

Redfern Jarjum College Newsletter

FROM THE CHAIR



John Allen

What a strange year 2020 has become! First the bushfire crisis. Next the Coronavirus Pandemic! So disruptive to all of us. Our small school community is no exception. My fellow Board Members and I are all so proud of the school community and staff in how they have adapted to the situation. We have started Term 2 with approximately 10 students attending each day, with the

remainder being in regular contact with the teaching staff. We are attempting to ensure all students maintain their academic progress as well as is possible given the logistical constraints.

Welcome to Chris Barker, our new Deputy Principal taking over from Tom Bourne. Chris brings incredible enthusiasm, teaching knowledge and height (!) to his role. He has started the year brilliantly and has helped the adaptation of the curriculum delivery with his depth of experience. Welcome Chris!

We are all extremely grateful to the Riverview community, Salesforce Ltd and the swathe of regular donors who have maintained a constant stream of food and

non-perishable donations that our staff and volunteers have been able to distribute to our school community families and others in need in our local Redfern community. We have also teamed with Jesuit Refugee Service in assisting the Asylum Seeker Centre with meals and non-perishables. Truly exhibiting our mission!

Many thanks to our many generous donors who continue to support our community. Yet again, this year we need to raise approximately \$300,000 in donations to make up the shortfall in government assistance. Fundraising is a continuing challenge for our Board and we wish to thank ICAP Australia Pty Limited (<https://www.icap.com/>) for donating \$45,000 and the Riverview community for raising over \$14,000 from the Celebrity Cricket Match that was unable to be held due to the social distancing restrictions. Incredibly generous - many thanks to both! However, we still require the assistance of individuals and organisations to achieve the outcomes for our community that they deserve.

As ever, I welcome all feedback from the school community. Please email me anytime.....

Regards,

John Allen

Chair of Board Redfern Jarjum College

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

If you wander down Redfern Street past Jarjum, you will see a mural by artist Tony Albert on the front of the building with the imperative "be deadly". This word 'deadly' can be a bit challenging for some people. It has been widely adopted by the Aboriginal community to mean 'amazing', 'awesome' or 'great'. In essence, it has become an expression of the concept of excellence.

In 1993, Fr General Peter Hans Kolvenbach stated "our goal as educators is to form men and women of competence, conscience and compassionate commitment." The articulation of these four Cs inspired Ignatian educators with an aspirational vision for the students in our care, an expression of human excellence.

At Jarjum, these four Cs are the keystones of the students' expression of excellence in their learning and they have found life in the College merit system that seeks to shine a light on these qualities played out in the students' actions and words. Affectionately known as 'the Deadlies', these merits are awarded to students at Friday afternoon Gathering. To earn a coveted Deadly Award students must have consistently and sincerely demonstrated compassion, commitment, conscience or competence and be nominated by one of their teachers. More than simply handing out certificates, the Deadlies provide an opportunity to describe the ways the students express excellence at school. In this way students might learn to find reward in exercising their conscience when honesty carries a cost, or where commitment to a task seems, at first, to bear meagre success.

Often in schools, particularly for students fighting disadvantage, it takes a little bit of extrinsic motivation to draw students over the line so that they feel the intrinsic or internal motivation towards excellence. With a little help, all these boys and girls at Jarjum can do what it says so succinctly on the building's front door and "be deadly".

Matt Smith



Matt Smith with Jarjum Students

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.



INTRODUCING STAFF MEMBERS

Chris Barker DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Chris has been involved in primary and adult education for nearly 20 years. He has spent all of his time in primary schools in Western Sydney, and a stint in the UK, working in disadvantaged communities. Chris is inspired by the words of Nelson Mandela who famously said "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Having spent 8 years working with New Australian families from immigrant and refugee backgrounds Chris developed a keen interest in Indigenous history and culture and a strong desire to work with First Australian families. He strongly believes in collaborative practices and approaches in education and building community connections in support of students and their families.

Chris feels privileged to join the Redfern Jarjum College community and looks forward to learning with and learning from our kids, families and community.

Marianne Rogan SENIOR CLASS TEACHER

Marianne joined Jarjum as the Senior Class Teacher in January 2020. She has taught a range of year groups from Kindergarten to Year 7 and spent most of her years teaching boys in Jesuit schools in Sydney.

All Jesuit schools aim at helping others. Marianne has spent the last twenty years encouraging her students to take up this challenge. Now it is her turn to live out this mission and use her teaching expertise to teach the students at Jarjum and challenge them to find ways that they can help others.

Marianne hopes to develop a love of learning and bring out the best in her students. She also hopes to develop the students' ability to work with others, build resilience and confidence in themselves.

Marianne is excited to be joining the Jarjum Team and getting to know the staff, students and their families.

Les Cain TEACHING ASSISTANT & ABORIGINAL LIAISON

Les joined Redfern Jarjum College in November 2019 and had previously been a volunteer on behalf of the Westpac Foundation. Les spent two years in Westpac's Guarantees Team in Corporate Operations before making the jump to Jarjum. He is a Gamilaroi man from the small rural town of Coonabarabran. He loves his role in Aboriginal Community Liaison at Jarjum and looks forward to spending quality time with the children and staff well into the future.



Chris Barker
Deputy Principal



Marianne Rogan
Senior Teacher



Les Cain
Teaching Assistant

SENIOR CLASS REPORT

It has been an exciting term in the Senior Class. We were fortunate to receive a donation of keyboards from Compnow and as a result, the Senior Class have been learning to touch type on their iPads. The students have been impressed at how quickly they are improving their skills. Each week, the Middle and Junior



Jezarah pleased with her cooking skills

Class have joined us to develop our ICT skills and have been learning how to use educational apps such as Sketches School, Keynote and Pages. This has created a real buzz in the classrooms.

