



ALBERT PARK
FLEXIBLE LEARNING CENTRE

Respect, Relationships, Rights, Responsibilities, Safe & Legal

Message from Simon Clowes (Head of Campus)

It is very easy to fear change.

Generally, we like to stay in our comfort zone and do those things we have always done. But to grow we must change, in fact growth is change. Sometimes change is forced upon us and this makes it very uncomfortable. During this semester COVID-19 has made all of us change and this has been no different for Albert Park and all in our community. As the semester ends it is worth examining how much of the change wrought by COVID-19 has brought about growth.

Many in our community had to rapidly increase their IT skills as we moved to online learning. These are skills that will be utilised in many areas into the future. Many of us had to deal with the stress of being stuck at home without the social interaction that is a positive part of our daily lives. This demonstrates resilience and strength that allows us to stand a little taller in the face of life's struggles.

Many of us have had to deal with uncertainty, our own and others, and the fear that this can create. Managing fear is bravery and bravery allows us to face change. And I think it's fair to say that we have all learnt the benefit of good hand hygiene.

It was wonderful to return after the enforced break and for the community to regather and to recommence our learning journey together.

Whilst COVID is still around we have managed it at Albert Park through each doing our part, through being understanding and helpful

towards each other and for drawing on our own resources for growth.

Of course, we did. We are the Albert Park Community!



GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

Students have taken up multiple opportunities to build their skills in governance and leadership this semester.

Black Lives Matter Rally

Some students were inspired to respond to the Black Lives Matter movement coming out of America. They felt deeply concerned about the abuse of human rights by police and used critical thinking to discuss parallels within the Australian context in terms of Aboriginal deaths in custody. Young people collaborated with each other to discuss ideas for placards and t-shirts which they then produced and shared with each other. They independently organised to meet and participate in the Brisbane rally. The school supported young

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people's considered response with time to prepare, art materials, and the provision of resources about their legal rights in relation to protests during COVID-19 restrictions.



"I felt really fierce and powerful. My voice was demanding change. I lost my voice a bit! It was a really good vibe on the day. We all a felt a sense of presence from our ancestors as we walked the streets of Brisbane demanding change for my people!"

- Katrina Fusi (Year 12 student)

Car Wash Fundraiser

Having identified project ideas on last year's camp, our council of young leaders held a car wash this semester. It was a huge success. They collaborated to create a comprehensive plan for conducting the day; worked cohesively to create advertising; and communicated with staff to take bookings and schedule appointments.

The day ran like clockwork. Students and staff identified potential risks and managed them to

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ensure there were no accidents in the very small parking area in which they worked. With their effective evaluation of potential risks, everyone emerged safe and sound, though a little wet!

Sadly, the impact of COVID-19 meant other project ideas have been temporarily postponed but \$164 raised on the day is now banked for future student led projects!

United Nations Children's Rights Report



During 2018, Megan Mitchell, the National Children's Commissioner came to the school to speak personally with our students to help inform her Report to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child about Australia's

progress in meeting its obligations to children.

Our young people spoke of their experiences and thoughts about matters such as their civil rights, safety, family life, health, living standards, education, youth justice, and the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. Information and quotes from our students were included in a published report of which multiple copies have been given to our school this year.

We are very proud of our students for speaking out and adding their vital perspectives to such an important publication.



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Project Fridays

Each Friday young people have suggested and chosen to engage in projects that they are interested in pursuing which might not be covered by the usual curriculum. Projects have included 3D printing, music video production, kitchen science and food fermentation, pottery, yoga, ballet, drumming and music theory. Some of the projects have enabled some peer-teaching and learning to occur.



Celebration Day

Because our Celebration Day coincided with Pride Month, students hatched the idea of holding an LGBTIQ+ Pride Day at the school on the Wednesday of the last week of semester. Students and staff dressed in rainbow colours, ate rainbow cake, and performed (or enjoyed watching) well-rehearsed and polished songs from the musical repertoire which they developed over the semester.

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Afterwards students showed courage and a willingness to have a go by engaging in a joyful and super-fun music and dance jam session based around themes of love, celebration and community. Students engaged in a photo-portraiture activity involving writing their preferred pronouns on chalkboards and then being photographed. Students created the idea of having this special day, helped to organise aspects of it, and then participated; demonstrating their support for LGBTIQ+ students and for diversity in our broader community, collaboration and teamwork skills, and a deeper understanding of their human rights.



