De Greer-Yindimincarlie shows her ‘gratitude rock’

Gratitude Rocks is a hands-on activity that promotes Indigenous perspectives to students. Recently, at Strong Smart Science Sparks Day selected year 5 and 6 students engaged in this activity with its creator De Greer-Yindimincarlie. De’s is a very talented Aboriginal lady who works in many schools across the country. De is the owner / operator of Yindi Artz - Authentic Aboriginal Creations. Yindi Artz has been operating in Beerwah on the Sunshine Coast for the last six years. De is an Aboriginal woman from the Wiradjuri Nation in Central Western New South Wales, Australia. De is an award winning Aboriginal artist, winning the 2008 South East QLD NAIDOC award for distinguished services in the Visual Arts Industry, and in 2011 De was a ‘DEADLY AWARD’ nominee for ‘Visual artist of the year.

De is dually recognised and awarded both nationally and internationally for her exciting and innovative works. Awarded not only for her painting, De is also celebrated as an Aboriginal Artist, Musician, Graphic Artist, Film Maker, Music Producer, Talent Manager and Entrepreneur.

The Gratitude Rock activity put a twist on traditional western science frameworks by introducing symbols of the Australian landscape like the fireplace, warriors and the possum. Students were also shown more ‘intuitive’ means of discovering truths about ourselves and who we are in the eyes of those around us. Students who were lucky enough to participate in the activity got to create and keep their own Gratitude Rock.

Hello Everyone,
For those of you in the Chancellor State College who do not know me, my name is Alister Bartholomew. I joined the college in late 2011 and am currently employed as a cadet with Education Queensland. My wife and I moved our young family from Gladstone to pursue my dream of becoming a high school teacher. I have family from Bamaga and Saibai Island in the Torres Strait and have a strong affiliation with the culture and traditions of my people.

For me personally, you have to know where you are from to answer the big questions of, "who am I and why am I here"? As a self-confessed ‘late bloomer,’ I have returned to education with the same high expectation relationships between teacher and student that schools like Chancellor State College offer. How these relationships transform the position many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people take is what I am privileged to witness and act upon.

I am acutely aware of the issues and demands placed on Indigenous students in schools – I should know, I was in their shoes a long time ago! During my time at the school thus far I was an audience member for an ANZAC day assembly. A Chancellor Indigenous Ambassador addressed the whole school assembly on the Indigenous contributions made to Australia’s war efforts; I do not recall experiencing such an assembly during my high school days, but I will always remember that transformational address.

I have come to know most of the students at school as well as staff but am always willing to meet more of the Chancellor community. In particular, I would like to yarn more with parents of students at Chancellor and how we can better the experience of schools and education for our mob.

Feel free to call me on 0437033321 or email fbart16@eq.edu.au.

Happy NAIDOC to you all this year – "We value to vision YIRRKALA BARK PETITIONS 1963"

Yours in learning and culture,
Alister
FUNDING FOR ELITE INDIGENOUS SPORTSPEOPLE

Have you been selected for a state/territory or national team? Do you need financial assistance?

Indigenous sportspeople who are involved in mainstream official national championships and international sporting competitions can apply for financial assistance through the Elite Indigenous Travel and Accommodation Assistance Program (EITAAP).

Funding is available for travel and accommodation expenses up to $1500 per person for national events and $4000 per person for international events during a financial year.

Indigenous sportspeople including athletes, coaches, managers, officials and trainers can apply if they meet all the following criteria:

> they are involved or compete in a sport recognised by the Australian Sports Commission
> they are selected in a state/territory or national team endorsed by the relevant state/territory or national sporting organisation
> they have their application sponsored by the state or national sporting organisation or relevant state/territory school sport representative body.

Indigenous sportspeople cannot apply for assistance if they are:

> selected in Indigenous-only teams
> individuals participating in commercial tours
> attending a professional event or an event that involves prize money
> individuals under the age of 12 (exemptions may apply).