The Senior Class was also given an opportunity to engage in a STEM Program. Jayden, Leaum and Brady nominated to create a garden that would use the run off rain to grow native plants and bush tucker, while Taniyah and Jezarah selected to develop their cooking skills and cook either lunch or afternoon tea for the other students once a week. I think the pizza that was served for afternoon tea was the biggest hit amongst the students. Both projects had to be put on hold during the latter half of the term, due to interruptions as a result of the Covid 19 Virus, but we are looking forward to resuming these projects when things return to normal.

Marianne - Senior Class Teacher



Touch typing in the Senior Class

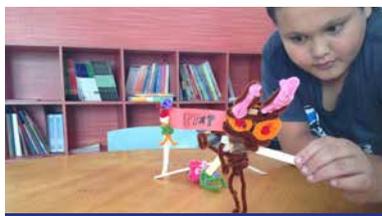
MIDDLE CLASS REPORT

It has been a great first term in the Middle Class. This year we started with five boys – leuin, Liam, Markell, Matari and William. We also have the help of some wonderful teacher's assistants – Michelle, Les and Ray. I have been very impressed with the way the boys have started the year – they have been very open to trying new ways of learning and settled into the year well.



Liam and the jump strategy

In our Literacy block this term we were looking at Fables and Dreamtime Stories. The boys did a play of Aesop's Fable 'The Lion and the Mouse'. It was great fun practising and making the props. They



Markell retelling a fable

performed it one morning at Gathering. Reading the fables and Dreamtime stories together as a class was good fun and we also enjoyed learning the morals and messages from each one. We also read some great books together as a class – finishing off the Treehouse series and reading two books in the Mr Bambuckle series. It has been wonderful to hear the boys volunteer to read aloud from these books to their classmates.

During Maths the boys have been learning about whole number, length and new mental strategies for addition. It is fantastic to watch them learn and discuss these new strategies together as a class and help each other out along the way.

We have had Fr Nico visit us from St Aloysius each week to guide and teach us in our Religious Education Lessons. It has been great to see the students grow in confidence in their reading of the Bible stories and the following discussions which are held with the Junior and Senior Classes.

I have been very proud of the boys and what they have achieved this term and we are all looking forward to Term Two and learning lots more.

Tina - Middle Class Teacher

JUNIOR CLASS REPORT

We have had a wonderful start to 2020 in the Junior Class. In our class we have Amazing Aaliyah, Awesome Ahmed, Cool Cash, Loveable Lina and Terrific Tyzack. Within our class we have many different interests and talents. Aaliyah loves all things pink, butterflies, art and is doing a wonderful job learning her alphabet. Ahmed loves food and cooking. This term he helped make paella with one of our generous volunteers. He is also the king of chess in our room. Cash is committed to his learning. This term he has made incredible progress. At the start of the year he could read 28 of his Magic 100 words, now he knows 90! Cash loves basketball and colouring in. Lina loves the colour orange, unicorns and has grown very fond of gymnastics. Tyzack



Terrific Tyzack



Lovable Lina, Cool Cash and Amazing Aaliyah

loves superheroes and action figures. He has also made fabulous progress in his reading. At the beginning of the year he could read 24 of his Magic 200 words, now he knows 141!

This term we learnt about many new things. Our theme for the Term was, "It's Storytime", and we listened to many traditional fairy tales and Aboriginal cultural stories. A highlight was when we attended the launch of Season 2 of Little J, Big Cuz. We love watching it as it is an awesome way of connecting with our culture. In the Junior Class we have our very own castle where we go to for chill time after we have finished our work. Our favourite thing to do in the castle together this term has been to play tunnel town together.

We are so proud of the students in our class and we can't wait to continue to watch our student's progress in their learning.

Natasha and Cherri - Junior Class Teachers

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

Term 1 of 2020 was not your average school term. With the unfolding health crisis the College ramped up its efforts to provide groceries and meals to our families as well as to other vulnerable people in the community. While we're not exactly sure of the numbers, we estimated that we fed over 200 people across March and April, delivering packs three times a week and helping to keep people safe and in their homes. The College was supported in this by a number of people, including some very generous donors from the Riverview community who supplied sandwiches, groceries and cooked meals for delivery. Salesforce also diverted a large proportion of their catering to Jarjum to support our food collection efforts.

We were so overwhelmed with the generosity of our friends and community that we were even able to deliver grocery packs to people in need at the Asylum Seekers Centre in Newtown. The Jarjum staff are incredibly grateful to everyone who contributed to our grocery and food collection.



Jarjum School Bus Ready to deliver



Loaded with goodness

WORDS FROM SOME PROUD GRADUATES

Isobella Rueben

My name is Isobella Rueben and I am in Year 7 at St Scholastica's College Glebe. I am enjoying Year 7 because it makes me feel independent and grown up. I was so nervous because I didn't know anyone. But now after my Yr 7 camp I made more friends and now I don't feel as nervous. The work is really hard sometimes but my teachers are really good and they are always willing to help me. I'm looking forward to going back to school.



Isobella Reuben, a Jarjum graduate with her Mum outside her new school.

Alyra

Being in high school can be tricky when you first start and you're always gonna miss your friends from primary school. For me I just started boarding school and it was hard the first few weeks. And at high school you get a lot of homework and it's tough and it's hard but you just have to get through it and when you are in year 12 and you graduate you will get a good job, house, education and you can also go to university.



Alyra with her art project at St Vincents

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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.

Graphic Banner designed by Cecile Jestin
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