



# ST JOSEPH'S Catholic Flexible Learning Centre ALICE SPRINGS

A Catholic School in the Edmund Rice Tradition  
A Member of the EREA Oscar Romero Flexi Schools Network

## ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC FLEXIBLE LEARNING CENTRE 2022 TERM 3, NEWSLETTER

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



► Dear Families and Carers,

Our Term 3 is always one full of unexpected challenges and joys. During this term all our Oscar Romero Flexi Schools have taken part in our Edmund Rice Education Australia's School Renewal Process.

This process asks our flexi schools to show how we align with the Touchstones in the Charter for Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition. We are asked:

- How we provide a Liberating Education to our young people.
- How we create an Inclusive Community for our young people, our staff, our parents and families and our wider community.
- How we work for Justice in Solidarity with those disenfranchised in our community.
- How we support our staff and young people to engage in a Gospel Spirituality as the core of our work.

During the last week, a panel for EREA visited Alice Springs to see our great work first-hand. They had the opportunity to speak with staff, young people and our wider community. After this visit the panel spoke about the value of our work for the young people in our communities and the importance of what we are creating for all the communities our flexi schools serve.

They spoke about our flexi schools' commitment to Unconditional Positive Regard or what this great Irish Mystic John O'Donoghue calls kindness:

*There is a kindness that dwells deep down in things; it presides everywhere, often in the places we least expect.*

*The world can be harsh and negative, but if we remain generous and patient, kindness inevitably reveals itself.*

*Something deep in the human soul seems to depend on the presence of kindness; something instinctive in us expects it, and once we sense it we are able to trust and open ourselves.*

Our St Joseph's Catholic Flexi Learning Centre is a place where all experience this special kindness. Our young people know they are cared for through experiencing generosity, patience and kindness from our wonderful staff.

Enjoy the holidays and I look forward to Term 4 and as we work together to create further opportunities for our young people to grow in learning wellbeing and culture.

#### **Gerard Keating**

Principal – St Joseph's Catholic Flexible Learning Centre

#### This Term in Art & Craft:

Firstly, this term we welcome back Jo. Jo has been away on leave to have a baby. We have been doing Aboriginal paintings on tiles using different textile paints, which will be used to decorate the art table. We have learnt how to mix colours and how to use water colours on paper. The senior girls have painted pot plants for the school to showcase their work and to make the yard area colourful. We are also in the process of doing an art mural for the school.



## SENIOR FELLAS CLASS



► Another amazing term of work from the Senior Fellas. Again, we have taken it to a new level with even more great work completed by the fellas but still managed to squeeze in some fun. For PLP unit we have been continuing work on self-discovery, identifying factors that contribute to self-identity for the "My Book" project for the PLP (Personal Learning Plan) subject, coming to all major retailers near you soon!!

We have been going on country, connecting, learning, and discussing important issues as part of the Society and Culture subject. We have been working on our individual strengths and areas needing development in English and Mathematics using BKSB, building up our skills as

future prize-fighters at indoor boxing at Arrernte Boxing Academy and learning about ourselves and the world around us in Health and Well-Being.

Not to mention the amazing work in Job Club, Cert II Hospitality and the Cert III Music program.

The young men have demonstrated outstanding effort this term and we could not be prouder of the hard work and the growth they have shown. Well done on working towards the completion of your Northern Territory Certificate of Education and Training (NTCET), fulfilling your goals, and preparing for future pathways.

## SENIOR GIRLS CLASS

► This Term our senior girls have been working hard on their Personal Learning Plan booklets; digging deep into themselves identifying what makes them happy, where they're from and what languages they speak. One of the things that makes them happy is helping others and they certainly did this in volunteering to put food packs together for our school community with items donated from our local Food Bank! Great work to all of the young ladies that supported this initiative. Senior girls have also been on a few different excursions visiting Araluen Art Centre to explore the Albert Namatjira art display, Museum and treated ourselves to a Luminous puppet show that travelled all the way from Darwin. Meg and Sophie look forward to seeing everyone back in Term 4!



## JUNIORS LITTLE GARDEN PROJECT

► Our little garden project is growing slowly after our cold Alice Springs winter temperatures.

The cold killed most of the leaves on our vegetable plants, but these plants are strong willed and don't give up easily. This is a great lesson for our students to learn as well.

