



Tiwi College News

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Merry Christmas!



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Awana Picka family and community

What a year 2020 has turned out to be. I have enjoyed meeting you all and getting to know our students and families. Thank you for making me so welcome into your community and thank you for your support as I lead Tiwi College into this new decade.

There are many thank yous to be made in this final newsletter for 2020:

- To the Tiwi Education Board for your support and the Advisory for being there 24/7 to support and assist me. It is an honour to work with you to lead Tiwi College.
- To the exec team (Sila Pati, Paul Laginikoro, Geri Austring) and all of our staff, without you, your dedication and enthusiasm, we could not have had such a successful year.
- To our students, you are incredible young men and women and we are so privileged to be part of your education
- To our supporters, without you, we would not be here today.

This term we sadly farewell a number of staff. Who leave us at the end of this year. I would like to add my heartfelt thanks to each of them for helping to make Tiwi College a better place by being here and serving our students: Matt Godenzi, Adele Booth, Jayde Johnson, Elias Karageorgeiou, Kate Sunderland, Karina Lalara, Paul Laginikoro, Viola Vea, Courtney Higlett, Titilia Ravula, Steve Schulz, Dennis Henry and Diane Moore. We wish them all the very best as they embark on the next phase of their lives.

This beautiful wreath was created by Adele and our Art students. Thank you for leaving this living tradition at Tiwi College. We commemorated our Remembrance Day and NAIDOC celebrations on 11 November with this wonderful wreath created by our students.

As you read and enjoy this newsletter, take a moment to consider the huge achievements of our staff and students during 2020.

We will be in community on 28th, 29th and 30th January 2021 to meet and engage with our communities and students.



I take this opportunity to wish all our staff and students a wonderful and relaxing holiday with family and friends. May your Christmas be a blessed one. Whether you are travelling far or not so far, be safe and be happy.

Merry Christmas and a happy new year to all.



Hello Everyone,

Another short term with so much happening.



- * A lot of credit goes towards the staff for their commitment and dedication in making a positive difference with the students and for developing innovative plans for the students.
- * SYM Construction with Brad Sheppard and CDU.
- * Birthday celebrations of staff and students.
- * SYW Work Experience in Darwin
- * FGH Parent's workshop on Nutrition and the Life skills Program.
- * TEB Meeting/s.

- * Christian Fellowship celebrated every Sunday with Mass and an open invitation to the Picka Community. So good to see our Christian Fellowship team go out on weekends to see families as part of their community engagement.

- * Primary Rewards Day: Always fantastic for the Primary School classes to celebrate their rewards day for the term. Many thanks to Courtney H, Jayde and Stacie in organising this.

- * Academy trips with the girls going to Katherine and the boys going to Darwin. Thankyou to the Academy Staff for organising such a great event for the students.

- * Happy Boxes Project for the female staff and the female students going out to the Communities to deliver the boxes which contained lots of fun, interesting, health products that the Families in the communities can use. Many thanks to Courtney Higlett in organising this.

- * School Xmas Concert and Staff farewells...always great to finish the year off on a high with lots of awesome, fantastic items from the staff and students. Another sad night with so many staff leaving us however, one where students will also do their traditional farewells to staff leaving us. We thank you staff for your time and commitment in making a difference whilst being up here.

- * Report Drop offs and Engagement Days in the Communities-always great to see families and touch base with them regarding their children.

I take this opportunity to thank the Exec Team-Jill, Geri, Paul (Sadly leaving us to be closer to his wife in Darwin), to work together with the Academic, Academy, FGH, Operations and Tiwi Staff under the guidance of the Advisory Board of the TEB at Picka (Brian Tipungwuti, Therese Puruntatameri, Deanne Rioli) and the support of the Tiwi Education Board to make a difference with these kids here at Tiwi College, Pickertaramoor. It really is both a Blessing and a Privilege to work alongside all who are here to make a positive difference with these kids.

Mana

Sila Pati-Assistant Principal.

Academic Coordinator/Senco

As term 4 draws to a close, staff are busy finalizing report cards and planning end of year activities. 2020 has been a year unlike any other across the world and although thankfully, the Tiwi Islands were spared any COVID cases directly, individuals have been affected. It has been hard for many staff to go for long stretches without seeing family and living with restrictions around travel.

Despite the challenges, we are proud of the accomplishments made by students at the College.

