



2020 | TERM 3 NEWSLETTER

MID YEAR NEWSLETTER

THE SAFE AND INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS INITIATIVE (SAIS) CAN HELP YOUR SCHOOL WITH PROFESSIONAL LEARNING, IDENTIFYING HIGH QUALITY INCLUSIVE RESOURCES, EXPERT ADVICE AND SUPPORT FOR YOUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY AND EVENTS.

VISIT **SAISACT.INFO** FOR MORE INFO

IDAHOBIT 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE

THE ACT SAFE AND INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS TEAM WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE INCREDIBLE AND TIRELESS WORK OF ACT EDUCATORS AND SCHOOL STAFF IN ADDRESSING AND RESPONDING TO THE RAPIDLY CHANGING NEEDS OF SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE.

As we know, this response moved schools and classrooms online, necessitating great resourcefulness and work from schools and staff. We would like to acknowledge the effort, adaptability and commitment to education and student wellbeing, displayed by school staff and executive teams. This has been an incredibly trying period for us all, and we hope that the return to face-to-face teaching is a smooth transition.

We encourage staff and students alike to take care of themselves and one another as we return to the school environment. For more information around easing back into face-to-face teaching and learning, check out this useful guide we have put together on our website **saisact.info**

NEW SAIS CORE TRAINING

WE ARE PLEASE TO ADVISE THAT OUR SAIS CORE TRAINING HAS BEEN RE-ACCREDITED WITH TIQ FOR 2020.

In response to our teacher feedback the new training has even re-accredite for three hours* and will help equip you with the tools to confidently select and include appropriate teaching and learning resources.

Get in touch to make a booking or inquiry for you and your school. Email: saisact@shfpact.org.au

Term 3 Tuesday 11 August 2020 (Week 4)

Term 4 Tuesday 3 November 2020 (Week 4)

IDAHOBIT GOES ONLINE + VIDEO MESSAGES AND NEW RESOURCES

International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia & Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) started in 2004 and is held on May 17th each year. In previous years, the ACT Safe and Inclusive Schools team have run student leadership days and activities, bringing together schools across the ACT.

This year, however, we moved our IDAHOBIT activities online. People all across the ACT got in touch and sent us some amazing videos that were shared, and can be viewed on the SHFPACT Facebook page, Youtube channel, and at **saisact.info**

We also posted information about IDAHOBIT, what it means and the history of the day on our website. You can find more information about IDAHOBIT at **saisact.info**



NEW TEACHING RESOURCES

As part of IDAHOBIT we also created two, brand new resources for teachers that are now available at **saisact.info**

- IDAHOBIT for Early Childhood and Primary School Teachers
- IDAHOBIT Activities and Resources Secondary Teachers

While these resources were created for IDAHOBIT, they can also be used to incorporate topics around diversity, gender, sex and sexuality in the classroom throughout the year!

RESOURCES **SAISACT.INFO** • EMAIL **SAISACT@SHFPACT.ORG.AU** • CALL **02 6247 3077**



Dancing to the Basslines and Beartraps set. Band members: Jemima Phillips, Jasmyna Steele, Joey Bishop and Ashley Garratt. Photo by Samantha Tarlinton.

WEAR IT PURPLE SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

LAST YEAR SAIS PARTNERED WITH THE ACT YOUTH COALITION TO HOST A SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM FOR WEAR IT PURPLE 2019.

The grants program was announced at the IDAHOBIT Student Day on the 17th of May and five grants were provided to ACT School's to support them in running school-based events to mark Wear It Purple. Here is a bit more information from 2 of the schools who received grants last year:

Hawker College celebrated Wear It Purple Day with a musical evening with dancing and live music from Basslines and Beartraps. The event was organised by the school's LGBTQI+ group Rainbow Fusion, and their allies.

