

Mini Career Pals Liverpool and Fairfield

“Disadvantaged students are likely to underperform in literacy. Students who struggle with reading and writing are more likely to disengage from education and leave school early.” (Early School Leaving and Non Completion in Australia, ACER).

The program involves a class of Year 6 students from across 4 different schools exchanging letters throughout the school year with adult volunteers from different vocations and professions to improve literacy and inspire their learning through the art of letter writing.

Through ClubGRANTS, Cabravale Diggers Club has funded 2 schools in the Fairfield LGA and Kemps Creek Sports Club has funded 2 schools in the Liverpool LGA, totalling 120 students.

SWC engaged and recruited over 80 volunteers to be “Career Pen Pals” to local students, sharing their insights, experience and words of wisdom into the world of work, they also have the opportunity to meet each other at a celebratory lunch at the conclusion of the program. Both have been avidly exchanging letters over the past few months, Students are encouraged to open their minds and imagination up to the possibilities and adventures they may have as employed adults. Expanding their understanding and desire to dream and achieve students are provided with the opportunity to visit and explore a famous Sydney icon.

With many students curious about the entertainment industry and the world of

acting, SWC activated our special contact to provide students with a unique opportunity to see a live performance of “Hamlet – King of Skidmark”, a humorous adaptation of the Shakespeare classic for young people at the Sydney Theatre Company, followed by lunch at The Rocks. Other schools toured the University of Sydney, the Sydney Opera House and the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia.

An unexpected outcome of this initiative is Marsden Road Public School replicating the program, embedding it into their curriculum across 5 of their senior classes. The Assistant Principal acknowledged that the structure and content provided by SWC built their capacity to create their own internal pen pal program, modifying the unit of work to support outcomes and content from the NSW English K-6 syllabus.

SWC is planning to host a breakfast session to share this information with schools across the Fairfield and Liverpool LGA’s interested in replicating this fun, innovative and relevant real life aspirational program in their own schools. Refreshments and resources will be provided. Please contact SWC or visit our website for additional information.

Photos – Left to right, top to bottom: 1. Students visiting the University of Sydney. 2&3. Tour of the Sydney Opera House. 4. Students inside the gallery of the Sydney Opera House getting a great view of the Harbour Bridge. 5. Students visiting Cabra-Vale Diggers Club. 6. Shakespeare’s “Hamlet” play students went to watch at the Sydney Theatre Company.