Now the warmer weather is here the vegetable plants have started to grow their leaves back. Hopefully it won't be too long until we start getting more veggies too!

We have also planted lots of new seeds from native Australian species. Native Passionfruit, Silver Cassia, Desert Cassia, Witchetty Bush, Sturt Pea and Red-Bud Mallee. Hopefully we'll see new seedlings from these soon. Keep any eye on our future newsletters.

Lastly, we have one avocado seed left which is now growing slowly into an avocado tree. Fingers crossed the warm spring weather helps it grow big and strong.



## FELLAS OUTDOOR SPORT

► We took the fellas to the driving range and had some amazing results, both good and not so good.

As you can see from the photos, some of our young fellas can hit the ball well and have their golf stance already perfected. Others however need a bit more practice. One young fella managed to hit the golf ball at speed, but the ball ended up behind his club as he swung through. Quite an amazing example of physics in the real world, where spin, velocity and natural forces all played their part in this eye-popping optical spectacle.



## FELLAS CULTURE

### PROGRAM

► This term the fellas have continued to focus on reconnecting with our culture to keep it safe and strong. Through this journey we have been able to learn many things that cannot be taught in a classroom. Most of our sessions include wellbeing discussions, visiting cultural sites, wellbeing through sports and music, learning language and knowing our identity. The fellas are gaining a lot of knowledge, understanding and confidence in order to be strong leaders for our people in the future.



## HAIR AND BEAUTY

► This term the Young Ladies have been working hard in Hair and Beauty. The group have learnt skills in various forms of hair braiding and the art of cosmetic colours, blending and contouring.



## JOB CLUB

► This term we have seen great participation in Job Club, with more and more of the senior ladies joining us and doing some excellent work. We have had guest speaker Theresa from Transitions NT, take the group on an excursion “Pathways to Your Future” exhibition. We have researched various career paths, crafted resumes, and honed skills for job interviews, along with many other skills necessary for joining the workforce.

Well done everyone!



## BIKE PROGRAM

► This term the Bike Program kicked ‘back into gear’ with the young fellas taking advantage of the lovely cold desert weather and cruising the trails all over Mbandia. Whilst doing the rides the young fellas rode on tracks they have not been on before which opened their eyes to this beautiful place, we call home.



## BRIDGE PROGRAM

► This term the Bridge Program continued to work towards re-engaging the young people with school. Throughout the term many young people on the program have reconnected with the Flexi taking part in cultural wellbeing discussions and completing Maths and English school work using our BKSB platform. Bridge Youth Workers, Dion and Chris, are working hard to setup their new classroom for Term 4; a place where the young fellas in the program can take pride in, and feel connected to St Joseph’s. We look forward to Term 4!

## GAMING

► Gaming is always a huge draw card for our students and once you get into it you can see why. Taking on a weird and wonderful character to run around in a brave new world, full of bright colours and other strange looking people is a mountain of fun. Students worked on their communication, maths skills, teamwork and had a lot of fun in the process.



## GIRLS CULTURE

### PROGRAM

► The Young Women's Cultural program has been one of realising the individual's identity. Which is consisting of going on Country, sharing Skin Names and each other's dreaming (if known). Also working on Family Trees and talking about the significance of the symbolic meanings in art, such as gathering places, animal prints, waterholes, and gender. The students have shown great knowledge of their culture and passing on that knowledge to the staff members present. This is considered a HUGE WIN for all of the St Joseph's community students and staff alike.

## OUTREACH

► The young women on the Outreach Program have been working on their hair and beauty components, mainly focusing on hair. They have taken off with their hairstyles though, dying their hair as well as creating different up-do's, such as space buns and braids.

Next term will showcase their musical creativity. The ladies have expressed that they'd like to compose their own music with the assistance of the St Joseph's staff. This is a form of musical therapy that can be applied to anything that the young people are coping with. Positive vibes are coming and we're here to facilitate this at St. Joey's!



## FUN FRIDAY – DESERT PARK

► This year on Friday the students were rewarded for their hard work every week with a fun outing around Alice Springs. The students explored many of the fantastic locations and activities through out the town. The students had trips to the Aquatic centre, Desert Park, Rock climbing at the YMCA, Alice Springs cinema and finished off the term with an exhilarating scavenger hunt around Alice Springs with the

Senior ladies winning and taking home the winning prize of a gift voucher for Kmart each! Well done everyone.



