

“Creative Cultures”

During the last few weeks the students have enjoyed a Bangarra Dance Theatre performance of Bennelong, celebrated football finals and presentations, taken part in additional drama and dance classes and visited the snow in country Victoria. In addition, students took part in a digital design work shop at Swinburne University of Technology and a chemistry class at The University of Melbourne.

As the students return home for the term holidays, I write knowing that the students have had a busy and productive term with a strong focus on their classwork. They were also preparing for the news of their transition to their schools for 2018,

There has been much excitement since the students visited the school to which they will transition from MITS in 2018. They were given a tour and met teachers and students with whom they will get to know in Term 4.

Students will come home armed with lots of news and information. It will also be time for them to enjoy time with family, celebrate their achievements and relax with friends before they return to Melbourne for next Term. Term 4 will focus on two important and additional aspects of the MITS year - continued preparation for their transition to their schools and then a celebration of their year at the Graduation dinner in mid-December.

- Margaret Webb OAM



Important Dates

September 22

Students travel home

October 9

Students travel to Melbourne

October 10

First day of classes

October 14

Conversation morning w/
Partner Schools

October 19

Gala Dinner

October 31

Visit to Government House

November 7

Melb. Cup Public Holiday

December 11

Families to travel to Melb.

December 12

Families and students visit
Partner Schools

Graduation Dinner

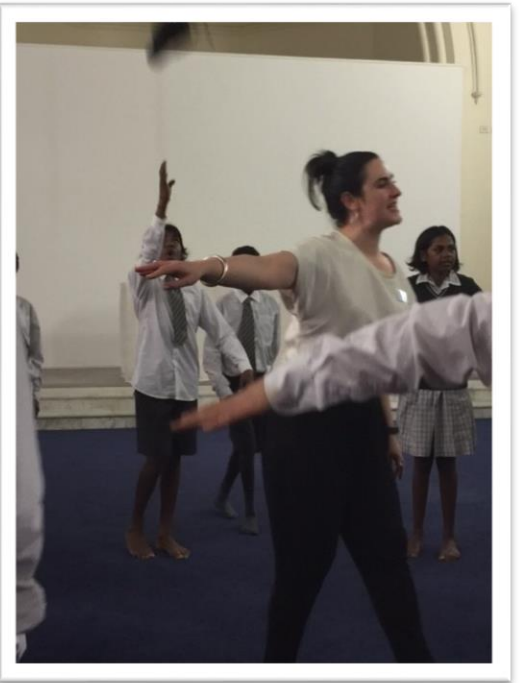
December 13

End of Term – all students
travel home with their
families.



Drama

Former Toorak College student and current Drama and English teacher at Haileybury College, Nicole Smith conducted a drama workshop during a recent Art lesson. Nicole is a former student of Marg Webb's and is a highly energetic and motivating teacher. At the beginning of the lesson many of the students were reticent and shy but in no time at all Nicole had students, behaving like birds and elephants, engaging in improvisation games and generally having a wonderful time. Nicole will conduct another lesson this week during the art class on Wednesday afternoon.



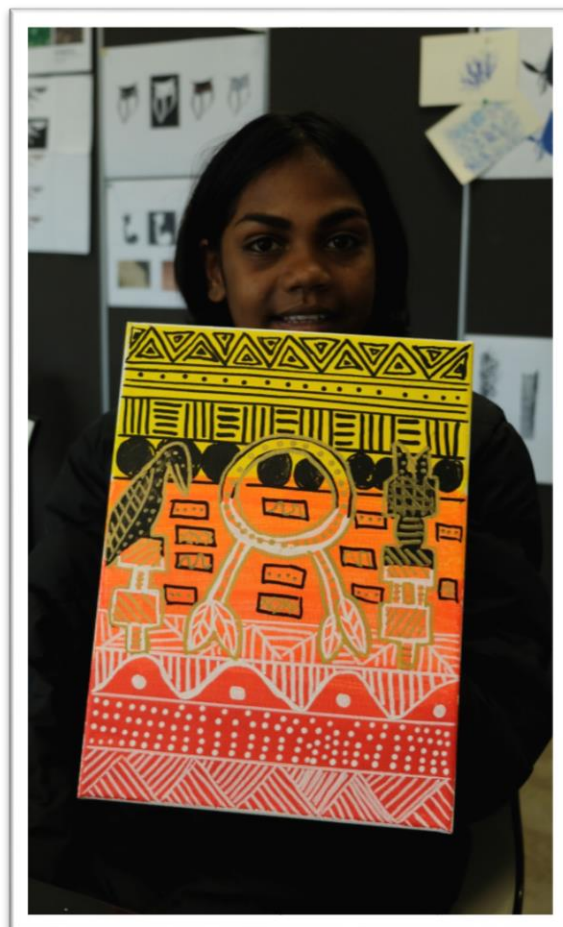


Marngo Designing Futures

Last week students attended a digital design workshop with the Swinburne University of Technology, Marngo Designing Futures Program. The Program aims to stimulate and raise interest in creative careers in design, film and media for Indigenous secondary students. Students spent the morning creating their own designs and works on canvas with Geelong-based Aboriginal artist Nathan Patterson from Iluka Art and Design.

After a pizza lunch (very well received) all the students participated in a break out session using the *Lego Serious Play* process which is a communication and problem-solving tool. Students gathered around tables full of Lego and were asked to respond to a design brief to build a tower in a set time frame. On completion, everyone spoke to the group about their design decisions.

Students then spent the afternoon in the Digital Labs on some amazing drawing tablets transferring their work to photoshop and creating their own poster and t-shirt design. Fortunately, there were lots of Swinburne design students on hand to assist everyone and some outstanding pieces of design were created. Swinburne is going to print the t-shirts for the students so look out for them wearing their own designs next term. There are clearly some budding designers at MITS!



Bangarra

All the students went to the School's performance of Bangarra Dance Theatre's current production *Bennelong* at the Arts Centre. The performance was a very moving account of the impact of colonisation and the life of Bennelong, the first Indigenous Australian to collaborate with the English. Bennelong learnt to speak English and travelled to England with Governor Phillip. Many of the students commented on the costumes, sets and how emotional the experience was.

In a wonderful follow up to the Bennelong performance, three of the Bangarra Dancers came to the School to conduct a workshop for the students. Dancers Luke Currie Richardson, Rikki Mason and Tara Gower guided the students through a warm up and then some complicated dance sequences, explaining the meaning of the sequences and the connection to the music as they performed them.

All the students and many of the staff and volunteers participated in the workshop and the Maurice Rioli room was filled with laughter, clapping and a celebration of contemporary Indigenous dance. After a final stretch, the dancers shared some of their own stories and stressed the importance of discipline, culture and team work to all the students.

An amazing experience for all of us!





