

WAKAKIRRI

NATIONAL STORY-DANCE FESTIVAL

FOSTERING BELONGING AND TEAMWORK: SALTWATER P-9 COLLEGE'S WAKAKIRRI JOURNEY

Although we've only recently joined Wakakirri, the journey and experience it has given us has already enriched Saltwater P-9 College and our community in so many ways.

Last year, under the theme of Belonging, we brought to life 'Under the Australian Sun'—a powerful story celebrating the incredible diversity of nationalities and cultures in the world's most multicultural country. As we built this storytelling performance, we took our students on a creative journey that extended far beyond the stage. They developed invaluable life skills, deepened their understanding of the world, and strengthened their ability to adapt and thrive—perfectly aligning with our school's vision and mission.

With each rehearsal, our cast members embraced the story and its meaning on a deeper level, as many of them and their families come from diverse cultural backgrounds. Teamwork became a defining theme of the experience, teaching our students the importance of unity and collaboration as they worked towards a shared goal. The growth we witnessed—both individually and as a group—surpassed all expectations, creating moments that made this journey even more special.

One of those unforgettable moments- Stepping into the office for just a second, only to hear students prompting each other in the studio, running the routine from start to finish as one big group. No music, no teachers—just all 43 students singing at full volume, dancing with everything they had, and cheering each other on. As teachers, all we could do was stop and watch in absolute awe. And the best part? This wasn't a one-off—it happened again and again throughout the entire journey. It's moments like these that remind us why we do what we do.

Beyond the performance, our students truly embraced the power of teamwork and the impact of working together—not just as individuals, but as a united group. They naturally stepped into leadership roles, helping peers with choreography, offering support, and lifting each other up without being asked.

Through respect, dedication, and an unwavering work ethic, these students achieved things they never thought possible. Their confidence grew, their strength deepened, and with each milestone, they pushed themselves further. This is the true magic of Wakakirri—it's more than just a performance; it's a transformative experience that shapes students and communities in ways that extend far beyond the classroom.

Thank you for allowing us to be part of this incredible journey alongside so many other amazing schools. We can't wait to do it all again!

Phil Haddad
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Performing Arts Dance Director



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