

Yirara College Newsletter

Term 4, 2021



Mary Nipper and Serafina Campbell working on their MacqLit lesson.

Message from the Principal

It has been a very good term with many students having their first communion and some being baptised. The Girls Academy senior camp went very well thanks to Sophie, Moesha and Eloise. Thanks go to the Pathways team, our work experience week was a great time for students to get a taste of the realities of a workplace. There were also many other learning opportunities for students.

We were all surprised when one of our communities was placed in lockdown in the middle of November. The introduction of Covid-19 to the Northern Territory is a sad thing, but it was inevitable that Covid would get here. The school responded positively as parents requested us to send their students back home. This gave families an assurance that their students were safe in their home. I encourage all families to get vaccinated as this will keep everyone safer.

As students returned home, two to three weeks before the end of the year, some very important school activities were unable to be held. This was particularly relevant to graduating students. The 2021 Graduation ceremony will now be held in 2022. We are not exactly sure of the date as yet so please keep in touch, so we can send out an invitation to finally be able to share and celebrate with our 2021 graduating students all of their achievements while at Yirara.



May God bless you and keep you safe this Christmas as we look forward to 2022.



First communion and baptism service.



Ingkaarta Basil



Yirara students who took part in their first communion service.

Yirara College Baptism and Communion Day was celebrated this year on Sunday 7th of November. Families of students involved travelled a long way to be there.

Many families and students had waited a long time for this day. Students taking part came from many different communities, some from the desert, some from the top end.

Students celebrating their baptism and communion day were from Imanpa, Elliott, Papunya, Indulkana, Dhalinbuy, Robinson River, Tennant Creek, Borroloola, Doomadgee, Mungkarta, Titjikala, Binjari, Katherine, Yuelamu, Minyerri, Ntaria, Rainbow Valley, Areyonga, and Alice Springs.

The Yirara staff band played beautifully with many students joining the band on tambourine. Some of the songs were sung in Luritja and Arrarnta. Howei Gurruwiwi from Dhalinbuy in Arnhem Land played the didgeridoo with Ingkaarta Basil playing guitar.

Tobias Hume from Katherine read the Bible passages for the day. Steve Silver from Ngukurr community presented the baptism candles. Lizzie Jako from Alice Springs and Miss Chris Altus helped with communion.

After the celebrations in the chapel, the families of students joined with them for a BBQ dinner in the dining room and outside on the lawns.

Those celebrating their baptism were Leroy Jones, Waylon Jack, Howei Gurruwiwi, Duwayne Murrungun, Kyrel Noonan, Carlos Bill, Saxon Noble, Robert Hume, Bernie Bob, Celviston Bara, Tobias Hume, Mehala Campbell, Shinaya Murphy, and Antalya Campbell.

They shared the celebration of first communion with Saben Johnson, Kurtlin Paddy, Tony Penhall, Samuel Jones, Anthony Larry, Kadeem Larry, Tyreece Mumu, Jinika Jurrah, Faye Ratara, Anna Doolan, Patricia Wilson, Rosharna Mumu, Mary Nipper, and Selinda Inkamala.

Pathways

Congratulations to all our senior students for engaging in Yirara Pathways programs. Despite the challenges faced this year with the many changes due to COVID regulations and mandates, students have persisted and worked hard at completing their VET training units. All seniors have participated in work experience, learning new skills on the job.



The Coles' Work Experience team.

Our new challenge for 2022 is offering our young people the same experiences they had this year. Due to regulations and mandates, only double vaccinated students can engage in work or work experience. We strongly encourage all families and students who are eligible to get vaccinated before the school year starts so that we can continue to offer vibrant, engaging programs that build up our young people's skill base.

During these difficult times we pray for our families, staff, and students. We believe that one of the best tools we have for reducing the spread of COVID-19 is vaccination.



Jadekiyah Evans Work Experience at 8CCC.

Stay Safe and Christmas Blessings from the Pathways Team.
Donna McAskill, Cate Driver, Ken Petia and Taisson Palale.



Javis Noble and Billy Pareroultja at Bunnings for Work Experience.



Meridian Gibson , Frederica Godilla and Sherina Douglas at Woolworths for Work Experience.



Peter Morris and Karl Kenny-Cooper enjoying VET.

Girls Academy

This term, we have been working on a mural near Girls Academy. Under the guidance of Ms. Pam, the students are enjoying painting wildflowers from the Northern Territory, brightening up our ladies' space.



Our new mural next to the Girls Academy.

