

MEDIA RELEASE
13 November, 2008



Eden Learning Centre students brighten Wombat Willows Child Care Centre

On 18 November, 2008 the students of Youth Off The Streets Eden Learning Centre, Macquarie Fields will be completing a series of paintings designed to brighten up the play areas of the Wombat Willows Child Care Centre.

Working in partnership with the Campbelltown City Council's Children's Services Section, Eden Learning Centre students have taken part in a Service Learning Art Project that has seen them give back to the community by painting colourful images onto the surface of the preschool's outdoor play areas.

"Eden is right next door to the child care service and our older students relate well to the young children; so we decided to offer to resurface the playground with colourful and easily recognisable images to compliment the children's preschool learning experience," said Tim Stevens, Eden Learning Centre Teacher.

The colourful creation has taken 12 weeks to prepare from inception and design through to completion of the artworks.

It has taken eight students three full days to complete the painting of a variety of images chosen by the preschoolers. These include a dinosaur, lady beetle, frog, butterfly, elephant and flowers.

14 year old student Jess completed a pink lady beetle by firstly drawing the outline in chalk and then painting the final version. "*It looks really good, it came up much better than I had expected. All the works look really professional,*" she said.

"*When we were painting, the kids in the child care centre were really excited, they all stood peeping out at us through the windows. They seemed to like them, it was great to see them so happy,*" she said.

Youth Off The Streets are very grateful to Bunnings Hardware for supporting this service learning initiative: "*We'd like to thank Bunnings Hardware who helped to make this project possible by providing paint free of charge,*" Said Tim Stevens.

The Youth Off The Streets Service Learning Program encourages students to give back to the community in order to instil a sense of pride and self worth through helping others. Father Chris Riley believes that "*every young person has greatness within,*" the Service Learning Program is designed to help students discover that greatness.

MEDIA / PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

When	11:30am – 2:30pm, Monday or Tuesday 18 November, 2008
Where	Wombat Willows Child Care Centre 30 Victoria Road Macquarie Fields
Who	Tim Stevens, Teacher, Eden Learning Centre Eden Learning Centre student artists
What	Students putting on the finishing touches to artworks designed and created by students of Eden Learning Centre. The artwork is being painted to brighten up the playground of the Wombat Willows Child Care Centre.

Youth Off The Streets Mission:

Helping disconnected young people to discover greatness within, by engaging, supporting and providing opportunities to encourage and facilitate positive life choices.

About Youth Off The Streets:

Youth Off The Streets is a non-denominational community organisation working for young people who are chronically homeless, drug dependent and recovering from abuse. We support these young people as they work to turn their lives around and overcome immense personal traumas such as neglect and physical, psychological and emotional abuse.

Since opening in 1991, Youth Off The Streets has grown from a single food van delivering meals to young homeless people on the streets of Kings Cross to a major youth specific agency providing a wide range of services offering a full continuum of care.

It is our goal that these young people will leave our care drug free, with a high school education, living skills and a full or part time job in hand. To donate to Youth Off The Streets, please call: 1800 06 22 88 or visit: www.youthoffthestreets.com.au

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For more information, about Youth Off The Streets please contact:

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Father Chris Riley's

Youth Off The Streets®