Gungahlin College did some fantastic things with their Wear It Purple small grant, and beyond including:

- Organising a student-planned and run community breakfast, supported by staff and families to provide breakfast to the college students, staff and their families. Over 100 guests attended the breakfast including pastoral care staff and student' from Gungahlin College's partner college, Dickson College and network feeder schools Amaroo, Harrison and Gold Creek, members of the ACT Education Support Office and members of the Australian Education Union who had been supporting Gungahlin College throughout the year.
- A staff morning-tea that was organised and hosted by students and their families was held and all who attended were encouraged to wear something purple.
- A lunch-time screening of the film Gayby Baby organised by school staff from both Gungahlin and Dickson colleges.
- Education sessions during school-house team meetings and on televisions throughout the school about the meanings behind Wear It Purple Day, for staff, students and families

- Displaying and promoting posters made by students that championed positive LGBTQI+ mental health and personal messages as an act of awareness and capacity building for the school community.
- Connecting with the ACT Education Directorate and Australian Education Union's Pride Network, SHFPACT and their feeder schools through the Health, Psychology and English curriculums to offer extension learning and presentations, attended by the Pride Network and the Education Minister.
- Creating Library and Student Services displays put together by student leaders and volunteers
- Creating a mentor program for LGBTQI+ staff and student volunteer mentors in line with the ACT Education Directorate's Respect, Equity and Diversity (RED) Framework and the Australian Education Union's inclusive schools' guidance.
- Furthering commitment towards an ongoing weekly lunch support group, which has become very popular!
- Utilising ACT Safe and Inclusive Schools resources and professional development training
- Mentoring feeder schools and supporting other ACT schools to run their own Wear It Purple Day events and to build capacity across schools.
- Consulting with the school community about plans for Wear it Purple 2020 and what can be done to mark the day this year

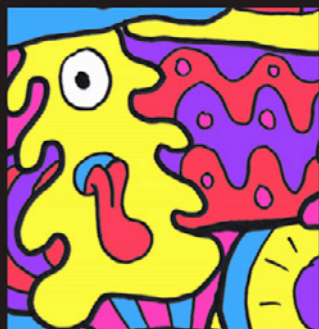
While their focus was on 'Wear it Purple', Gungahlin College used the ACT Education Directorate's Respect, Equity and Diversity (RED) values as their key messaging for the week.

These values were also used to reinforce learning about diversity, respect and inclusion over the following months. To meet their goals, Gungahlin College invited members of the clinical and community education teams from SHFPACT along with community partners from Y-engage and Carers ACT to come to the college during Pastoral Care sessions in order to provide specialist advice to students and staff.



WEAR IT PURPLE MADE BY GUNGAHLIN COLLEGE

GUNGAHLIN DROP IN



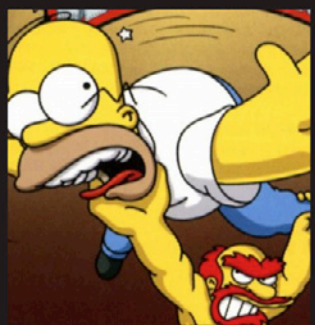
CHILL AND CHAT



FEED YOUR FACE



POP IN AND PAINT



WRESTLE AND WIN

**Nexus
Courtyard
Gungahlin college**
Wednesdays, 3.30 – 5.00
19 February 2020
12 - 25 years



ADVICE AND MENTORSHIP FROM GUNGAHLIN COLLEGE

Gungahlin College's advice to any other P-12 schools and teams interested in the week and values is

DON'T FRET ABOUT DOING IT ALL!

THINK AND START SMALL

**ENGAGE STUDENT VOICE,
GO QUALITY & SIMPLE, HAVE FUN!**

Gungahlin College invites other schools and educators to reach out and get in touch to discuss ways in which you can promote diversity and inclusion in your schools and to share their resources with you over a cup of coffee.

GUNGAHLIN COLLEGE'S MESSAGE TO OTHER SCHOOLS AND EDUCATORS

"Our staff took years to establish the community relationships, the curriculum links and resources to start very small, and inspire students and staff to take lead in designing and running the weeks we have for Wear it Purple and IDAHOBIT – we are very happy to mentor staff and students at other schools from P-12"

GET IN TOUCH WITH GUNGAHLIN COLLEGE

Matthew Noonan: matthew.noonan@ed.act.edu.au

David Gould: david.gould@ed.act.edu.au

EXCITING NEW AVENUES FOR GUNGAHLIN COLLEGE

The project planning and goal-setting around IDAHOBIT has been so successful at Gungahlin College in 2019, that IDAHOBIT week has now become a major focus for Gungahlin College's online and on-site Pastoral Care program for 2019 and 2020.