The senior ladies also continued with fundraising for their end of year trip by holding a Trivia Night at the school. The ladies sold raffle tickets, drinks and food. It was a late night for them, but they had fun and enjoyed seeing staff and their families outside of school hours. A big thank you to the senior ladies who helped out on the day and night!



Major winners from the Girls Academy quiz night.

In week 5, the senior ladies went on their end of year trip to Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. We stayed at the Yulara Campgrounds and staff from the Voyages Resort showed the ladies various jobs in the tourism and hospitality sector.

The highlights of the trip were the scenic views of Uluru-Kata Tjuta during the rains, camel riding, tours of expensive hotel accommodations and fine dining every night.



Senior Ladies enjoying their trip to Uluru.



Senior Ladies on their trip to Uluru.

Female Boarding



Female Boarding ladies celebrating a birthday.

This year, Term four finished a few weeks early with students travelling back to communities due to COVID-19. We have missed having the ladies in our dorms, but staff are glad that everyone arrived home safely and have been enjoying some valuable, and extended time with their families.

Throughout this term we had many outings with visits to the town pools, the cinema after which the ladies enjoyed dinner at the Telegraph Station, the Sunday morning markets and much more. We had some of our ladies playing in a basketball competition and, as always, gave their all and represented Yirara College in a very positive way. Other highlights of Term four were the youth activities and discos.

So, until next year, stay safe and well, and we can't wait to see you all at the start of the New Year.

Clontarf

Well, it was a short term to finish the year, but we managed to squeeze a fair bit in.

Contact times were a hit this term with special guests Macca and Talbot from Right Tracks and Robyn Liddle from Headspace, group visits to the Reptile Centre and the creation of player profiles that will line the Academy room walls.

After-school activities included a footy match and dodgeball against Centralian Middle School, employment sessions that led to part-time work for Academy members, and plenty of fun in the Yirara pool.

Senior Strongways Year 12/13 crew supported teenage cancer sufferers by selling bandannas for CanTeen at Yeperenye Shopping Centre, a Clontarf partner for many years. The fellas turned up the next day (a Saturday) to volunteer at Alice Springs Turf Club and did a great job of marshalling at the car park.

Our junior crew spent quality time at Ormiston Gorge where they were wowed by the volumes of water and the lush green hues that the rain had brought. Year 10 and 11 fellas had a day off campus making the most of what Alice has to offer and forming a strong support network ahead of stepping into peer leadership roles at Yirara in 2022.



Senior Fellas selling bandannas for Teen Cancer.

Congratulations also to the fellas who managed to qualify for their Driving L plates this term, and thanks to Pathways for supporting them through the process.

Between wild weather and the prevailing uncertainty around Covid-19, there were some special milestones that we didn't get to hit this year, such as the Clontarf Awards Night and the major Senior Fellas Trip to Darwin. We would like to thank the fellas and their families for understanding the reasons behind these postponements and we will be sure next year makes up for it.

2022 is already looking like a blockbuster! Territory Cup, Top End Cup, Year 12 Leadership camp, camps out bush, an on-campus AFL 9s competition, afternoon activities, morning trainings, contact times and so much more.

Thank you to everybody who helped make this year so special for the Clontarf fellas. Bring on 2022!



Kyrel Noonan trying hard during a morning training session.



The Fellas enjoy a sit down breakfast at Wednesday morning training



Middle school fellas testing out some bikes donated by Clontarf partner Kmart.

Seniors Class

This term the senior students returned to school motivated and excited for their last term of the year. It was a productive first half of term with lots of learning happening in and out of the classroom. All senior students had the opportunity to go out for a very successful week of work experience at various businesses in town. Some continued working hard on their Personal Learning Plans focusing on learning capabilities and planning for the future by setting goals and writing resumes.

