



TERM FOUR

NOVEMBER 2020

# NEWSLETTER

## Principal's Update

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As we reflect on the year of 2020, please join me in acknowledging and celebrating the many wonderful educational opportunities and learning experiences that have taken place at Arcadia College throughout this challenging year. All year levels across the College have shown resilience and growth during these unprecedented times and should be congratulated for their efforts. Together we have planned and executed a variety of innovative and targeted programs, tailored to suit the needs, interests and abilities of our young people. Arcadia's unique delivery, character, excellence in teaching and welfare support and the talent of our incredible staff group continues to make Arcadia College an exceptional and special learning environment.

Next year brings the excitement of our brand new campus, to which students have been taking transition tours over the past few weeks. We understand that for some of our young people the change may be daunting, however we have a lot of strategies to support our young people in moving to our new home. Please communicate with allocated Year Coordinators should you have any concerns around this transition.

In preparation for the new building in 2021, the staff are busy designing and refining the 2020 programs, to ensure they are engaging, innovative and targeting learning needs of our young people. There will be a big focus on embedding the Arts and Community projects into the curriculum through Project-Based Learning outcomes. Students will be exposed to real world issues and skills in order to master the key 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning skills. Adventure-Based Learning will continue and expand into new opportunities such as our newly designed rock-climbing wall, as well as the redevelopment of our whole school wellbeing framework. We are excited to offer these new opportunities to our students and we look forward to seeing the outcomes of 2021 towards the end of the year.

As another year comes to a close, I want to take the opportunity to wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday. I look forward to seeing you all at our beautiful new campus at the end of January 2021.

Kind regards

Tahlia McGahey

Principal - Arcadia College

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### Have you moved or changed your phone number or email address?

**A quick and easy way to  
update your details is  
through PARENT LOUNGE.  
It only takes a minute and  
saves you time on the  
phone or coming in.**

### Important Dates

**Thursday 21st Jan**  
New Student Induction  
**Tuesday 26th Jan**  
Australia Day  
**Wednesday 27th Jan**  
First Day of Term One  
Year 10, 11 & 12  
**Thursday 28th Jan**  
First Day of Term One  
Year 9, 8 & 7  
**Wednesday 17th Feb**  
Family Interview Night  
**Thursday 1st April**  
Last Day of Term One

## Planting the Seed of Change

Social Stories are a visual and verbal social learning strategy that explains social concepts to support individuals, such as, those with Autism Spectrum Disorder or ahead of change and new situations. They aim to support individuals to cope with change and social situations, both of which can be difficult for our students. Social Stories teach what to expect and how to interact in an effective and appropriate exchange of information in certain situations. They can be modified to suit each individual.

As our exciting move to the new campus is fast approaching, Arcadia College has been planting the seed of change for our young people. In order to facilitate a smooth and successful transition, we have been sharing social stories, movies and conducting tours of the new campus to minimise resistance, anxiety, and confusion that often occurs with change.



**Tip:** to continue watering the seed of change over the holidays, continue talking to your young person about the exciting new campus and their progression to a new year level!

## QATSIF Scholarship Recipient



Jade is an empowering example of how in the face of significant challenges; determination, strong identity and an appreciation of support, will help you reach your goals.

**Q: Best part of being a student at Arcadia?**

A: Arcadia was very supportive of my individual needs as an independent young woman which has allowed me to be where I am today & I will be forever grateful.

**Q: Greatest accomplishment so far?**

A: Managing to juggle finishing year 12, completing my certificate III in Business & Nail Technology and most importantly starting up my very own business.

**Q: Advice to your younger self?**

A: Don't hang with the wrong crowd. You are, who you hang out with. Turning to partying, drinking and drugs is not a good look; you'll end up nowhere. All the people whom you thought were your "friends" won't be by your side 5-years down the track.



**Congratulations Jade!**

Arcadia is excited to see Jade achieve all her dreams and continue to inspire her community and others.

**Q: Mentors or inspirational guides?**

A: The Arcadia staff, to mention a few; Tamar who has always ensured I'm getting the best chances as a young Indigenous woman and Jodi, for pushing me to continue with my schooling life and finishing Year 12.

**Q: Advice to other Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students?**

A: Always accept the help and support around you. It might not seem like you need it but still accept it. Being a younger generation we are given more opportunities that our elders didn't have, so use it while you can. It's the minimum our community deserves.

**Q: Goals for next 2 years?**

A: To earn money and save! I'd also like to have my business setup well enough to have it flowing so I can focus on building my own house with my partner. I can't wait to smash my goals and create a perfect life, that way I can finally relax.

