

# Ingham State High School

## Connections

Our artwork was initially inspired by the idea of day and night and the beauty of the First Nations country where we live. The feminine design is formed from multiple pieces of painted calico with the shape of the circle dominate throughout. The circle design represents the sun and the moon shown by the two dominate colours of yellow orange (day – earth) and blue black and silver (night sky). Each are layered with patterns representing the shadows that they cast onto the landscape. However, the meaning grew to also represent the importance of the generations and the sharing of their cultural knowledge and skills.

The long calico strips on the skirt represent the rays from the sun. The weaving of the calico blanket is a feature worn on the back which conveys the connection between day and night.

The staff is a show of strength of the perpetual timelessness of the sun and moon and its steadfastness to provide for

First Nations people. The feathers hanging on the staff represent trust, honour, power, and freedom. The raffia woven circles are a reminder that we are deeply tied to the generations of our Elders, those who are with us today and those who have passed and that their influence remains strong throughout the generations.

The design has a simple woven headpiece using beads, cane, and raffia to create a crown like appearance. The crown symbolises perseverance and power and serves as a reminder we all have a place on country. Raffia is used on the crown as raffia comes from plant fibre. As First Nations people, we felt it was important to strive to continue the use of natural and sustainable materials. Just like the cycle of night and day, the overall design hopes to convey the significance of the connections between all generations reflected in the symbolism of the circles.

### Connections 2023

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Raffia, calico, acrylic paint, beads, glitter, sequins, wood, styrofoam ball.