Robust literacy programs emphasizing reading, writing, spelling, listening and speaking are showing growth among students. A strong cohort of Year Six students will be moving up to JYW in 2021 and will enhance the achievements in this group.

Across the school, a comprehensive Math's program has encouraged students to develop their understanding of numbers. Learning about measurement, percentage, money is helping students develop practical skills needed for everyday life. Some exciting initiatives around the school this year have been rotation days where students moved in groups between classes for fun activities in science art and sports. This format proved to be very popular with students and teacher's alike and academic staff plan to incorporate it into curriculum planning in the future.

For their Rewards evening, the girls enjoyed a wonderful dinner at the Garden Point Fishing Lodge and the boys relished a take away meal flown in from Darwin to which the hospitality staff added lovely desserts and fruit platters.

A group of 11 staff participated in the ATSIMHFA (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid) training course at the Wurrumiyanga Council. This insightful and culturally informative information is a valuable resource for all staff working in Indigenous settings.

The College held a beautiful and moving Remembrance Day assembly where the young men performed the 'Bombing of Darwin' dance and the young women presented a wreath of remembrance around the Colonial wars. The stunning wreath was a dedicated piece created over some weeks under the direction of the art teacher Adele Booth.

Adele has also orchestrated students in the design and creation of some amazing sculptures including a turtle and a crocodile to the Wurrumiyanga Museum. Please pop in and have a look next time you visit there.

The JYW have been excitedly working on their 'Deadly Picka Café' and the school Community will happily enjoy the fruits of their labours from week 6.

Rewards camps are being finalized, staff and students will leave at the end of week 6. An alternate fun program runs at school for students not attending camp.

Graduation for both SYM and SYW is pending giving students the opportunity to shine and families to celebrate their young people's achievement.

NAPLAN trial will run this term for online testing in 2021, this process is new to the school and will hopefully be beneficial for students.

Our primary students are looking forward to their very special Picka Carnival to wind up their year and celebrate all their achievements.

Tiwi College has instituted formal Tiwi Friday cultural studies led by Tiwi staff encouraging students to engage in and learn about their history, traditional values and skills. These have been a great success and Tiwi staff plan to enhance these lessons further in 2021 and on.

All staff continue to upskill their qualifications and look for innovative ways to engage the student body in rigorous and meaningful learning.

As a school Community we would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Tiwi people here on the Melville Island and Bathurst for partnering with us in serving their children. We count it a privilege to live and work here with you.

Awana

Geraldine Austring



FGH Coordinator

The year 2020 has been hectic with lots of challenges as COVID 19 took everyone by surprise and brought about the new normal. These changes have some disadvantages and advantages which we now are learning to live with. As life moves on, so does Tiwi College, as it continues to toil day by day moving on to reach its desired goals yearly.

Looking back these past 11 years, we believe Tiwi College is heading in the right direction where the dreams and aspirations of our blessed Tiwi elders from yesteryears are now becoming a reality. We would like to acknowledge the present Tiwi elders who are respecting and carrying on these dreams about educating Tiwi generations now and into the future. With that in mind, these success stories are acknowledged here on Tiwi Islands, Northern Territory, and nationally.

We believe, most of these successes originate from how Tiwi College is set up with Family Group Home (boarding), Academic and Cultural programs. Tiwi College is in the business of making sure that a student finishing from here is developed holistically i.e. spiritually, physically, emotionally, intelligently, and socially. One of their social skills we make sure they are up to par with is their unique Tiwi Culture and Traditions. We acknowledge our Tiwi Staff and other indigenous staff members for frantically working in making this a reality, not only practically but also theoretically.

As there are seasons in life, I am afraid my season has come to an end here at Tiwi College. It has been a great five years with both Amelia and me, getting to know students and staff and building a long-lasting relationship with the Tiwi Community. I am off to Darwin to study and work at the same time. Tiwi Islands is forever engraved in my heart and I will return if the opportunity allows.

Thank you all for the love and support and we wish everyone a big Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Nipangi, Moce Mada and Goodbye.

Mana!

Paul Laginikoro



New Staff



Name: Brodie Walton

Previous Job: Sealink Ferry Deckhand & Yoga teacher to DAIWS shelter youth.

Current Position: Family Group Home Parent FGH5 & Intervention Support Officer.

Home town: Busselton, Western Australia.

