

Performing arts participation skyrockets at Hoppers Crossing Secondary College

This year more than 250 students will be part of the school's Wakakirri Story-Dance production, a program that achieves curriculum outcomes as students prepare a 3-7 minute item to be performed at a professional theatre with other schools. The 2019 competition will be the school's seventh year.

Wakakirri Coordinators, Kate Elmer (Junior Programs Manager & Dance/Health and Human Development Teacher) and Jemma Lowther (Dance/Health and Physical Education Teacher) said: "Students love the connections they make with other students in different year levels. Our Wakakirri team becomes a big family through the ongoing rehearsals.

"The older students become role models through their leadership in choreography and backstage production, whilst also becoming familiar faces to the junior



students, which builds our students' connectedness to the college.

"It's great to see the students work together as a team and grow as individuals. The joy this program brings to our students is the reason we come back every year. Wakakirri provides leadership opportunities for our students, builds student confidence and allows students the opportunity to celebrate success outside of their academics."

The school tells stories on stage that unpack experiences the school community faces, from mental health to race and privilege. The coordinators said the overall theme this year will be about "recognising the impacts rumours and the digital world can have on individuals and the behaviours we would like young people to display instead.

"The Wakakirri program gives students from all backgrounds and academic levels the opportunity to feel successful within the school."

Teachers and principals are invited to enquire about complimentary tickets to a Wakakirri show near their location, or to join a Backstage Tour to 'learn the ropes' of a day at Wakakirri.

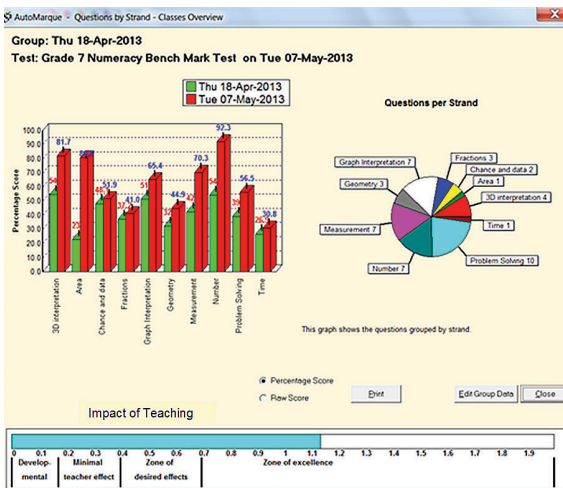
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