

Redfern Jarjum College Newsletter

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I feel honoured to have been appointed as the Principal at Redfern Jarjum College this year, and extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with and learn from Fran McCarthy. I thought I would take this opportunity to introduce myself to any members of the community who I have yet to meet.



Matt Smith

For the last thirteen years I have been working at Saint Ignatius' College, Riverview where I had held a number of roles, including as a Year Coordinator and Boarding House supervisor. Most recently I was the Head of the Regis Campus which is Riverview's Primary School. It was during my time in that role that I met TT, Aiesha, Ariana, Izzy, Emily and Alyrah when they attended the Jesuit Junior Schools student leadership camp in Melbourne. Their energy, enthusiasm and humour is what helped me decide that I would apply for the Principal role at Jarjum. I have a young family myself. Kristy and I have three children. Elijah is 10 years old, Sam is 9 years old and Annabel is 8 years old. Much of what I know about educating children comes from my experience as a parent.

I didn't grow up around Redfern and as a child, I used to think that the city was miles away. Most of my life has been spent in the Western Suburbs of Sydney, Darug country, and I was lucky enough to work with the Aboriginal community around Blacktown and Riverstone over the first years of my teaching career. I also spent a few years teaching up the NSW Mid North Coast at Port Macquarie.

My first couple of months at Jarjum have been amazing. I have learned so much from the kids, their families and the staff. I have big dreams for Jarjum and I'm really excited about the opportunities that lay ahead of us.

Regards,

Matt Smith

FAREWELL TO FRAN MCCARTHY AND THE JARJUM ART SHOW

At the end of Term 3 this year, Redfern Jarjum College bid farewell to Fran McCarthy, our beloved Principal. Fran had poured her heart into Jarjum and her love for the school and the students was evident in her farewell address. It was also clear, from the way that the students responded to Fran that she will be dearly missed.

To celebrate Fran's time at Jarjum, the students put on a wonderful display of creativity and culture with their annual art exhibition. There were many beautiful works on display including paintings, drawings and sculptures. The rainbow serpent wall was also unveiled on the day and thanks go to Aunty Lizzie Jarrett for her very patient coordination of that project. The art show culminated with a fantastic display of traditional dance, involving all of the students and led by our friends at Tribal Warrior.

Thank you to everyone who attended this important community event. Fran's contribution to Jarjum cannot be understated and she was truly moved by the number of community members in attendance.

PARTNERS IN LEARNING

One of the curriculum initiatives we have been working on in preparation for next year is the formation of partnerships with heritage and cultural agencies around Sydney, particularly institutions that hold stewardship over Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and history. We have been very fortunate to have connected with staff from the Australian Museum, Royal Botanic Gardens, Red Room Poetry, National Maritime Museum, ID Know Yourself, Sydney Living Museums and the Art Gallery of NSW. Many of these organisations have Aboriginal Educators and we have been working towards building relationships that will allow our students to have engaging learning experiences that will not only connect them with culture, but also help to develop a love of learning.

In 2019 we look forward to exploring these partnerships even further.



Renee and Hayley from The Australian Museum

Welcome to Redfern Jarjum College – a Jesuit Primary School for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. The motto of the College is 'Gili' meaning 'to shine'.

We acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, the Traditional Owners of the Land on which our school stands.



MEET THE NEW STAFF AT JARJUM

TEACHERS

NATASHA

Natasha joined us as the Senior teacher at Jarjum College in October, 2018. Natasha was born in Perth, Western Australia and moved to Sydney in January 2018. She has been in education for eight years and was previously teaching at St Ignatius' College, Riverview. Prior to that she taught in London, Perth and Melbourne. In 2016 Natasha managed DT38 Foundation, a charity which worked to educate students and adults about testicular cancer and general health and wellbeing. She published her first children's picture book and teaching program linked to Literacy and Health outcomes. The focus of the program was to teach students about resilience and to provide them with strategies to get through life's challenges. Natasha is thrilled to be part of the team at Jarjum.



Natasha Evans
Senior Teacher

SHARON

Sharon joined Jarjum as the Junior Class teacher in August 2018. Growing up in Woodberry, New South Wales, she enjoyed a fairly carefree childhood where she developed a strong connection to her community and to the land around her. Sharon has always had a love for learning and understands the importance of fostering that love for learning in children. She was inspired by her own Year 4 teacher to become a teacher herself. Sharon has two adult children and has lived in Sydney since 1990. Graduating from university as a mature age student, she has been teaching in primary schools for the past 8 years. Just prior to joining Jarjum, Sharon worked at Stewart House School where the main focus of the program was on student wellbeing, emotional regulation and managing their behaviour. In this role she taught over 280 different students over a 12 month period. Sharon feels privileged to be part of the Jarjum family.



Sharon Schofield with Cash and Aaliyah
Junior Teacher

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

RAYLENE

I first found out about Jarjum when we invited the students to a magic show at Tranby College. I enjoy working at Jarjum as a Teachers assistant, working closely with Indigenous kids to be a positive role model and support to them. This also gives me the opportunity to stay connected to my culture and community as I'm a proud Wirajuri woman from Redfern.