Family Members: Nadine (Wife), Coral (Mum), Chris, Rach, Maddie, Beau (Brother his wife and my niece & nephew) Scott, Abbie, Ellie (brother his wife and my niece) Greg (Dog).

AFL team: Imalu Tigers, West Coast Eagles.

Hobbies: Too many to list and I like finding new ones all the time. Bush walks, learning about nature and cultures, sports, fishing, skydiving, yoga, breath-work, meditating, random acts of kindness.

Favourite music: The sound of nature, the birds in the morning and Mother Natures beautiful song.



Name: Nadine Warbrick

Previous Job: YMCA Case Support Worker (youth work), Palmerston Youth Drop In Centre

Current Position: Family Group Home "Parent" – House 5 (Junior and Middle Young Women)

Home town: Lower Hutt, Wellington

Family Members: Tracy (Mum), Joe (Dad), Tara (older sister) and Joey (younger Brother), Brodie (husband)

AFL team: Imalu Tigers (because Brodie plays for them) and Tuyu Buffalo (locals!)

Hobbies: exploring new places, learning languages especially Tiwi, observing nature, yoga, dancing, hanging out with fun people like the students and staff at Tiwi College!

Favourite music: You'll be surprised... My favourite is rock music, because I used to play the drums and complex drum beats. I love all sorts like Jazz, MoTown, Electronica, Classical, Maori songs (old and new ones), B2M of course... I grew up listening to a variety of music.



Name: Brendan Morse

Previous Job: Art Installer in Melbourne

Current Position: Farm Manager, Water Manager

Home town: Melbourne-Sydney-MtBuffalo-Cairns-ByronBay-Brisbane-Bawaka

Family Members: 2 younger Brothers & 1 younger Sister – Jeremy (Tasmania - Lawyer), Daniel (Sydney - Artist), Juliette (Brisbane - Chef) My Mother (Sydney) is a Librarian and my Father (Bellingen NSW) is an Indigenous Tourism Marketing & Business Consultant. My partner Zowie owns a European Bistro-Wine Bar in

Melbourne.

AFL team: Sydney Swans & Carlton Blues

Hobbies: Gardening, Yoga, Surfing, Hiking, Kayaking, Reading, Cooking

Favourite music: Top quality music of all kinds but mostly Jazz, Classical, Blues, Roots, Reggae, and Psytrance



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What's been happening in Lower Primary in Term 4

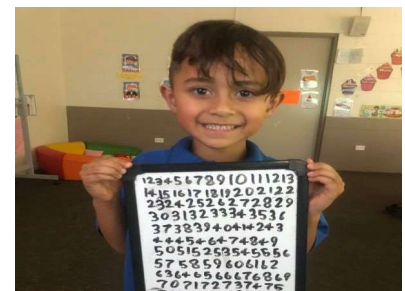
Wow! What a busy, fun filled term we have had in Junior Primary School. This year has really flown by and I just want to say how proud I am of every student in Lower Primary. They have worked so hard this year and that is evident in the work they have produced. Due to this hard work, the students were rewarded with their own carnival which was a huge success!



What we have been learning

Literacy

Literacy has been a huge focus this year! One of my goals for my teaching this year was to see reading growth in all students in my class and I am so happy to say that every single student in my class moved up reading levels. This was due to all their hard work and reading practice. This term the students engaged with a variety of texts for enjoyment. They have participated in shared reading, viewing and storytelling. In Writing the students have created a range of imaginative and informative texts. They have looked at including capital letters and full stops in their writing pieces. They have worked hard on learning how to spell new words and have experimented with spelling words that rhyme.



