

Wulguru State School

The Sun Women- Summer

In Northern Australia there is traditional storytelling about twin suns, these stories vary depending on what region you are in. The Yolngu People of Arnhem land believe that there are twin suns, a Sun-Mother (Walu) and her daughter (Bara). They were believed to have been so powerful that they could not be in the sky at the same time as they feared their heat would burn the people on the land.

This year our Wulguru State School students were able to take inspiration from these stories to create our art piece, and we were fortunate to have twin sisters modelling for us. While interpreting these stories, our students discussed that our winter and summer sun have a different colour pallet which became the basis of our art piece. Our summer sun displays warm colours (red, orange, and yellow) while our winter sun displays cooler colours (blue, pink, and purple).

On both art pieces there are sun disks with centre pieces that were uniquely designed reflecting that the sun is forever changing. Each disk was made of paper and the centre pieces were made of cardboard.

The materials that we used to create both art pieces were dyed and printed by the students with the guidance of a local First Nations artist, Barbara Webster. The students were excited to learn how you could use natural resources from around the school (branches, leaves, bark etc.) to dye and print. This traditional art was used to signify what the sun creates.

The red feathers symbolise the traditional dress worn by the Sun Women. This creation is to remind us that the sun is an all-powerful source and is vital for our country's survival.

The Sun Women - Summer 2023

Charles BOHISEN, Tiarna BROOKS, Skyla CHRISTIE (model - Summer), Sonja CHRISTIE (model - Winter), Taylah DALTON, Amari FRAZIER-DUNNE, Cara HURST, Sienna LUXTON, Fania NONA, Roland O'CLOUDY, Kyrie-Leigh QUAKAWOOT, Mekiesha ROMA, Jordana SNARY, Loty TOM, Leonte WATSON-LAWRENCE, Monica WILLIS.
Natural printing and dyeing with leaves and bark on to fabric, feathers, wool, beads, paper and cardboard.

