National Sorry Day Event 2015

National Sorry Day is an Australia-wide observance held on May 26 each year. This day gives people the chance to come together and share the steps towards healing for the Stolen Generations, their families and communities.

This year NT Stolen Generation and O’Loughlin Catholic College had formed a partnership and worked closely together to put a wonderful display of performances throughout the day.

O’Loughlin Catholic College attended the National Sorry Day Event that was held at the Jingili Water Gardens 2015. The event started at 9.30am bringing schools and the Community together to share the diversity of Sorry Day. The National Sorry Day brought our community the knowledge and understanding of the history of the stolen generation which was taught through our elders, dance and songs. Throughout the day there was Government and non-Government stalls representing their business and handing out free gifts to help the event and to make a good day for the community. Elders shared their stories based on the events of stolen generation which most of our students had no idea on what some of our elders had gone through.

The day started by our elders along with students from all schools had let off a purple balloon, which represents sorry day. O’Loughlin Catholic College year seven drama students performed a play that was about ‘how to make a fire’, which they only had two weeks to practice and they performed in front of about 500 community Elders, members and students our College also had two of our best year twelve singing students Tatiana De Costa De Silva and Grace Bestman performed with Miss Mandy Garling singing three beautiful songs Our Journey, Why Yer and Brown Skin Baby by Bob Randle which bring peace, joy and smiles to our elders.

O’Loughlin Catholic College students printed a hand with a written message in their own words, representing of what they thought of sorry day, their hands were then placed in the ground. Students enjoyed the day with face painting, weaving, canvas painting and a footy clinic which was run by Kormilda College Clontarf and a free sausage sizzle. Some of the students had gone home feeling excited about the day and had learned about the Indigenous perspective about National Sorry Day. Here are two of the highlights written from two of our year nine student reflecting on what they thought of the day.

I enjoyed everything about today, there were fun activities e.g. painting, weaving, face painting and there were also great food and many committed people.

I don’t think sorry day could be improved in any way; everyone was so very enthusiastic and committed.

By Clair Wylie 9.2
Being a non-Indigenous person I enjoyed everything about today I learnt how to paint, weave and most of all learnt the history of the stolen generation (Kahlin compound, Retta Dixon home) by talking to some of the elders. I think the government should help out by supplying an enclosed area for all of the Elders and show power points as well and all the displays.

By Kellie