival of water from the nearby Kupriyla Spring in the mid 1930's, the story is celebrated through the song Kwatja! Kwatja!

People come from all over the world to see this historic mission complex, so we were especially blessed on our visit because our two aunts had learned in the school and worked in the mission a long time ago. Nunga Williams and Marlene Wheeler shared stories of their lives growing up near the mission and worshipping in the church. We loved to walk about and hear them talk so excitedly about their memories, because their stories rang true for us.



We toured the historical precinct, discovering stories of the life of young people, learning about their studies in the old school building, what it was like working in the dispensary and lining up for rations from the store. Nunga and Marlene helped us to appreciate how life was in the old days. We think that it must have been very hard times.



In every building there were photos of the young people, some of whom were family to us. Inside the old church we could see the high ceiling and old organs that made music for the singing. There is an old gum tree outside the church and we wondered how old it was and what history it could tell.



As we walked around the buildings we could see where the metal machinery and tools were fixed in the smithy, and after the water pipe reached the mission, the tannery was built. We could see the deep pits where the skins were washed and soaked before being made into boots and belts. Albert Namatjira was a famous resident of the mission and his paintings were displayed in the art gallery.



Many of us didn't know what might be in store for us but on the way back everyone agreed that this had been the best day of learning, hearing the true stories of life in the old days and learning how important family and stories are to remember culture.

Thank you to Ingkaarta Neville, Nunga, Marlene and the families of Ntaria for allowing us to visit and learn about the history of the Central lands of Australia.

Michael Jantzen, Elizabeth Bishop, Tiffany Swan.

Now God's home is with human beings! He will live with them, and they shall be his people.

God himself will be with them, and he will be their God. And he will wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Revelation 21:3

A Quicklook at Term 1 at Yirara



Gilbert (school nurse) and a team of School Health Promoting School Nurses from the NT Department of Health helped students stay up to date on their inoculations.



It's not just the students who learn and grow at Yirara, our staff do too. At the start of the term staff had a chance to work with people they don't normally get to by competing in the amazing race on campus.



Our students really enjoyed working with horses and preparing them for riding at RDA. The highlight of the day for all the students was getting to ride their horse. The skills learned at RDA will help students gain their Certificate 1 in the Racing Industry



Yirara AFL Star Alonzo Nelson having a quick break between games at the Melbourne Demons AFL Gala Day.



This term female boarding created tie dye shirts by twisting inexpensive blackshirts in various patterns and using bleach to change the colour of the shirts. Who knew black shirts would become so many different colours with bleach!



Clontarf puts on a breakfast for the fellas after an early morning start for training to get ready for the school day.



In term 1 our students enjoyed getting a taste of working life by taking on a week of work experience at Coles, The Toy Library and KFC. Experiencing hands on learning in different departments of the their host workplaces. Prior to their placements students experienced some of the basics of comencing work, filling forms and gained more knowledge about the world of work and working with other people.

For more information, please contact the College on

(08) 8950 5644 or email info@yirara.nt.edu.au



Yirara College of the Finke River Mission

Yirara College was established initially in 1973 as a government secondary residential college for the traditionally oriented Aboriginal students. Later in 1991 negotiations between Finke River Mission (FRM), the Central Australian Aboriginal parent family client group, the Northern Territory Government and the Federal Government commenced with the aim of FRM assuming control of the college. FRM assumed control of the college in 1993.

Today Yirara College is a vibrant and busy community providing a wide range of teaching and recreational resources to its boarding students.