

MAALI CENTRE NEWSLETTER



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Term 3, 2025



KAYA!

Since our last newsletter, the Maali students have been incredibly busy taking part in a wide range of activities. They proudly celebrated NAIDOC Week at GOVO, attended health and career expos, showcased their talents by performing cultural dances at other schools' NAIDOC celebrations, and even travelled to the Goldfields for a cultural astronomy camp. It has been a term full of learning, sharing, and celebrating culture together.



Deadly Sista Girls Update!

It's been a big term for our Deadly Sista Girlz! GOVO's DSG footy team took out 1st place at the Waalitj Cup, defeating Armadale SHS with great teamwork and encouragement for each other. Year 11 student Jaydah J achieved her learner's permit at a recent Justice Day, while Jada Corbett's artwork was one of 12 chosen for the state DSG art exhibition. Her piece, representing the strength of women in her family, was proudly sold at the event.

We congratulate all of our Deadly Sista Girlz for their hard work, dedication, and success this term. They continue to inspire with their resilience, talent, and pride in culture.

Year 7 & 8 Culture Classes

In Culture classes with Miss Jackie and Utah, students have been exploring the fascinating world of Aboriginal Astronomy, with a special focus on the Emu in the Sky. They discovered that, unlike traditional constellations made up of stars, the Emu in the Sky is formed by the dark shapes in the Milky Way. Students learned how the emu's position in the sky can tell us important seasonal knowledge, such as when emu eggs are available and when it is mating season. We also explored how other Aboriginal mobs have long used the night sky to guide navigation, mark seasonal changes, support hunting, and carry out ceremonies. This has been a meaningful way for students to connect culture with science and deepen their understanding of Aboriginal knowledge systems. At the end of the term, students created their own Emu in the Sky artworks, with some being selected to be in the GSSHS Art Exhibition.



Kaartdijin Boys Group

In Kaartdijin Boys Group with Graham, Troy and Utah, the students have been making fantastic progress on their didgeridoos. The boys are nearly finished painting their instruments, adding their own unique cultural designs and stories. Using beeswax, they carefully molded their mouthpieces, learning the traditional way to prepare the instrument for playing. We were also fortunate to welcome Neil Coyne and his family, who generously shared their knowledge by teaching the boys the basics of didgeridoo playing to get them started on their musical journey. This has been an inspiring experience, combining culture, creativity, and connection.



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Koya Cultural Astronomy Camp

Twelve of our Maali students recently had the incredible opportunity to attend a Cultural Astronomy Camp organised by Koya on Wongatha Country.

Their journey began with a train ride to Kalgoorlie, followed by a trip to Morapoi Station where they were warmly welcomed to Country by Greg Stubbs. Students hiked up Mount Jessop, before enjoying delicious kangaroo stew around the campfire.

Over the next few days, students immersed themselves in a variety of cultural activities including:

- ✓ Learning how to throw boomerangs
- ✓ Making tapping sticks from Mulga tree branches
- ✓ Digging for honey ants and witchetty grubs
- ✓ Cooking damper and starting fires for cooking
- ✓ Experiencing traditional dancing and storytelling

One of the highlights was visiting Lake Ballard, one of the darkest night skies in the world. Guided by astrophotographer Dr John Goldsmith, Koya and Greg, students listened to Wongatha astronomy stories, explored the significance of the salt lake, and were amazed to see the Milky Way and countless stars with no light pollution. Some even managed to capture the galaxy on their phone cameras!



GOVO SHS 2025 NAIDOC



THE NEXT
GENERATION:
STRENGTH,
VISION &
LEGACY
6-13 JULY 2025



KOYA CULTURAL ASTRONOMY CAMP



Making tapping sticks



Boomerang throwing



Honey Ants



Looking for Gold

Climbing near Dog Rock

