



Generous donations in 2008 enabled the development of a special collection. It includes texts by Aboriginal authors, Aboriginal language resources, songs, and books on family history of particular tribes.

- Consultation with parents and staff
- Joint evaluation of books on approval
- Mapping of tribal and language groups relevant to Gawura children
- Utilising collection development officers in public libraries with indigenous collections, including Ronald Briggs, Indigenous Services Librarian at the State Library of NSW
- Employing the expertise of specialist indigenous publishers
- Using relevant government protocols to develop awareness of areas of sensitivity
- Staff visiting Thursday Island and Uluru to purchase resources



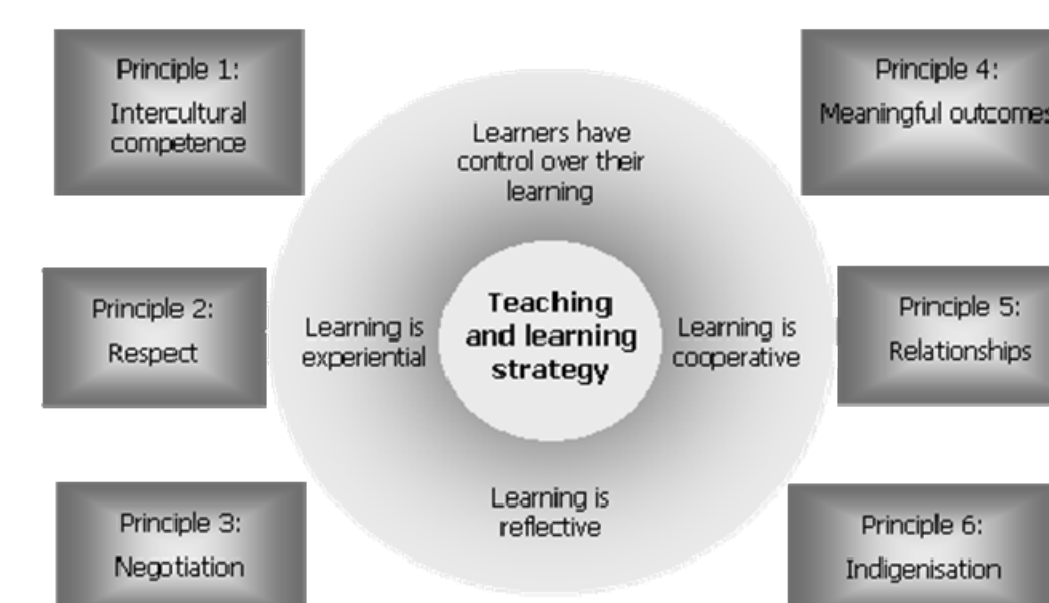
The collection's launch on 18 November 2008 was attended by the Gawura ambassador Professor Larissa Behrendt and the well-known Aboriginal singer Deborah Cheetham.



Hosting these demonstrates the value the school places on the culture and promotes reconciliation. It also supports the school's role in building values, understanding and good citizenship. Celebrations included: *Indigenous Literacy Day* *National Sorry Day*



The library staff work regularly with Gawura students to improve research and reading skills through weekly story-times, browse and borrow sessions, Literature Circles and collaboratively developed resource-based units. In developing these units we rely on the principles of indigenous learning model.



Academic performance of Gawura students has risen dramatically in NAPLAN tests.

LITERACY	NBYN				
	RELIGION	WITNESS	SPEAKING	NUMBER OF PUPILS IN THE CLASS	EXTRA LITER
SACS	521.5	514.3	490.7	534.5	517.8
GAUMBA	490.9	513.9	463.4	510.3	494.0
STATE	494.4	495.5	495.5	504.5	497.4
STATE INDEGENOUS	413.4	417.2	494.5	434.1	438.1

(Heath 2008; MCEETYA 2008)

ANTA. (2004), „Gettin’ into it! Working with Indigenous learners, A Teaching and Learning Strategies Project, p.15. Retrieved, July 20, 2009 from <http://www.nacinfo.com.au/inakit/pdf/Topic%20C5.pdf>

ATSI/LRN protocols. (2005). Retrieved July 10, 2009 from http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/atstillrn/protocols.atstillrn.asn.au/index6df0.html?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=0&Itemid=6

Heath, P.J. (2008). *Gawura: The whale inside a school. An approach to the education of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (Kindergarten to Year 6) from the inner city of Sydney*. Retrieved February 3, 2009 from http://www.gawura.nsw.edu.au/information/head_of_school

Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training & Youth Affairs. (2008). *National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 2008*. Retrieved February 25, 2008 from http://www.naplan.edu.au/naplan_2008_reporting/naplan_2008_reporting.html

Palmer, D. (2004). Talk - Secondary Assembly, St Andrew's Cathedral School, 9 March 2004

Many of our young people are like pelicans, floating on the water, clumsy in flight, forever circling, but not able to reach the heights. Occasionally we see one that is an eagle, able to soar, to dip and weave and dive, to play with air currents. We want all our boys and girls to be eagles. Education can make them eagles.

(Yolngu elder, Yirrkala, Arnhem Land - Palmer 2004)



58000BCE

1788

1820

Myall Creek massacre

Reconciliation

Stolen generations

1788

1820

Myall Creek massacre

Reconciliation

Stolen generations

Timeline of Aboriginal history

Last Tasmanian Aboriginal dies

Stolen children

Right to vote
granted