Update on Programs/Initiatives at Chifley Public School – August 2014

- In 2014, Chifley Public School has 50 students who identify as Aboriginal; representing 25% of the school population.
- Aboriginal Education continues to be one of our key priorities in our updated 2014 School Improvement Plan.
- Our two key targets are:
  I. Cultural awareness – to show increased evidence of embedding DEC Aboriginal policy cultural awareness strategies in learning programs (K-6).
  II. Personalised Learning Plans (PLPs) – to show evidence that at least 99% of Aboriginal students have reached 97% of PLP goals over a 3 year period.
- In Term 2 we continued the process of completing PLP’s for our 50 Aboriginal students. Kindergarten students had new PLP’s created and students in Year 1-6 had their PLP’s evaluated and revised from last year to assess whether the students had achieved their goals and to set new directions for this year. The comprehensive process in developing a PLP involves the student, parents, class teacher, the Aboriginal Education Officer and Aboriginal coordinators from the school. By the end of Term 3 all PLP’s will be completed for our Aboriginal students.
- South Cares continues to send volunteers to work with Stage 3 students for Literacy.
- We have employed an Aboriginal Education Officer to assist us in engaging our Aboriginal students in the classroom and to ensure that we work together with the Aboriginal team and external agencies as appropriate to focus on improving educational opportunities and learning outcomes for all our Aboriginal students.
- A new learning space has been created within the school for our AEW to work with individual students or small groups. Aboriginal resources will also be stored in this space.
- School continues to purchase new literacy resources. The most recent being Aboriginal based interactive whiteboard activities with teacher notes.
- Brendan from Botanic Gardens will be assisting our Environmental Group to further enhance our vegie garden and bush tucker garden.
- Speech Pathologist from the Sydney Children’s Hospital continues to work with identified Aboriginal students from Kindergarten and Year 1
- Yarn Up Program. In Term 2 mentoring teacher Jane Tovey attended a professional development session to assist in the implementation of the Yarn Up program. This year we have 4 students from Stage 3 participating in the Yarn Up Program. Students have completed two workshops. During the workshops students have the opportunity to develop their debating skills, in particular rebuttal, prepared and impromptu speeches and method, manner and method of the delivery of spoken presentations. Students are looking forward to the showcase later this term.
• **Koori Art Expressions.** Jane Tovey attended the wonderful workshop at the Art Gallery of NSW in Term 2. We are looking forward to creating and submitting fantastic pieces of artwork for the exhibition with assistance from Aunty Maxine and Roger Perry from our local community.

• We celebrated NAIDOC in Week 9 of Term 2. Students wore wear red, black and yellow clothes. Students, staff, parents and community members were involved in a variety of Aboriginal based activities throughout the week. These activities included art, craft, Indigenous sport games and music, drama and literature activities. There was a whole school performance by Sean Dewar (Gindaja). Sean shared many different aspects of his culture combining traditional and contemporary aspects. A whole school assembly was led by Stage 3 Aboriginal students and the K/1 Koala and K Possum students performed “Kangaroo Rock” at this assembly. Our special guests at the assembly were Akiesha and Kirsty from MSHS and Anthony Galluzzo, Aboriginal Education and Engagement Officer based at Arncliffe.

• Anthony continues to work closely with our school to support students with their transition to High School and to improve student attendance

• Our Year 5 students joined Matraville Sports High School for their NAIDOC celebrations. They had a wonderful time and enjoyed the performance.

• We were successful with our expression of interest for Aboriginal Education Program Funding with our focus on Readiness for School, Engagement and Connections and Attendance. We held our first Parent Meeting in Week 4.

• We are in the process of receiving 32 pavers from Amber Tiles to begin our outdoor learning area in the garden for our sand circle.

• We will continue to prioritise collaborative, positive, transparent relationships with our Aboriginal families as the key to ongoing educational success for all our Aboriginal students.

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