“Performing was a fun and happy experience. When I finished everyone was clapping and cheering and I felt empowered and confident, because all the new kids were cheering me on...” – Mary Wyatt-Old (Year 12 and Certificate II in Music Industry student)



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“Life’s a journey... You got to see it through to the end.” – Lucky Ogbeifun (Year 12 Student & Music in Me Competition Winner)

MUSIC IN ME COMPETITION WIN

2020 began with some great news for the music program. At the end of 2019 students Lucky and Musa had collaborated on a track 'The Journey', written to the theme of 'what flexi means', for the *Music in Me* competition with other students from flexible learning centres.

Critically reflecting on their own experiences at Albert Park, their lyrics communicated heartfelt interpretations of their journey to, and at, Albert Park. The song became the winning

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entry and added an extra \$5000 into the music budget for 2020 for equipment and projects.

The competition entries were judged by four independent judges. Dan Kelly – singer/songwriter and guitarist, Angela Brissett – Musician/Creative and Founder of 'Love Note Music', Greg Dodge - Founder, Director, CEO at Oxygen 4 2 – Creative Management and Robert Hildebrand - music lover and Hildebrand family representative. These judges listened to all entries and made their considerations based on the following criteria:

- Song, structure & Composition
- Lyrics
- Music & Melody
- Originality
- Overall performance

Well done Lucky & Musa!

LEARNING CHOICES

English

Senior students have been engaging in the different English courses offered at senior level. Students have chosen to study either the Short Course in Literacy or the Essential English course, where they have applied critical thinking skills in interrogating important issues affecting young people. Some of the topics that students have chosen to focus on include black deaths in custody and the need for changes to our justice system, bullying and discrimination faced by LGBTI students in schools, and the lack of comprehensive sex education in many Queensland schools. Students have chosen diverse forms in which to communicate their researched opinions,



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including political raps, letters to politicians and social media posts. Students studying Essential English have created videos of their spoken extended responses with some multi-modal elements.

Foundations students have reviewed popular culture texts in written and spoken forms.

Maths

Maths was an exciting learning experience for the many young people who engaged in the Numeracy Short Course this semester. Working diligently on solving worded problems and creating budgets in Excel, young people recognised and appreciated the many skills they use to learn. A number of previous Numeracy Short Course achievers returned to apply their learning skills to the Essential Maths program. It's a big leap between courses so their bravery was truly applaudable.



Visual Art

This semester the Art Room has become a bustling hub bursting with creativity! Our pottery program has fired up, with students taking control of the wheel creating bespoke ceramic pieces, and many others lining up to have a turn.

The students who have already been inducted into pottery have been peer mentoring new students, demonstrating wonderful teamwork and collaboration, forming a strong artistic community. We have many students exploring painting and drawing, and others who are now considering their own entrepreneurial pathways to share their art with the wider community.



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Fashion

This has been a fun space this semester, where students have embarked upon their own sewing projects such as doll-making, pillowcases, bags, pram liner, tops, aprons made of old jeans. Students have learned machine and hand sewing skills. Some have commenced or completed an assessment task, requiring them to draw a collection of fashion images that reflect their personal aesthetic.

Music

We have seen the development of personal and social skills through frequent collaborations in music this year with the formation of the SHADE band project with Keana and Llewyn, the group track 'Mission (Full Circle)' with Emily & Lucky, 'Small Talk' with Heith and Reuben, the collaborative track and music video for 'All my People' by Jamayne and Jack B and so many more works in progress.

Despite setbacks with off-site performance opportunities due to COVID-19, there have been increased opportunities for students to have their performances filmed and also to assist with filming and editing video. Term 2 ended with some great performances on Celebration Day and spontaneous collaborations. There was a great community atmosphere and it was inspiring to see many of our new students performing alongside continuing students.



Magic School Bus & Outdoor Adventure Based Learning

Magic School Bus kicked off to a flying start in Term 1 with young people attending QUT's CUBE, Museum of Brisbane's High Rotation exhibition as well as the Gallery of Modern Art and the Queensland Art Gallery. COVID-19 disrupted the remaining Semester's excursion and we developed the Magic School Room on site which included weaving, pottery, and movies.



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ORIENTATION OF NEW STUDENTS

This semester we were delighted to welcome 38 new young people across four orientations programs including new young parents and their wonderful little ones. New students were introduced to our Principles of Operation and the over thirty-year history of Albert Park, took a tour of the campus, and had an introduction to the staff and curriculum options.

Students were introduced to our invitational model which requires that young people make their own choices, set their own goals and take responsibility for their own learning pathway. Students developed personal and social skills by engaging in group work, community building activities and games.

They began their literacy and numeracy work by taking an initial assessment to inform both young people and their teachers of their Australian Core Skills literacy and numeracy levels.



Image: Pride Month Celebration Day Event



Image: Carwash Fundraiser



Image: The Great Pottery Throwdown art event

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