



ST PETER CLAVER COLLEGE

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Q1: What was your initiative or project about?

Briefly describe the initiative or project. How did your school become aware of the issue or opportunity? Which Wish for Education did it address?

The project that our school has initiated is a 'cultural evening'. This cultural evening is an event that gives our school students and school community an opportunity to come together and embrace the diverse cultures within our community through sharing food and cultural performances. Our students had seen many other schools within our community embracing cultural diversity through this event and we thought we'd give it a try. This event will benefit our community in the future as it will help adopt a safer and more inclusive space for students and the wider community. This event helps our students to feel safe and a sense of belonging, which encourages them to come to school and be themselves. Isaac (Yr 12) We drew inspiration from our College Harmony Day celebration and figured we could extend our College's cultural personality beyond just the day to a night that involved our family, food and fun. We celebrated the evening during Catholic Education Week. Levi (Yr 11).

We thought this was an opportunity to bring our families more closely into our school community and experience what we love about sharing our cultures. Our hopes were for an evening of connection and joy. We thought food was an important part of that, so the evening began with families bringing their favourite cultural dish. It was an opportunity to grow leadership in the younger students as they worked alongside us to make the evening happen. It was important to us that everyone had a voice and that no one dominated. Our decisions were shared, and we learnt together. At St Peter Claver we say that we are held in the sacred heart of this community and the Cultural Evening was a way for us come together and bring our parents into the sacred heart of this community. In our photos you will see the heart and heart symbol featured as this and our cultural values were touchstones. Anna (Yr 12)

Q2: How did you bring the initiative or project to life?

Explain how students and staff worked together to plan and implement the project. What roles did students play?

To bring the cultural evening together our students came together as a big team to make sure that our Cultural evening was filled with love and inclusion. There were many roles that students had to take part in including:

- Teaching roles: Teaching many dances including different moves, dances, positions to our group.



- Leadership roles: taking on leadership responsibilities and making sure that everyone was focused and included.
- Organising roles: organising our costumes and making sure everyone had a costume size fitted to their name.
- Commitment roles: committing to showing up at all rehearsals.
- Cultural roles: most importantly our cultural roles of making sure that we were creating a joyful environment where everyone not only felt proud to represent their cultural heritage but also appreciated and celebrated the diverse cultures of our peers. Ruth (Year 12)

Rich collaboration between students and teachers made this night possible. Levi (Year 11)

What made it successful? *What positive changes or outcomes did you see for students? How did it improve their experience at school?*

The Cultural Evening has had a positive outcome because it was through students' determination, the help of staff & the love & passion for our culture. At my previous high school, I was not given this opportunity to showcase my Samoan culture, but it was through the hard work, tireless practices during lunch breaks & effort that was put in that made it all come together in the end. From all performers across the school ranging from Grade 12-7, we worked as a team to keep the culture alive & overall we owe a debt in gratitude for those who allowed us to have those practice times. Mya (Yr 9)

Cultural Night positively impacted students by fostering a sense of belonging and pride in their identities. It created a space where students can share their cultural backgrounds through food, music, dance, and traditional dress. It created an opportunity for students to learn about each other's cultures in a respectful way and encouraged cultural sharing, strengthened peer connections, and promoted inclusion. Involving families in the celebration deepened the connection between home and school, while students who helped organise or perform developed valuable leadership and collaboration skills. Overall, Cultural Night enriched the school experience by creating a more inclusive, respectful and vibrant community where every student felt seen and valued. Michelle (Yr 11)

It brought families from all different backgrounds together to share a meal, get to know one another and celebrate many the many cultures that make Claver, Claver. All the hard work paid off and all of us students with the help of our wonderful teachers hosted an amazing night of performances and represented our cultures with so much pride. All our families loved the night and can't wait for the next one. I personally introduced a new culture into the school's celebration, I represented Scotland – I was so happy that it was received so well and can't wait to dance the swords next year. Elly (Yr 11)

The Cultural Evening made me more confident in who I am and where I come from. It also made me parents super happy to see me represent my country. Usually



when people think El Salvador, they think of gangs and crimes, but I want them to see the beautiful side of my culture, and that's where cultural night helps. It was amazing to see other cultures perform and learn about their cultures with our families. It always brings people together and it definitely brought me and my mum closer to each other, especially when we do something we love. Thalia (Year 11)

What would you do differently next time?

If another school wanted to run a similar project, what advice would you give them? What lessons did you learn?

The advice I give is: just send it. Give it a go. What is the worst that can happen? (Isaac Yr 12)

I feel that Cultural evening had a positive impact as it gave students more opportunities to represent their culture. Personally, I felt a sense of pride and feel it brought all the cultural groups closer together, including the audience. I really enjoyed the opportunity we gave the students/guests to share a traditional meal, it contributed to the inclusivity and displayed the diverse cultural community SPCC has. I feel as a senior, by hosting culture night, it demonstrated the cultural significance in the SPCC community and assured the parents of younger student that their child is apart of a culturally safe environment. In addition, being leader of the Aboriginal group gave me an amazing opportunity to practice and demonstrate my leadership skills and inspired me to apply for Culture Captain. Marlie (Yr 11)

We learnt that planning is important and that starting with everyone's hopes is a good way to begin.

Keep everyone included and involved.

Draw on people's strengths such as family members who can help with performances.

Keep the faith when everyone gets a bit tired and scattered.

Laugh together and eat together.

Circle up to communicate.