**Q: Message for other young Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander women?**

A: Don't give up! Dreams can be gotten and what might seem like a challenge now will be a blessing later. I'm so happy that I'm halfway to my goals and I'm thankful I never gave up. Use all resources available and make sure you make the most of the support available.



The tuckshop ladies always love being out of the kitchen for a day. 216 sausages cooked to perfection for the Penthouse Games along with healthy snacks and of course, LOTS of smiles. Plus a sneaky Starbucks on the way home – Yum! - Vicky and Leonie

# Year 7

Our Year Seven students went on two excursions this term.

The first, to the Jellural Cultural Centre, where students learnt about local culture and history while walking the trails of Jellural Mountain. Students were shown the traditional way of using the natural resources found on the mountain to create art using the varying colours of Ochre as well as learning traditional ways to hunt and gather.

The second was to the David Fleay Wildlife Centre. Here the students learnt about different reptiles and animals and how they survive in the wild. This was a great opportunity for students to put their animal classification skills to the test.

Thank you for a great year and have a lovely break.

- The Year 7 Team



# Year 8

Year 8 HPE lessons for term 4 were designed around the Duke of Edinburgh award.

Students ventured to Curtis Falls for a bush hike with Nev and Brent, the scenery was amazing and they enjoyed listening to the sounds of nature and had fun identifying the different sounds. Students stopped by the creek and quenched their thirst with fresh Billy Tea made by Nev.

Students really stepped up and faced their fears during the adventures. There was lots of climbing, walking in tough terrain and spotting wildlife. Part of the activity was to use a compass and students had fun with finding their way back to the bus.

So much fun and laughter and plenty of real grit and determination was had during the term.



# Year 9

This term saw the Year 9's explore the connections between people, places and community with a focus on local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

Students also delved deep into atomic structures and politics this term.

Although a little different, it has been a fantastic year, and we wish all the Year 9's the very best moving into Year 10 and thank each and every one of them for their continued commitment towards their learning.

Onwards and Upwards from the Year 9 Team!



# Year 10

Term 4 has come and gone so quickly, we have had such a fun experience in year 10 this term. We have seen the students' bond grow with each other as they participated in many extra-curricular activities within the space. These activities were our Beach Penthouse Day, where all year 10 students were engaged and participated with house spirit. We celebrated the traditional custodians of the land, during NAIDOC week. We raised awareness and funds for the RSPCA, where students made dog treats for staff and students.

During our subjects this term, we have seen students cultivate their knowledge. In Maths, students learnt how to budget and plan for their future. Students investigated simple interest, compound interest, and budgeting. In Science, as a cohort we went to Dreamworld and felt the forces of the rides. Students were then required to use their inquiry skills to analyse the forces of a rollercoaster. In English, students discovered the creative writing genre. They were required to analyse a story and then write their own story, about a defining moment.

The year 10 students are a bunch of resilient, brave and kind individuals. It has been an honour to teach them and watch them grow throughout this term, and this year.



# Year 11

During Term 4, Year 11 students have worked tirelessly in completing all assessments resulting in their successful graduation. This year has seen students successfully enrol and complete certificates. It has allowed students to partake in work experience and follow their dreams. 2020 has seen our young people become more independent by entering the workforce or obtaining a driver's licence. Across all subjects, students have shown a dedication to their learning and an eagerness to step up as the school leaders of 2021.

Although we were not able to have a school camp we were committed to allowing the students to experience the bonds that are made outside the classroom, with 3 action packed days out. These experiences have allowed the students to step outside their comfort zones and build on their strengths. We hope that 2020 has allowed all of our students to see just how talented and capable they all are.



# Year 12

Congratulations to all the Year 12 graduates on the perseverance and positive attitudes throughout 2020!

We had 20 students complete their Queensland Certificate of Education, 14 students accepted into TAFE qualifications and 5 students accept early entry positions into university, this is an outstanding result.

Thank you to all the parents and staff, who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make this possible. These qualifications will go a long way to ensure our students have opportunities moving forward, to chase their dreams and embrace a bright future.



The 2020 formal was also a milestone event for Arcadia College who saw its first ever group of QATSIF Scholarship recipients graduate. These Aboriginal students all completed their QCE certificates and graduated with the financial assistance from Stolen Wages trusts.

It was a pleasure for Arcadia College to support their success and congratulate them and their well-deserved accomplishments.



Pictured, left to right: Byron Cracknell (Dep Principal), Eliza-Jane Drew, Grace Van De Graaff, Jade Jacobsen, Danika Parkinson, James Davies. Tamar Muavae (Wellbeing Staff)