This has led to formal community partnerships with the ACT Education Directorate's and Australian Education Union's Pride Network, SHFPACT, the college's network feeder schools and Dickson College.

This further resulted in engagement with leadership from the Messengers Tuggeranong team and the new Gungahlin Youth and Community Services Coordinator. From this, Gungahlin College has been able to launch their new Gungahlin Messengers Youth Drop-In Program this year which runs both on-site and online. Local Youth Workers and Specialists run a range of cooking, arts and crafts, games and Olympic sports activities for youth aged 12-25 from across the network.

Some of these youth do not have fixed addresses, but know they can attend, connect and learn. The program is focused on supporting young people and staff, across government and non-government networks, everyone is welcome!



**GUNGAHLIN COLLEGE'S STUDENT, STAFF & FAMILIES
RAINBOW BOWLING SOCIAL, TEAM-BUILDING EVENING**

IMPORTANT 2020 DATES

August (last Friday)	Wear it Purple	wearitpurple.org
23 September	Celebrate Bisexuality Day (Bi Visibility Day)	bivisibilityday.com
8 October	International Lesbian Day	
26 October	Intersex Awareness Day	intersexday.org/en/category/actions/awareness
8 November	Intersex Day of Solidarity	intersexday.org/en/intersex-day-of-solidarity
November (Second Week)	Transgender Awareness Week	glaad.org/transweek
20 November	Trans Day of Remembrance	tdor.info
20 November	Universal Children's Day	un.org/en/events/childrenday
10 December	International Human Rights Day	un.org/en/events/humanrightsday

OTHER SCHOOLS DOING GREAT WORK

We love seeing, hearing about and sharing the great work that happens in schools across the ACT!

We would love to acknowledge and feature the fantastic initiative and efforts of Narrabundah College who have created a wonderful and welcoming display in their reception area, featuring ACT SAIS posters, pride flags, information and our newsletter!

Another ACT School wrote to us sharing a few of the things that have been happening at their school.

A CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Would you like your school's event or student's work featured in our SAIS Newsletter? Please contact us at saisact@shfpact.org.au if you have photos of an event your school has run or examples of students' art, short pieces of creative writing or other projects that you and your students wish to have featured.

Please ensure that you have written consent from students prior to submitting their work, and that all student submissions are anonymous.

SAIS PROJECT OFFICER
GABRIEL FILPI

02 6247 3077
GFilpi@shfpact.org.au



Cake Days

Members of the LGBTQ+ student group love to bake, so they regularly have meetings with rainbow cakes, and other delicious items that are shared. This is fun and promotes a sense of unity.

A Student Group Logo

The school's LGBTQ+ group designed their own logo that incorporates the group's name, the name of the school and a rainbow.

This logo is used on posters and materials around the school.

Raising Awareness

Members of the LGBTQ+ student have presented at year level assemblies across the year to promote awareness and acceptance of people with diverse genders and sexualities.

Wear it Purple Day:

Students were encouraged to wear purple accessories and donate to support LGBTQ Youth. This was followed up with a lunchtime event where purple cupcakes, bubbles and badges were sold. This school managed to raise over \$500 which was then donated directly to Wear it Purple!

What an amazing effort!

Campaigning for a Gender-Neutral Toilet

The LGBTQ+ student group have been actively campaigning for a gender-neutral toilet to be built in the school. They have written letters to various government ministers. We hear that the response has been very positive!

IDAHOBIT 2020

This year big plans were underway for a whole school celebration for IDAHOBIT, including:

- A sausage sizzle
- Games
- Face painting
- Selling pride merchandise to raise funds for future projects and LGBTQ charities.

Unfortunately, this was impacted by restrictions due to COVID-19 and we hope this can go ahead next year. The school is now focussing their attention on great plans for Wear it Purple Day!