

Docker River Primary School

St Cecilia's has commenced an exchange program with an indigenous primary school in the town of Docker River in the Northern Territory.

Docker River Primary School has two classes, Kindergarten – Year 2 and Years 3 – 6. Many of the children have never been to a large town, let alone a city so the program will provide a meaningful exchange of knowledge and experiences between the older children and drawings amongst the younger children. The aim is that students from both schools will develop and share an understanding of and pride in our cultural heritage. The program will improve literacy, make learning fun and motivate children to improve reading and writing skills.

The program involves an exchange of artwork (for Kindergarten – Year 2) and letter writing (for Years 3 – 6) in Terms Two and Four each year. In December last year, all classes in St Cecilia's put together pages of individual artwork focused on 'Christmas by the Beach' and a Christmas booklet was sent to the children of Docker River.

This term St Cecilia's students will prepare letters and artwork with a 'Winter' theme and we're looking forward to hearing back from the children of Docker River.

Docker River township situated in the southwest corner of the Northern Territory, 670km from Alice Springs and 230km from Yalara and Uluru. The population fluctuates but is estimated at 420 and the community is served by an unsealed airstrip, general store, football oval, health and community agencies and a Lutheran church. William Paterson's (Year 4) grandparents have volunteered at the school over the past 8 years. Docker River Primary School is under the umbrella of the Nyangatjatjara College. We encourage you and your families to click on this link to see more information and photos from Docker River Primary School. <http://www.nyangatjatjaracollege.org.au/campuses/docker-river-primary>

A special thanks to Evelyn Paterson from the Parent Social Justice Team who initiated this program. *Tanya Fitzpatrick, Religious Education Coordinator*

