

February 16, 2018

Welcome to 2018!



Executive Director's Message *By Edward Tudor*

I'm delighted to be writing to you, our MITS Family, for the first time in 2018. I hope that the break was a restful one for you all: we've loved hearing about all of the exciting things that our Class of 2018, and also our alumni, got up to over the break.

It was a busy time in our household – Rhi and I were married just after the New Year! It was a really special occasion to celebrate with close family and friends.

As we start the 2018 school year we are thrilled to have over 50 young Indigenous people in Melbourne either enrolled at MITS, or having graduated from MITS. Our MITS family continues to grow. And as this family grows, so too do the networks of or young people: they are socialising with each other, supporting each other, encouraging each other and providing each other with great strength as they take on the challenge of a Melbourne education. Our recent Melbourne Family Barbeque was a great example of this.

It's so exciting to imagine where these networks might lead our students. Today, they catch up by the side of the sporting field, or while window shopping at Victoria Gardens. In the future, who knows? Perhaps it'll be across board room tables, at policy forums or in the parliamentary corridors of Darwin, Melbourne and Canberra.

For now, we're excited to be welcoming our new Class of 2018, and to be saying "welcome back" to our alumni.



Important Dates

1 March:
School Photos

12 March:
Labour Day Public Holiday

19-21 March:
Philip Island School Camp

28 March:
Last day of classes

29 March:
End of Term 1
Student travel home.



Gigi in Melbourne style!



Fun and Games with KGI

School Report *by Kathryn Gale*

The school program at MITS is greatly enriched by our partnerships with many organizations and with our Melbourne Partner schools. One organization that is especially valued by MITS staff and students alike, is the Korin Gamadji Institute. KGI and the MITS share a common space on the 3rd level at the Richmond Football Club. The KGI staff see our students daily, and watch them grow and learn over the school year. Many of them, along with some of the RFC staff and players, build trusted relationships with our students, and act as mentors into the future. Last week, we were fortunate to have Thara, Thalia and Natasha conduct a games session in the classroom. There was a lot of laughter squeals of delight as students faced off against each other in some hilarious games - especially the nose-pressing masking tape game. We thank the KGI staff and all at the RFC for their continuing support of our MITS students, and for being a presence in their day-to-day school life.

Thara, Thalia & Natasha lead class games



The nose-pressing game



Student Story:

‘Skyscrapers’

by Gigi Burarra-
wanga-Wilson

On Friday we went into the city and we saw skyscrapers.

Now that was a crazy experience.

I got to stand right up against the glass and see all of Melbourne.

We got to eat there too, so that was a bonus.



BBQ Bouncing Fun!

Boarding News *by Amanda Haggie*

We have had an absolutely brilliant start to the year here at Lockington with the highlight being our parents coming down with their children to spend three days with them and us as part of our orientation. It was certainly a great way for families to get to know staff, the surroundings and to really ensure everyone was comfortable with their decision to join MITS. It just so happened to be one of the heat wave Melbourne weekends and with a 39-degree scheduled for the Sunday, through the generosity of Trinity Grammar we were all able to use their outdoor pool.

Our theme for this term in boarding is ‘Making Friends’ and to date we have seen all students making a superb effort to get to know each other. Whether this has been through group games, circle time, basketball games, ping pong or shared dinners, the kids have been taking the opportunity to really learn about each other.

Our weekends have also been very full with time at the Tudors for a barbeque including past students from MITS and also a fantastic day out on the boats at the Sorrento Couta Boat Club. Luckily for us, the day was perfect weather wise and after some snags on the BBQ, the kids jumped off the jetty for a swim.

Some very exciting news for us has been the casting of two of our male students in a short skit with ‘Deadly Dan’ for the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service about promoting smoke free lifestyles. The producer has told us that they auditioned for the parts all around Melbourne and their final decision was to cast both Liam and Kayden.... go boys! Rehearsals and filming starts next week.