Numeracy

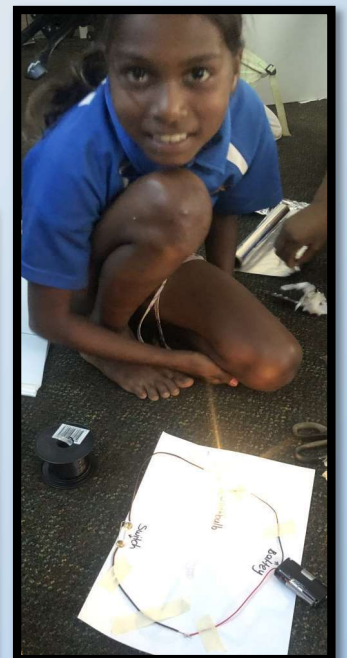
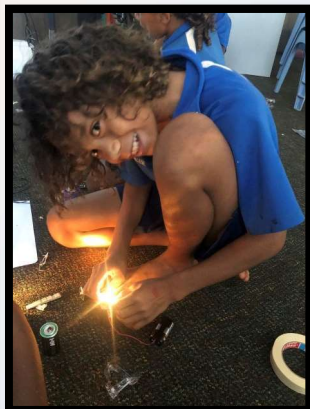
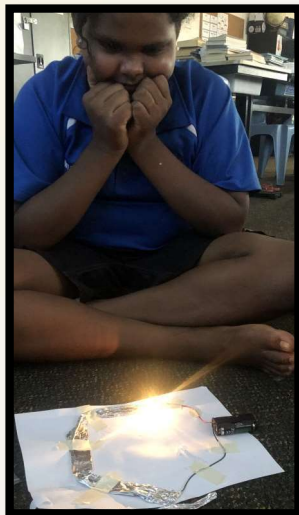
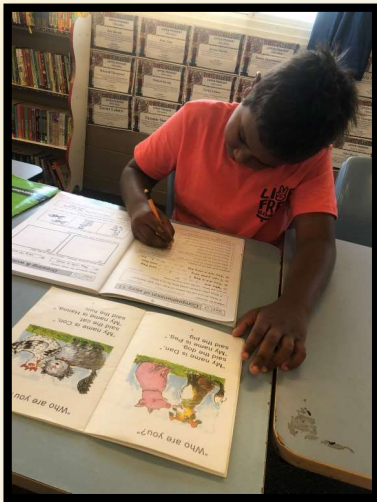
We have a huge term learning Numeracy. We have been looking at recognizing and classifying familiar two-dimensional shapes and three-dimensional objects using obvious feature. We looked at identifying outcomes of familiar events involving chance and describe them using everyday language such as 'will happen', 'won't happen' or 'might happen. We have been developing confidence with number sequences to and from 100 by ones from any starting point. We have practiced skip counting by twos, threes, fives and tens starting from zero. We have been continuing with our Blitzmaster program where each day we are given 8 minutes to complete addition and subtraction questions based on our individual level. Many students are now up to the level where they must complete 40 math sums mixed of subtraction and addition.

Upper Primary Mob

The Upper Primary Classroom have been very busy this term. We have been so happy exploring energy/ electricity in Science. The students have enjoyed making circuits using batteries, lights and everyday materials that conduct electricity.

Hear from some of our students: This term I am proud...

- and excited to go to St Johns to see family and friends, and go to high school with Taniesha, Rayna and Mickayla— **Denise**
- of working hard in math's and spelling— **Taniesha**
- of reaching a high level in essential assessment— **Maikeli**
- of schooling at Tiwi college because it is good cause we learn Tiwi culture—**Elizabeth**



Additional notes from the teacher:

Upper Primary are excited to announce that Taniesha Johnforrest, Denise Martin-Murphy, Deborah Tipungwuti and Talei Ravula have finished their Primary Education. We wish them all the best in 2021 as they begin Secondary School. I am **very proud** of you all, and can't wait to see what you get up to in future.

I also want to thank everyone for their support, friendship and memories over the last three years. I am moving back to Victoria, but I am so grateful to have met everyone here. The Tiwi Islands, my Tiwi family and friends here will always hold a special place in my heart. – Jayde Johnson



Junior Young Women



This term the students focused on the concept of design. All term our literacy and numeracy was focused towards designing out Deadly Picka Café!

The students came up with the creative name for the café and designed logos that would suit where it is located at Tiwi College, Pickertaramoor. Students worked collaboratively to take these designs and put them into a larger form to have displayed in our café. We baked each week ready for our grand café opening. On Wednesday 18th November we had our grand opening. All proceeds went towards Jump Rope for Heart—a foundation that supports and tries to find a cure for heart disease.



The girls have achieved SO much this year. Most of all we are proud of the way they treat each other with kindness and respect. The JYW have developed strong routines in literacy and numeracy and have really loved working on our café project.

Natasha and myself wish you all a safe and happy Christmas.

I am finishing at Tiwi College this year and want to thank all Tiwi people for allowing me to be here and teach. I will miss you all but hold many wonderful memories!

