



Upcoming Events

March 13

Labour Day Holiday

March 23Attending Richmond vs Carlton
Match with VIEN (Victorian
Indigenous Education Network)
Schools**March 31**

Students return home for holidays



MITS Students 2017

Executive Director's Message *by Edward Tudor*

It goes without saying that learning is the reason for our students being here in Melbourne. Every day, they are applying themselves in class, learning more and more in English, Maths, Science, History, Languages, PE, Well-Being and other subjects. The learning that our students are doing today will prepare them to move into their Partner Schools in 2018.

However, our students are learning far beyond the four walls of our classroom. They are learning about themselves through exploration of their own languages – sometimes for the first time – and through cultural celebration and exploration with our school and boarding staff. They are learning about each other: we are lucky to have students from 11 different communities in 2017, and each student's culture and story is something that we share and celebrate.

And it's not just our students who are learning: our Melbourne community is fortunate to be learning from them. What a privilege this is! As we learn more about our students, we are better placed to support them as they take on the great challenge of schooling away from home, and we are enriched as a community.

I'm reminded of the words of one of our parents at last year's Official Opening: "We feel proud that people in Melbourne can learn about Aboriginal way from our kids." At MITS, we are always learning, and we are all richer for it.

Celebration

Students acknowledged **International Women's Day** on March 8th, and recognized what the women in their lives have done for them.

Thank you **Grandma** for:

- *growing me up
- *teaching me your language
- *teaching me hunting and fishing
- *making me feel special
- *getting me to my footy games

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School Report

By Shannon Tipuamantumerri and Shaniya Cooper

Schooling at MITS is fun because we go to school in the Richmond Football Club and we get to see the players train. We look out of the classroom window and sometimes we call out to the players and they look up at us.

Last week we saw Daniel Rioli and Mabior Chol playing table tennis. We also saw Alex Rance and he played with us at lunchtime, then we took photos to send it back home to our families.



We played games with Alex Rance at lunch-time



MITS Awards

Presented at the
School Assembly on March 2nd

Academic Excellence Award

Presented by Kathryn Gale



Harry DeSantis

Boarding Excellence Award

Presented by Amanda Haggie



Naomi Miltjundjun Gaykamangu



Students who received
Mathletics Awards over 2 weeks

During the day in Yarra Park, we sometimes see people with their dogs and ask if we can play with their dogs. We have lots of fun with them!

In Physical Education we have been swimming at the Richmond Football Club swimming pool. Yesterday the girls went for a walk to the Botanical Gardens, which was so amazing.



In Mathematics we have learned about time and classification. We sat near Punt Road and spotted the cars. We classified them and created graphs about our findings. In Science, we learned about the water cycle and we studied about it for a week.

Ronnell had the chance to sit in a GT Mustang!

With Kathryn, we are learning how to make a story in our languages and we did a poster written in English and our languages. After lunch, we come back to class and meditate every day to calm ourselves down. School at MITS is lots of fun!



Students do Mindfulness and Meditation after lunch each day (left & above)

Students (and Mr Brad) watch the players train outside the classroom window on Punt Rd. oval (right).



Assembly Guest Speakers

MITS students and staff were fortunate to have Will Austin and Thara Brown as guest speakers at last week's assembly. Both Will and Thara are employed at the Korin Gamadji Institute, next door to the MITS classroom at the Richmond Football Club.

Will is a proud Gunditjmara man who has recently returned to Victoria after working in Darwin with young people. He spoke to the students about his family, his cultural pride, his skills and his life experience. He encouraged the students to set goals in their lives and to then work hard to achieve them.



Thara is a proud Yorta Yorta woman who has recently joined KGI as a Program Manager. She helps organise KGI's youth leadership programs. She trained as a teacher and she spoke to the students about her family, her life and what it means to be a good leader in the Aboriginal community.

If you want to learn more about the programs offered by KGI, you can visit;
<http://www.kgi.org.au/>



Respect Award

Presented By Brad Carmody



Marie Dumoo

Courage Award

Presented By Brad Carmody



Shakaya Walgumar Wagilak

Care Award

Presented By Sally Cunningham



Chris Farnham

Lockington Report *By Amanda Haggie*

At Lockington, all our students continue to work hard at keeping our surroundings tidy, particularly their bedrooms. We have all talked about how important it is to live in a welcoming, tidy, clean and supportive place.

I was particularly impressed with one of our Sunday 'working bees' where all students made a top effort to get Lockington sparkling. Some even went as far as washing windows and the vacuum cleaner/backpack is a popular choice.

Naomi & Paul (below) helping with the cleaning at Lockington, while Amanda spends time with Nicki & Calvin (right)



Every-one is also doing really well at being up and ready for school on time which is also all part of preparing ourselves for school life and building on some of those really important life skills.

Excursions seem to be very popular with the students and over the past weeks they have experienced some fantastic things.



One stormy Sunday a large crew of us headed out to Sorrento Sailing Club. Very generously we had been invited by the club to sail, however with the weather being dubious we went with Plan B - an adventure on the harbour in motors boats. This was such a fantastic opportunity, and many of our students had a turn at 'driving' the vessel. Several MITS 2016 students joined us also.



Layla & Shannon (above) and Marie (above right) enjoy time in a motor boat

Last weekend the students also tried out their skills of rock climbing at a local indoor climbing wall. Staff have highlighted how well the students worked as a team and encouraged each other to push and challenge themselves. This was particularly evident in all of them trying out the 'Leap of Faith'.



