

## Yirara News



### A WARM WELCOME...

I extend a warm welcome to all returning and new students, families & staff as we commence the new school year. Our focus heading into the new year is to continue to make good, strong choices that promote our wellbeing and others around us.

Term One has seen the appointment of a new Director of Business Operations – Mr Emil Moul, who has invaluable financial experience working all over Australia; we are grateful to have him here and wish him well as he settles into his new role.

We sadly say farewell and best wishes to Mr. John Hubner, who dedicated nine years of service to the College as the Director of Business Operations. John, you will be sadly and dearly missed by all as you move into your well-deserved retirement.

Several Law and Justice Group Members will shortly support our Kintore campus. These members will direct and guide community members to make better and more informed choices while supporting an increase in enrolment and current student retention.

The Minister For Education has announced \$18 million to build and expand boarding schools in Central Australia; I will continue to work tirelessly to secure some of these released funds to upgrade our boarding facilities.

I continue my visits to communities to develop well-built connections with families, community members, and remote schooling staff. These relationships are crucial to helping new students feel comfortable transitioning from community into boarding school life.

I am beyond grateful for your continued encouragement and for trusting me with the future of Yirara College.

May God bless you all.

Wesley Meurant - Principal.



# *Ingkaarta Basil*

At the beginning of Term One, in Yirara Chapel, we heard the story of Mary and Joseph's journey to Egypt.

Mary and Joseph and their little boy had to run for their life! Bad King Herod was trying to catch them!

But in the middle of the night, they left their house, and ran through the darkness, far away, down to Egypt.



At Yirara College, we think a lot about all the different languages at our school. We have a great sharing language program.

And so, we were wondering – how did Mary and Joseph talk to the Egyptians? Could they speak some of the Egyptian language?

Did the Egyptian people speak some of the language of Mary and Joseph?

Did little Jesus start to learn the Egyptian language while he lived in Egypt, especially if he was playing with other young Egyptian children, the children of that land?

Perhaps Jesus learned Egyptian when he was a little boy?

How amazing!



FOR MORE VISIT: [www.yirara.nt.edu.au](http://www.yirara.nt.edu.au)





# INTERSCHOOL BASKETBALL COMPETITION



Mr. Wilson Marsh. Health and Physical Education Department

Here at Yirara College, sport is a major part of our school culture.

Our students excel in this area and have always performed with excellent results. In week six of this term, we were able to enter three teams into the Alice Springs Inter-School Basketball Competition with our Senior Fellas, Junior Fellas and Ladies competing on the day.

Basketball is a very popular sport at school, so we had a large group of Fellas and Ladies wanting to compete.

After several weeks training and trialing we were able to put together a competitive group of students to take on schools from around Alice Springs. Our Senior Fellas ended up finishing 3rd overall. The Junior Fellas finished 2nd and our ladies finished 2nd also. These were amazing results considering our students don't have many local competitions.

We look forward to what next term has to offer.



## GUDJELA PROGRAM

Geraden Kennedy

Geraden Kennedy and team, run the Gudjela Program every week with our Year Nines.

They focus on supporting our students to help them develop a strong sense of belonging and connection to Yirara College and to Gudjela staff. Relationships are the key to learning about and connecting to each other. Everyone's story is important, interesting and valued.

Recently students have learnt what our brain looks like and are learning about which parts are affected when we are stressed.



# LEARNING ON COUNTRY

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

Yirara have started a new program with our students having an afternoon of "Learning on Country".

The goal of this program is to share and learn about the land and culture that we all come from. There has been sharing and learning from Arrernte people where Yirara College is located, as well as from other regions.

Rhonda Inkamala, our Learning and Culture Development officer, and Year Nine teacher Paul Tolliday have worked on developing this program.

This term we have explored the importance and significance of country (out at the Desert Park rooms), Moieties and Kinship (across the road at Batchelor College), Totems and Family, Stolen Generation, Plants and Animals in Alice Springs (visit to Olive Pink Botanic Gardens), Cooking Kangaroo Tail and Damper (at Simpsons Gap and Yirara College).

**Rhonda Inkamala and Paul Tolliday**



Everyone has enjoyed sharing their unique knowledge of all the communities attending Yirara College.

We continue to look forward to developing this program, particularly as the cooler months approach.



**Roo tails taste so good !**



## ➤➤➤ CHRISTIAN STUDIES

Teacher - Fleurette Moreng

Wow, this term has gone very quickly. Well, let's fill you in on what has been happening.

