

National Boarding Week Activities Guide

ECHOES OF HOME



Boarders Birthday Cakes - Service Initiative – a collaborative, student-lead movement. Partnering with It's The Little Things Foundation and supporting families connected to Ronald McDonald House Charities Australia, the initiative brings boarding communities together to bake and decorate birthday cakes, write heartfelt cards, and prepare them for delivery to families staying at Ronald McDonald Houses. For many families, birthdays can pass quietly while a child is in hospital, and this small gesture helps restore celebration, dignity and normality during an incredibly challenging time.

Home Country Map Wall – boarders place pins or photos on a large map showing where they come from, adding a short story, fun fact or memory.

Cultural Dress Day – invite boarders to wear traditional clothing, team colours, or outfits that remind them of home.

Shared Items Display – boarders bring an object from home (or a photo of one) and create a “Echoes of Home Gallery.”

Favourite Childhood Snacks Stall – set up a tasting station with nostalgic snacks from different regions or cultures.

Cultural Bake-Off or Cook-Off – boarders work in teams to recreate a meal that represents their family or heritage.

Memory Mural – boarders create a collaborative artwork representing things that “echo” from home: sounds, objects, sayings, traditions.

Echoes Playlist – boarders contribute songs that remind them of home; create a shared playlist for common spaces.

Traditions Through Time – a storytelling night where older boarders share memories from their early boarding years and traditions that shaped them.

Photo Walk: What Feels Like Home Here? – boarders take photos around the school or community capturing moments that feel like home.

Echoes Exhibition – art pieces or photos inspired by home: landscapes, pets, family quotes, symbols.

Cultural Craft Workshops – weaving, beadwork, carving, calligraphy, or craft traditions from boarders’ backgrounds.

Portraits of Home – each boarder paints or illustrates what “home” looks like to them.

Echoes Scrapbook – a communal scrapbook filled with memories, drawings, and messages from boarders across year levels.

High Tea or BBQ With Families – invite local families or those able to travel to celebrate the week together.

Inter-House “Echoes Games” – friendly competitions inspired by games students played at home (e.g., backyard cricket, traditional games, local sports).

Gratitude Wall: Messages to Home – notes of appreciation for family and community.

Backyard Games Tournament – Boarders teach and play the games they played growing up – backyard cricket, footy kicks, elastics, skipping games, spotlight/tag, handball, marbles, chasey, etc.

Boarder vs Day School Mini-Olympics: Include quirky home-inspired events such as gumboot throwing, sack races, backyard cricket accuracy, skipping, tug of war.