

St Alipius Parish Primary School, Ballarat East celebrated NAIDOC week with students, staff and wider school community in the last week of Term 2. The week began with a launch to introduce this year's theme 'Because of her, we can'. It was an amazing celebration of the contribution Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have made to our society. Their strength and integrity shone through in every aspect of the launch. Following the launch, the students were lucky enough to have Eddie stay and share his talent playing the didgeridoo for the 3/4 and 5/6 Learning Communities.



The highlight of the week has been, without doubt, the many wonderful guests that have come and spent time with the school community, sharing stories, songs and culture with us all. We thank Will Austin and the Yarn Bark team for creating a day full of interactive workshops for our Foundation and 3/4 Learning Community. We thank Macaylah Johnson and Tinjani Austin for sharing their experience of transitioning to secondary school with the 5/6 Learning Community. Shantelle Thompson and her daughter Nacinta travelled from Melbourne to spend the day with the 5/6 and 3/4 Learning Community, sharing Shantelle's amazing story of strength and courage on her journey to becoming the World Jiu Jitsu champion. Trudy Edgley, Topsy Milera and Indya Hayes joined the 1/2 Learning Community and ran a series of workshops, culminating in a shared concert at the end of the day. We were also lucky to have some of our own parents come and share their knowledge and talents. We thank Nicole Mercer for spending time sharing a story with the 1/2's, Dee Hayes for running a lunchtime basket weaving workshop and Deb Clark for exploring totems with the Foundation Learning Community.

The McInerney Centre is now home to ten visual arts pieces celebrating some wonderful Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

With nineteen Indigenous students in our school community, our NAIDOC celebration is always a highlight of the school year and this year has been no exception. We continue to work towards embedding an Indigenous perspective into all that we do at St Alipius. We have exciting plans ahead for an Indigenous garden space, which will provide an ongoing learning opportunity for everyone in our community.

*Eileen Rice, Principal.*



