

Story-Dance is arts pathway for low SES schools

Involvement in the arts has wide ranging benefits for young people, both in and out of the classroom but schools in disadvantaged communities often have barriers to access.

Wakakirri has provided an accessible opportunity for Australian schools to perform in professional theatres and share their stories for 27 years. The Wakakirri Donation Program helps schools from low socio-economic areas to participate in the performing arts.

Kingswood High School in Western Sydney is one of 22 schools nationally receiving vital funding in 2019.

“The Wakakirri experience provides Kingswood High students and staff with opportunities for growth mentally, academically and economically,” says teacher Danielle Remaili, who coordinates Wakakirri at the school.

She said that Kingswood would struggle to participate in the performing arts



without the funding from Wakakirri:

“I have seen a decrease in families willing to place their students in extracurricular activities because they couldn't get together the funds. Parents and guardians are eager to see their children excel in these opportunities, however the financial

strain most families experience acts as the hindrance.”

The school first received funding in 2018, and according to Remaili “...many of the families were overwhelmed with the generosity of the donation. This has given their child an unforgettable experience and opportunity for success.

The school is one of many that use the Wakakirri Story-Dance Challenge to allow its students to explore issues that affect their communities. Last year Kingswood tackled the topic of domestic violence, and this year students are taking on climate change.

Kingswood will be performing their Wakakirri Story-Dance at Wakakirri's event at NIDA Theatres on 19 August 2019.

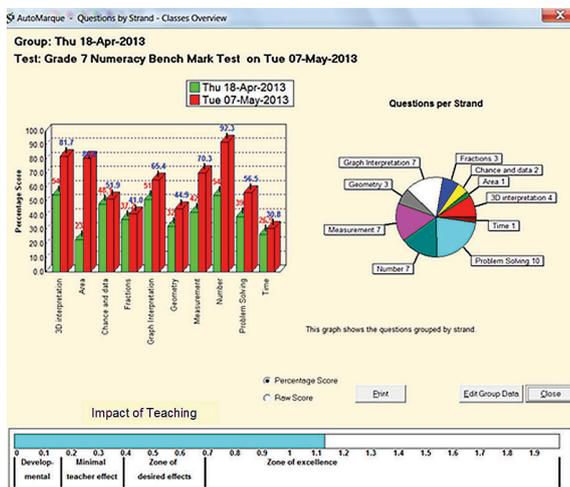
Entries for Wakakirri 2020 open in October, 2019. For information about Wakakirri and applying for funding go to wakakirri.com OR call (02) 9669 3777



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