Aboriginal Perspectives
Across the Year 9 Classroom: From Immersion to the Classroom and Vice Versa
Genazzano FCJ College in Context

• K – 12 Independent Catholic Day and Boarding Girls School

• Co-education Early Learning Centre

• High academic performance

• Curriculum Stage and Age Appropriate
Curriculum Design and Development

Early Years
• Early Learning Centre (3-4y/o)
• Prep-Year 4

Middle Years
• Years 5 -8

Later Years
• Year 9- Making Connections Program
• Years 10-12
Early Learning Centre

• Purpose built
• Three and Four Year Old
• Co-educational
• Play based learning
• Reggio Emilia
• Chinese (Mandarin) AIME
• iPad technology
Early Years

Prep to Year 4

• Single sex - girls
• Play based learning
• Flow theory
• Specialist classes
• AIM – Mandarin & Italian
• iPad technology
Middle Years Centre
- Metacurriculum model
- Located over two floors
- Open classrooms
- Large open plan area
- Furniture designed for collaborative and integrated learning
Later Years

Later Years – Year 10 to 12

- Senior students
- Elective choices
- Victorian Certificate of Education
- Accelerated studies
- Enrichment opportunities
- University enhancement
Creating New Experiences for Year 9 Students

- 2007
- New Program
- Existing Campus
- Immersion Activities
A Separate Campus

2012

Establishment of Separate Campus

Core group of teachers/mentors

Review and renew current curriculum

Further enrich learning experiences
Learning and Teaching at Year 9

- Challenge
- Integration of concepts
- Exploratory
- Experiential
- Control/choice
- Relevance
- Depth
The program contains:

- Core, Elective and Homeroom based immersion days
- Emphasis on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspective Across the Curriculum
- The Off-Campus Living Experience
- Companionship
- Careers
Introduction to Kimberley Exchange Program
Genazzano Kimberley Exchange Program

- Yaruwu People
- Bidyadanga
- Coastal Communities
- Remote Communities
Genazzano Kimberley Exchange Program

• St Mary’s staff and students
• Participate in activities across ELC-Year 12
Kimberley Exchange History

- 1988
- Sister Rosemary Crowe FCJ
- Brother Peter Negus Principal Nulungu College Broome
- Ian Cribb Xavier College
Aims of Exchange

- Voices for Social Justice and Reconciliation
- Understanding of Aboriginal Culture
- Confidence and Self-Esteem
Applying for Kimberley Exchange

• Formal Application
• Panel Interview
• Interest or Desire to Learn
Kimberley Exchange Program

- Patrick Dobson
- Bishop Saunders
- Staff at Goolarri Media
- Staff at Dialysis Centre
- Members of Stolen Generation
- Sisters of St John of God Centre
Fire carriers

- 16 Fire Carriers
- Aboriginal Story
- Liturgy
- Actions
- The Long Walk
Boroondara Reconciliation Program

- Wurundjeri People – Traditional Custodians
- Aboriginal Elder Spoke of Story and History
- Year 9 performed Two Aboriginal Songs – NAIDOC Celebration Evening
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives Across the Curriculum

Integrated Across:

- RE Program
- English Curriculum
- History
- Geography
- Immersion Days
- Special Events
Aboriginal & Torres Straight Islander Across the Curriculum

Religious Education

Truth and the Story of the Bible

Hope and Healing

Mary our First Disciple

Truth and Story

Identity and Creed

Advent
Aboriginal & Torres Straight Islander Across the Curriculum

English

- Poetry Unit
- Narratives
- Autobiographical Writing
Aboriginal & Torres Straight Islander Across the Curriculum

History

World War
1 Role of Aboriginal Soldiers

Making a Nation – Colonisation and Conflict
Aboriginal & Torres Straight Islander Perspectives Across the Curriculum

Geography

- Relationship to Place
- Landform Formations
- European Colonisation
- Sustainability
Immersion Program

- One day per 10 cycle
- No classes
- Immersion Activities
- Greater Time
- Deeper Levels of Understanding
- Experiential
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Immersion Day

Purpose:

• Provide knowledge, insight and understanding

• Provide opportunities for Year 9 students to experience Aboriginal language and culture

• Provide deeper understanding of the impact of Government Policy on Aboriginal people
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Immersion Day Program

- Acknowledgement of the land
- Presentation by Kimberley Exchange Students
Rotation through Following Workshops

- Dance and story
- Language
- The Story of Art
- The Stolen Generation
- Finding Identity through Story
Constitutional Convention

• Prayer led by Fire Carriers
• Acknowledgement of Country
• Welcome to Country – by Aboriginal Elder
Constitutional Convention

Welcome:

College Principal – Patricia Cowling

Panel Presentation:

Legal, Political and Historical Implications of Changes to Constitution

• Josh Frydenberg – Federal Member of Parliament
• Emily Chavel – Recognise
• Sinea Dodds - Lawyer
Constitutional Convention

Breakaway Groups Discuss

- Four occasions in Australian History where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people achieved positive ‘recognition’
- The idea of ‘race’ being considered out-dated and irrelevant. Explore how the word ‘race’ could be replaced in Australia’s Constitution, with reference to the Expert Panel’s recommendations
The term ‘Recognition’ can make you feel valued, respected and that you belong. Explain what it means to you to be ‘recognised’

What a preamble is. Are preambles important?

The benefits of Constitutional reform

Section 25 of Constitution

Quote from the leading spokespersons
Constitutional Convention

- Students prepare Communique
- Draft changes to Constitution presented to College Principal
- Students present their findings to each other
Kimberley Exchange 2011
THANK YOU