I have enjoyed taking over the role of Christian Studies teacher for the Middle School. We have been looking at Building Communities.

We brainstormed what it takes to build strong communities and the qualities we are looking for, like caring, respect, kindness, patience, and praying with family.

Our students made some excellent posters displaying the qualities of a healthy community.



## MACQLIT LITERACY PROGRAM <<<

MacqLit Coordinator - Andra Somerville

Each term, Yirara College students participate in MacqLit, a highly effective literacy program used three times a week to help improve reading skills.

This allows our students to become confident readers by increasing their fluency and developing their spelling skills.

Small group lessons allow them to work at their level, building confidence as they progress through the program.



## ➤➤➤ MALE BOARDING BROTHERS.

Head of Boarding Sam Loza

We welcomed all returning students to our space for another term of building relationships and helped introduce our new students to the Yirara Boarding Brothers Brotherhood.

It has been an interesting and positive start to the year for most of our young men, making commitments in school and with new football teams while building new relationships here at the College and in town with their chosen football clubs.

We are excited to see what this year brings us.  
Sam Loza - Male Boarding Brothers.



# WALUNGURRU (KINTORE) CAMPUS

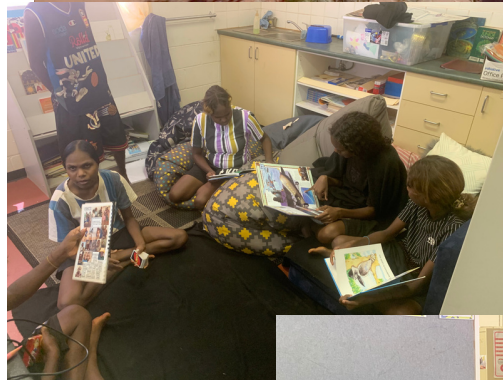
This term, we have welcomed three new Year Seven students to our class.

Miss Thea, from the Alice Springs Yirara campus, visited us in week eight to meet with some of the local community about how we can support the ongoing development of the Pintubi/Luritja language groups for the people of the Western Desert.

Several days of school have been missed because of illness or closed roads, which is part of remote community life.

We look forward to next term and having the Murlpirrmarra Connection tennis group here for tennis coaching sessions.

**Teacher - Peter Musinskis**



## ➤➤➤ PATHWAYS Cate Driver



Throughout the term, our Senior students engaged in VET courses, fostering hands-on skills.

Year 10 students gained industry insights through work experience at McDonald's and Woolworths.

Senior Class A pursued weekly work experience at different sites.

Four students attained learner licenses, while one earned a Provisional license.



# YIRARA CLINIC

## CARING FOR OUR STUDENTS...

It was a busy Term One for us in the clinic, with Congress GP appointments as a priority. We helped our students with numerous specialist appointments, such as paediatric and ENT, as well as hearing and eyesight tests.

Along with our marvellous Stars and Clontarf teams, who take some students to their weekly health checks at Congress, your children are well looked after at Yirara.

We had vaccinations this term for Gardasil and Boostrix administered. The HPV vaccine (Gardasil®) helps protect against the common types of HPV, which cause cervical cancer and some forms of cancers. Boostrix vaccine protects against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis infections. Diphtheria infection can cause breathing difficulty and damage to the heart. Tetanus infection causes painful muscle spasms that can cause trouble breathing and might lead to death. Pertussis (Whooping Cough) can be passed between people either by coughing and sneezing or during kissing or sharing eating utensils. The infection causes severe coughing, spasms, and vomiting.

We thank the team from the Deadly Heart Trek for coming to educate and screen everyone for rheumatic fever/rheumatic heart disease. Rheumatic fever is a sickness caused by a germ called Group A Streptococcus, or Strep for short. It can often cause sore throats and skin sores. If not treated with penicillin, the body's germ defence system can get confused and attack the joints, heart, brain, and skin—this is called rheumatic fever.





# Year 10 Classes



What a great start to 2024!

The Year 10s, now Senior Students, have been studying Literacy, Numeracy, Health, and Wellbeing through the HEAL program.

Working with their class teachers, students have developed their ICT skills by producing recounts, analysing songs, exploring the benefits of sports, staying active, and calculating time.

Students have also enjoyed the weekly interactive online lessons and meeting the HEAL program teachers via Zoom from Darwin.

We are also really enjoying our one-on-one reading sessions. Thank you to all our academic and boarding reading mentors, It really is a team effort.



**Yirara**  
COLLEGE

## YIRARA COLLEGE

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