Last Friday, Patrick McCarthy took all the boys to a boxing class for indigenous youth. Although a little reluctant at first, most of the boys had a good go.



Lockington continues to be supported by a large dedicated team of volunteers. Not only do these amazing people help out with homework and general running of the Boarding House but they are crucial to us being able to effectively run our activities and excursions. All of us at Lockington would like to thank you for all the work you do and the amazing support you give.

Albert, Kydan, Paul, Calvin & Harry (above) have a 'go' at boxing.

A stormy Pt Phillip Bay (right) and the Sorrento Yacht Club were host to MITS students



Boarding Report *By Ronnell Gaiyurnbi*

At the boarding house it's really fun when we all play outside with the basketball. We get free time on our phones sometimes and we call our family. Philippa cooks great food for us and it smells so fantastic and it's nice and tasty.

Last Thursday night we all went to Bounce to meet other Indigenous students in Melbourne schools, and I saw half of the last year's MITS kids, including Edward and Trano. They played with us and did double flips in the air on the trampolines. I tried to do double flip in the air too.

Calvin, Ronnell and Harry, with Transtian at Bounce



There were 60 students from VIEN schools at Bounce



A couple of weeks ago we went sailing and it was very cold and it was raining like ice. I felt very freezing. I got to drive the boat and it was very cool and awesome even though the waves were rough. After sailing we had a BBQ and the food was meat and sausages and we were feeding the seagulls. After the BBQ we all went back to Lockington and I felt very tired and Amanda took a photo of me sleeping on the car. We saw a Lamborghini drive past us and all of us were so happy to see it.



Last week me and the boys went to Culture Kings and I bought new shoes which were Air Jordan's. My big brother took them from me. After Culture Kings we saw a **black Lamborghini** and it made a loud sound and we filmed it. The guy with the Lamborghini ripped it up and smoke came out of the exhaust and he went really fast. After that we stopped at 7 Eleven to buy a frozen coke so we could cool down. I love living in Melbourne because my grandpa lived in Melbourne which is very nice and cool.

Weekend Activities *By Naomi Gaykamangu and Shania Marrakuy*

On the weekend we do lots of fun things like go to 'Clip and Climb.' When we went there we were very excited and happy. It's a rock climbing place that you climb with a rope then you throw yourself down and the rope pulls you down slowly. It was lots of fun.



After Clip and Climb we went to football training and we met some girls and trained with them. Then we went back home. The next day after breakfast, we got ready to go to basketball. When we got there we had a new basketball uniform. It was red and we looked good in them.



We played against a girls' team at Trinity Grammar and the boys played in a boys' team. We can't wait to play every weekend. We shot 5 goals and we were very tired. We had dinner afterwards. It was chicken and rice and it was so yummy.

Volunteers' Induction Day

On March 5th, our MITS Volunteers attended an Induction Program organized by our amazing Volunteers' Co-ordinator, Kate Russell.

Over 40 people attended the session, which was held in the Chapel at St. Kevin's Year 9 Campus.

We are incredibly fortunate to have so many willing volunteers who assist the MITS students and staff on a day-to-day basis; whether in the classroom, in the boarding house, with after-school and weekend activities, and for overnight stays.



Brady Cooper (far left) delivering the Acknowledgement to Country. Kate Russell welcoming the volunteers, and Ed Tudor talking about MITS.

volunteer without the wonderful work of Kate Russell and Hilary Dixon. We are all incredibly grateful for the care, time and effort they all offer our students and the wider MITS community.



International Women's Day

All MITS Students acknowledged *International Women's Day* on March 8th, and wrote THANK YOU letters to the special women and girls in their lives. They thanked their mothers, grandmothers, aunties, cousins, friends and teachers for everything they do for them.

Here are some of the students' "Thank-yous".

Thank you **Mum** for:

- *giving birth to me
- *bringing me into the world
- *teaching me the right things to do
- *looking after me and loving me
- *putting food on the table
- *making me eat healthy food
- *being kind to me
- *teaching me your language
- *teaching me dancing and fishing
- *taking me out bush with my brothers and sisters
- *teaching me how to do pandanas weaving
- *telling me stories about the olden days and history

Thank you **Grandma** for:

- *growing me up
- *showing me how to speak Ndjebbana
- *teaching me your language
- *teaching me hunting and fishing
- *making me feel special
- *getting me to my footy games

Thank you **Teachers** for:

- *Caring for us
- *teaching us in class
- *keeping me fit and healthy
- *keeping me safe
- *helping me learn
- *being kind to me

Thank you **Aunty** for:

- *talking to me when I'm sad
- *letting me stay with you
- *looking out for me when I was a baby kid
- *cooking nice food for me
- *telling me that I am special and clever
- *taking me shopping – you are deadly & cool
- *making me feel special
- *doing lots of fun stuff with me
- *getting me to MITS
- *making me a better person



Thank you **Cousin & Friend** for:

- *for being the best cousin ever
- *for being cool and funny
- *for looking after me
- *being there for me
- *cheering me up when I am sad
- *making me laugh

School and Boarding Photos



Students creating self-portrait etchings, rubbings and story illustrations in Art lessons

Jeremiah's Aunty Sandra (above) and Lorraine, helping students with their drawings