Raylene Carroll
Teaching Assistant

SEAN

Seán is a performer, writer, driver, and teacher based in Sydney. He drives a truck in the summer, writes poetry, essays, plays, and reviews (all to varying degrees of success). Seán tutors HSC English, and has worked as a performance artist and actor in theatre, on screen, and at music festivals. He adores nonsense, absurdity, and keeping a diverse portfolio of being rad.



Sean Maroney
Teaching Assistant

MICHELLE

Michelle joined Jarjum in 2018. She has been working as a Teacher's Assistant since 2012. She has spent 6 years in the Public System, supporting students with varying special needs ranging from Autism Spectrum Disorders and Down Syndrome to learning and behavioural difficulties.

Michelle has a special interest in the education of Indigenous children and believes that all Australian children should be immersed in Indigenous culture so that they can grow up with an awareness of, and respect for, these ancient cultures. Hopefully we can then begin to right the wrongs of the early settlers. Michelle is married with 3 children.



Michelle
Teaching Assistant

SENIOR CLASS REPORT

This term our new teacher Tash started in our class. She wrote a book called Didge. Didge follows his dreams of becoming a football superstar but Sena the sneaky, slithering, snake enters his life unexpectedly and poisons him. Didge has the love and support of his family and friends and uses courage and persistence to try and overcome his challenges.



Aiesha, TT, Izzy, Emily, Alyrah and Ariana happy in the class room with Didge

After reading Didge we did a lot of different activities including; adjectives to describe different characters, character profiles, creating illustrations of new characters, a friendship hand celebrating the special people we have in our lives, etching a picture from Didge in art and paper bag book reviews where we looked at plot, themes, characters, settings and our personal connections to the book.

We have learnt many things after reading. Please read how Didge inspired us all.

T.T - It shows you that jealousy never gets you anywhere, to never give up and that people love you and will be there for you no matter what.

Aiesha - Don't forget to follow your dreams and pursue your love for something you enjoy and don't stop believing.

Alyrah - Didge has inspired me to be brave and take on new challenges.

Izzy - It is important to encourage and be kind to others. It's good to have dreams and to work hard to get them. Your family are always there to support you.

Emily - Didge was a brave and positive person and he has inspired me to be the same.

Ariana - Didge taught me to be kind to my family and friends.

Feel free to visit a classroom to look at all of our work



Lots of positive energy and feelings in the Senior Classroom

FROM THE CHAIR

Since our last Newsletter in June 2018, we have dealt with the sadness of saying farewell to our Principal Fran McCarthy and have welcomed our new Principal, Matt Smith. We held several farewell functions for Fran where the love and respect our community had for her was well demonstrated.



John Allen

Matt commenced a few weeks prior to the end of Term 3, thus allowing a valuable transition period with Fran. Matt joins us after an extensive period at St Ignatius' College, Riverview, where he was Head of the primary campus. Matt has a background in teaching in the Catholic system in Western Sydney and brings some wonderful skills in leadership, contemporary teaching methods and Ignatian social and cultural understanding. Please join the Board and I in welcoming Matt to our community. We are all excited to be working with him.

We also said goodbye to one of our wonderful teachers at the end of Term 3, Jen Rose. Jen has left to have her first child. Jen had been with us for 2 years and brought a wealth of experience, which included working with asylum seeker children on Nauru. I would like to thank Jen for her wonderful efforts at Jarjum and wish her and her family all the best in the future. She leaves with much admiration and love from our community.

Along with Matt, we are joined by two new teachers Sharon Schofield and Natasha Evans. Both ladies have brought immense knowledge and enthusiasm and will be valuable assets to our community. Welcome!

As we come to the end of a tumultuous year that included farewelling Fran, welcoming Matt, Natasha and Sharon and achieving NES (formerly known as the NSW Board of Studies) registration, I would like to remind everyone of the importance of Jarjum amongst the many works of the Jesuit community in Australia. Fr Brian McCoy SJ, the head of the Jesuits in Australia (known as the 'Provincial'), has stated that the focus of Jesuit efforts will remain working to alleviate poverty and increase education and opportunity for the two 'Bookends' of Australian society - being Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as the original people of our land and asylum seekers and refugees as they the newest people of our land. Thus, the Bookends metaphor. We at Jarjum are one of the leading works of the Province in this regard - and are fully supported by the entire Jesuit community of schools, parishes and community organisations. Long may it continue!

On behalf of the Board, I would like to wish all of our students, parents, teachers, staff and supporters a Merry Christmas and a safe holiday period.

John Allen

Chair, Redfern Jarjum Board
November 2018



Ahmed, Lania and Aaliyah
at the Australian Museum

Newest Enrolment

Lania and Aaliyah are two of the new students to enrol at Redfern Jarjum College. They have joined the Junior class and are delighted to participate in the outings organised with Jarjum's new partners in learning.

VOLUNTEERS

We welcome volunteers to help with the Jarjum students' activities – assisting teachers with one-to-one reading, meal preparation, afternoon sport and activities with young adults.

For more information, please **phone Jarjum on 02 9936 5450**.

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BEQUESTS

So that our young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can continue to have opportunities in education through Redfern Jarjum College, you may wish to consider making a Bequest in your Will. Further information may be obtained from John Allen John@jenjo.com.au

All enquiries are treated with strict confidence. For more information, please phone Jarjum on 02 9936 5450.

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