Lockington has welcomed three new staff to our team. Both Fleur Fergie and Michelle Kerrin join the Boarding Coordination Team and Ryan Meredith is our new Chef. Ryan has been cooking up some crowd favourites already, his potato mash with gravy a real hit along with his pasta carbonara!

This fantastic group of students are positive, polite and enthusiastic, the perfect combination.



Splish, splash, having a blast!

Student Stories:

Coming to MITS *by Kayden Harrison*

When I heard about MITS, I felt excited and nervous because they interviewed me and gave me a few questions like “what sports do you play?” and “how are you going to feel leaving your family?” When the whole interview was done, it took 2 hours.

After waiting for about 2 week, my mum said to me, “Kayden, you got chosen to go to MITS.” I was so happy and sad, because I remembered that I had to leave home. But I had to stay strong, so I did.

We packed all my clothes and it took 4 hours to drive from my home to Lockington, so it wasn't too far. I saw the huge church, and next to it was the Boarding House. Then I saw heaps of Aboriginal people, so I was in the right place. When my mum and dad left, I was alone but I made friends. Nearly every-body is my friend.

On the first day of school it was fun, and 4 days later we went to MSAC where there are 7 pools, a wave pool and a giant water slide which was probably the best thing that I have done. Two days later we went to this huge shopping centre called Vic Gardens. It was fun but I spilt my frozen drink on the floor twice, in front of everyone. It was embarrassing.

The next day I had my birthday milkshake with Mr Brad. It was called the Crazy Camel and it was delicious.

Train and Tram

By Levi Christopherson

When school started, we went on an excursion to the city. We went there on the train and came back on the tram. The tram was so much fun, just like the train.



All aboard!



Ahoy there sailors!

Coming to MITS *by Leo Ponto*

When I first got on the Qantas plane I was scared because I thought I was going to fall down out of the sky, but when I got off the plane I met heaps of new kids. When we got to the Boarding House, Liam took me inside and upstairs to show me my bedroom. The Thursday morning we watched the Richmond players train. It was cold, but I was watching Cochin all the time because I want to learn his skills.

Sorrento Sailing *by Cecil Puruntatameri*

On Sunday we went to Sorrento Beach and we saw some of last year's MITS students. We all went on a ride on a boat and we saw seals. Some of the seals were big, fat, skinny and babies. They didn't smell good. The captain of the boat told us boys that we could drive the boat, so I drove us back to the middle, then I gave Levi the wheel and he drove us to shore.

City Excursion *by Jenae Tipiloura*

When we first started at MITS and we were getting to know new people, we went on an excursion to the city. We went to a Law of-ice on the 50th floor of a tall building. We could see nearly all around Melbourne. They gave us some morning tea, and then we went to a laneway and saw some graffiti art. There were lots of cool paintings and graffiti on the walls.

Student Story:

Richmond Footy Club

By Tarkyn Rosas

On our first day at school at MITS in the Richmond Footy Club, our families came with us and we went on a tour and saw all the Richmond footy stuff.

Then we went into the Maurice Rioli Room and we got to hold the Richmond Premiership Cup from last year.

Everyone was smiling when they held the Cup.



First 2018 MITS School Assembly



Kayden and Marjorie both spoke about their first 2 weeks at MITS



The first **MITS CAPTAINS** for 2018 were announced by Amanda Haggie & Kathryn Gale
They are: **Jenae Tipiloura & Cecil Puntatatumeri**



First **CARE AWARD** for 2018 presented by Brad Carmody to **LIAM KENYON**



First **RESPECT AWARD** for 2018 presented by Sally Cunningham to **LEO PONTO**

First **COURAGE AWARD** for 2018 presented by Sarah George to **DENISE DUMOO**



Sailing with the Sorrento Sailing



Welcome back to the MITS,
Ruth & her dog, Toby.
Students walk in Yarra Park



Students working hard in the classroom



Undertaking a portraiture activity in Art, assisted by Sarah, Lorraine, Terri, Serena and Anne.





Watching The Tigers training!



MITS Family BBQ



Fun on the Jumping Castle







A visit to the 50th floor of the