## MUNZEE

► This term students have been driving around Mparntwe playing a game downloaded on our phones that is a virtual scavenger hunt game. This game focuses on mapping and team work to locate little QR codes hidden in secret spots to gain points. Our Young People enjoyed driving around on the bus and working together to find the Munzee's!



## KUNGAS CAN COOK

► Today the young people had a cooking class with Raylene owner and Founder of Kungas Can Cook. All students were very excited to be cooking and making Macadamia Wattle Seed Brownies. All the young people wanted to learn more about bush foods and to make delicious meals from scratch. This was a very successful program.



## CERT II IN HOSPITALITY

► Today the young people had a cooking class with Bec from Adelaide. All students were very excited to be cooking again with Bec and tasting all the various jams Bec brought with her to the lesson. The green ant jam was an unusual jam that was tried by all, and so delicious. All the young people wanted to learn more about bush foods and to make delicious easy home meals from scratch, such as spaghetti bolognese, assorted sandwiches, crumb chicken, bread and salad. They also learned how to use a knife and developed their chopping and slicing skills. Everyone had a great time!



## CERTIFICATE III MUSIC

► We have seen another amazing term of music – the young men and future rock stars of Alice Springs. We have continued working through St. Joseph's Flexible Learning Centre's custom Cert III Music program, CUA30920: Certificate III in Music Industry (Performance) in collaboration with COSAMP.

The Certificate III is a higher level of qualification than what is normally offered in schools and would be usually undertaken at a Registered Training Organisation after the completion of Year 12. We thank the fellas for their hard work.

This term we have been completing units CUAMLT311: Develop and Apply Aural Perceptions, CUAMPF312: Prepare for Musical Performances, and CUACMP311: Implement Copyright Arrangements. We have been learning the ins and outs of how to music copyright in Australia, learning how to analyse and identify elements of songs by ear and developing our ability to play music, both solo and as part of a group.

Both Dion and Shaun would like to thank the fellas for the dedication and maturity they have shown so far and extend a big thank you to COSAMP and Haworth Guitars for their support in helping us set up the site and facilitating the course.



## COMMUNITY DAY

► On Friday 16 September we celebrated our Community Day. This day is a wonderful celebration for our whole community. It is a time to reflect on our young people's commitment to seeking an education and their achievements with their leaning. Our Cultural Programs and On Country Learning plays a significant and valuable part in the holistic education of our young people and we strongly hold our commitment to these programs. Additionally, we have a deep respect for the wisdom and knowledge held by our Elders Long whose long-standing cultural resilience, support and guidance are held in the highest esteem and are deeply valued and appreciated. Therefore, the old but worthy African proverb of 'it takes a Village to raise a child' rings very true for us. On Community Day we also take the time to thank our families and community Elders for trusting us with their young people every day and for the amazing contributions they give to our community.

Our Flexi operates on a philosophy called common ground and our staff and students all operate within our four Principals – Respect, Honesty, Participation and Safe and Legal. Each day during circle up with unpack these Principals and share how well we went and what learning experiences we enjoyed. The following students received awards. We are proud of their achievements and congratulate them for all their efforts they have given to their learning and participation.

Dulcee Brown – *Respect Award*

Edwards Pascoe – *Respect Award*

Gabrial Enalanga – *Honesty Award*

Zactayhia Prayta – *Honesty Award*

Giselle Wirri – *Participation Award*

Nicolas Woods – *Participation Award*

Lita Peters – *Safe and Legal Award*

Sammeus Brown – *Safe and Legal Award*

From a personal note I have had a wonderful term. Being a part of this family is so rewarding and I love walking along our staff and young people. The staff have made a profound effect on me and have deeply enriched my life. I learn from them every day. I would like to formally thank each staff member for their commitment to our young people and each other. The care and kindness they show in supporting our young people to develop agency through their education on site and on country is greatly valued. In particular I would like to acknowledge and thank John and Emanuela for the beautiful and gentle way in which they hold and guide our staff and young people.

Finally, I would also like to congratulate all our young people – your personal sacred stories enrich our lives, and your bright, resilient personalities bring us so much joy daily.

*With love and kindness*

**Paula Bacchiella**

