

DECEMBER 2024 LGiS NEWSLETTER

The end of the year provides us so many opportunities for reflection. We have end of year assemblies and take a moment to celebrate the young people in our schools. We also are saying goodbye to our school leavers - reflecting on when we first knew them and celebrating as they take the next step in their lives. At our Mt Druitt Centre, our participants spoke of the value of the Learning Ground program at our end of year corroboree. This quotation from one young person is an apt reminder for us all of the value of a relational approach.

"Before Learning Ground, I was sad all the time and hardly ever came out of my room. I was anti-social and didn't eat much. Now, after being at Learning Ground I am out of my room more, I am more social, and I eat better than I used to. I am back to my happy self and managing my anxiety with strategies I learnt."

- Māori Taonga recipient

We are pleased to share some photos of the Corroboree event below.

Maori-Taonga

The Māori-Taonga Te Rawhitu (pictured right) was gifted to Mt. Druitt Learning Ground in 2010 by Māori Elder Sandra Pereira.

The award is the highest honour one can achieve at Mt. Druitt Learning Ground and is gifted to our young people past, present and future to commemorate their achievements, despite all challenges.

The Māori Taonga is not given every year, it is however presented to a young person(s) who has shown significant growth in their understanding of self and others.



2024 Recipients of the Māori-Taonga
Cooper. S (left) & Ella M.C (right)



MDLG student & Councillor Talia Amituanai

Councillor Talia Amituanai on behalf of Blacktown City Mayor Brad Bunting presented our Monday participants their awards.

Smoking Ceremony and Acknowledgment of Country conducted by Josh Sly - Biripi/Worimi/Wiradjuri



Josh Sly - Wambuul Designs

Yanu Term 4, Yanu 2024

Our facilitators joined school staff to celebrate the achievements of LGiS students and the rest of the newsletter will share some of those moments as well as some special moments from LGiS this year.

Since our pilot program in 2020 we have worked in over 15 schools, trained over 50 school staff, and facilitated the LGiS program to 713 students from Stage 3 - Stage 5.

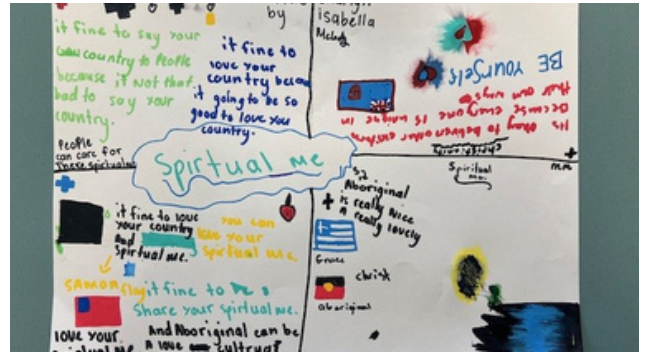
In 2024, our LGiS consultants have worked with 292 students, our biggest year to date.

Since the rollout of the program in Bidwill Public School in 2023, we have progressed into an additional 2 primary schools this year with more joining us in 2025.

We have expanded into Wellbeing officer roles in multiple schools and continue to support our school communities across greater Western Sydney by participating in numerous events promoting the importance education and student wellbeing.

Staff were thrilled to present, alongside school facilitators and mentors, an award to each student, recognising their growth, dedication and commitment to their learning to conclude LGiS for 2024.

We look forward to working with all current, and future schools in 2025.



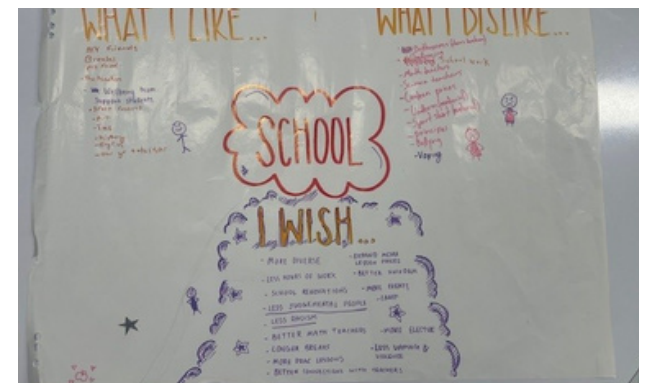
LGiS - Bennett Road Public School



LGiS - Glenmore Park High School



LGiS - Bidwill Public School



LGiS - Chifley College Dunheved Campus



LGiS - Lethbridge Park Public School
source: Lethbridge Park Public School Facebook



**PROFESSIONAL LEARNING
DATES - TERM ONE 2025**

FEB 13, 9am - 3pm

FEB 14, 9am - 3pm



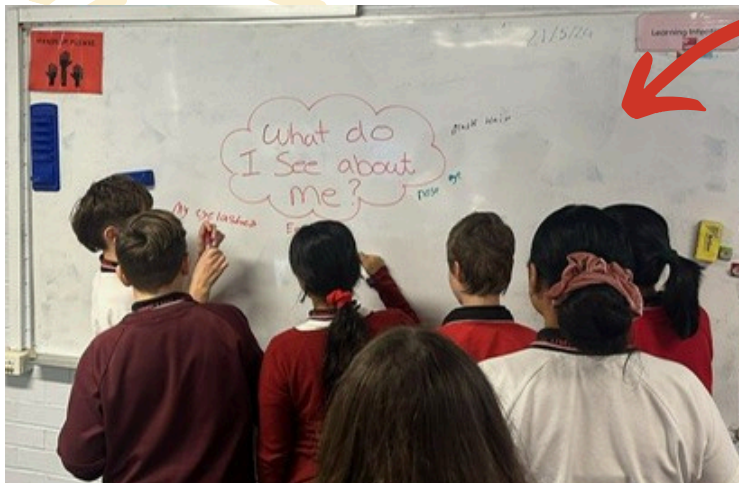
Students from Bidwill Public School during their reflective exercise created visual connections. Students were tasked to create a poster to summarise their LGiS learning experience.

A Bidwill PS mentor said, "This is connection" to which a student replied, "that's why we need you to add yours, so even when our work is apart its connected like a puzzle".

Students from Chifley College Bidwill Campus had an opportunity to revisit "safe place" and reflect on what a safe place looks like, what it sounds like and what it feels like.

"I don't usually talk to the kids in here, like at school. But I trust them, I know the stuff I share here is safe in here".

-CCBC student



Students from Plumpton High School spoke about their learning in 2024. One student said "Learning more about me helped me to understand the people in my school a lot better. I know now there's a reason people do and say stupid stuff and most of the time it's because of their Emotional Me, they're feeling something and probably don't think they can talk about it but that's not healthy and impacts all of your Me's especially Social Me".

**On behalf of Chain Reaction Foundation
we wish you a
Merry Christmas
and look forward to seeing you in the new year!**