



REFUGEE WEEK AT TCC

“As you did it to the least of these, you did it to me” (Matt 25:40) Jesus’ words challenge us to enact the culture of encounter, welcome, hospitality and acceptance. Trinity College Colac has enjoyed a positive learning experience while celebrating Refugee Week this year. Colac enjoys a strong reputation as a community of welcome and support for refugees and asylum seekers and with Pope Francis giving strong leadership on their treatment and care, our school community began with a very solid base of support for a whole week of recognition and appreciation.

Throughout the week, students engaged with information about the plight and difficulties of refugees in home room time and in classes. Our refugee families hosted a beautiful lunch in the Trades Training centre, which was a very popular lunch time venue and all students were invited to reflect on the origins of their own families. A map in the foyer at Reception quickly built up with family names from all over the world. The country and countries of origin of all our families revealed a remarkable variety of backgrounds and courageous journeys over the past two centuries to find ourselves as Australians at Trinity College Colac today. We are the second most multi-cultural country in the world after Israel and the most harmonious. Our indigenous families carry the heritage of the oldest continuous culture.

We have much to be proud of and celebrate. Our refugee students contributed their own personal stories to the display – stories of struggle, journey, safety and acceptance. We are privileged to witness their hope for a bright future in Australia, through the liberating power of education and freedom.

Without the passion and energy of many students and staff the week could not have been so rewarding. Special appreciation goes to the Learning Support team and very committed teachers for their organisation, to our refugee families for sharing their culture and cooking so generously and to all the students who participated so thoughtfully with their own stories of the origin of their families. It was a week of warm hospitality and sharing and a reminder to all of us of our personal responsibility to replace indifference with compassion, ignorance with respect and suspicion with love.



Anne Hughes - Director of Faith & Mission