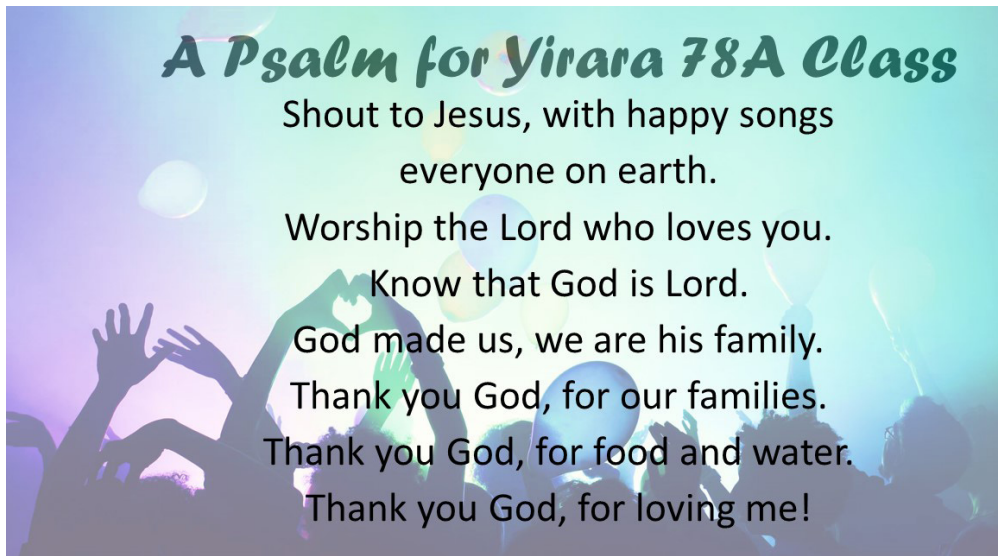


LSO Mark Wakeling working with Leroy Jones and Shannon Isaac.

The Yirara College end of year concert was one of the events all students were looking forward to, where each class would have the opportunity to showcase a performance of their choice. The senior students all came together and compiled an exciting dance routine that was practised every week.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID situation students and staff weren't able to celebrate some of our fun end of year events such as the formal, graduation and the end of year concert. However, we can't wait to see everyone dressed up and looking great for our postponed formal date in 2022! We hope you have an awesome break and look forward to seeing everyone back for another great year!

Christian Studies



This term, in Christian Studies lessons, students discovered that the Bible is like a Library. In it there are many books written by different people who were inspired by God. These books tell God's story from the creation of the world and the first sin to the fulfilment of His promise to send a Saviour, Jesus.

Students learned that the focus of God's story in the Bible, is Jesus and his love for all people. We studied different writing styles of the Bible including the Psalms after which students had an opportunity to write a Psalm of Praise or Thanks in their own words.

Chris Altus, Elizabeth Bishop and Leela Mirtschin (Christian Studies Team)

A Psalm for 78C Class

Call out to the Lord everyone in the world.
Worship God with happy songs.
I want you to know that the Lord is God.
God made us, we belong to him.
We are his people, his family.
Thank you, God, for the rain,
Thank you for life, for happiness,
for family and friends.
God is good, all the time!



Year 9 Class



Staff from Congress talking about healthy living with our Year 9 students.

This term the Year 9 classes of Yirara College had the opportunity to attend many off campus excursions and host several guest speakers from the local community. Some of the key excursions involved visiting the Desert Park, Lutheran Community Care Hub and the Hartley Street School. These excursions provided students with the chance to develop their confidence and conduct themselves as representatives of Yirara College when out in the community. Students were also able to learn and reflect on the type of workplace skills and behaviours needed as a working member of a community.



Clara Johnson-Traker with CAAFLU speakers Phynea and Shirley.

Alongside these excursions, during the Career lessons, the students hosted guest speakers and learned about the valuable work they were doing throughout the local and wider community. Among these guest speakers were Phynea Clarke and Shirley Erlandson who shared their involvement with the wider indigenous community as a part of CAAFLU Aboriginal Corporation. For wellbeing classes, the students interacted with members of the Congress team as they investigated some of the “Deadly Choices” they could make in their teenage years to promote and sustain a positive, healthy and long life.

Rebecca Stephens, Mandy Cass, Daniel Myers and Kayemeshia Kells.

“to promote and sustain a positive, healthy and long life”



Lutheran Care Officer Vani with Steve Silver and Tony Penhall.

Swimming Carnival 2021

Yirara College held its annual Swimming Carnival this term and it was a fantastic day with a great sense of camaraderie which was enjoyed by everyone.



The day began with students from Albrecht, Duguid, Fleming and Kramer houses putting on their colours with face paint, a variety of costumes and practising the House team chants.

Throughout the day, the races were broken up by fun activities such as the Human Alphabet Challenge, House Tug-of-War and the Chant-Off. After a fabulous BBQ lunch and afternoon novelty races, the day ended with a relaxing swim. The participation and team spirit from all house groups was exceptional, but it was Fleming House that won the carnival for 2021.

Congratulations to all involved and we look forward to another fabulous carnival next year!!
Justin Latham



Clontarf's Dwayne Powell relaxing with Saben Johnson, Kadeem Larry and Tony Penhall.



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 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.