



St Marys District School

ST MARYS CAMPUS

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FINGAL CAMPUS

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24th June, 2016

NAIDOC WEEK CELEBRATIONS

Dear Parents and Guardians

Next Thursday 30th June, 2016, St Marys District School: Fingal and St Marys Campuses will be celebrating NAIDOC Week. NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia to recognise the history, culture and achievements of the Indigenous Peoples of Australia. This is a fantastic time and opportunity for our students to participate in a range of activities with an Indigenous focus.

Every year the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) choose a theme which reflects an important issue for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Peoples and for 2016, the theme is '*Songlines: The living narrative of our nation.*'

The Dreaming describes a time when the earth, people and animals were created by ancestral spirits. These Dreaming tracks of the ancestral spirits travel across all reaches of Australia. These tracks are sometimes called 'Songlines' as they record the travels of the spirits who 'sung' the land into life. These Songlines are recorded in traditional songs, stories, dance and art. They carry significant spiritual and cultural connections to knowledge, customs, ceremony and Lore of many Aboriginal nations and Torres Strait Islander language groups.

Aboriginal language groups are connected through the sharing of Songlines with each language group responsible for parts of a Songline. Songlines have been passed down for thousands of years and are pivotal to the existence of all Indigenous Peoples of Australia.

St Marys District School is using this theme to explore Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island (ATSI) culture with the support and guidance of Sinsa Mansell. We are inviting students to come to school wearing either the colours of the Australian Aboriginal Flag or of the Torres Strait Islander Flag. A notice will be sent out with further information for parents.

Sandra Cook
AST K-6
St Marys District School

Bruce Campbell
Principal
St Marys District School