



Position Description & Selection Criteria for Early Childhood / Primary Classroom Teacher

Job Title:	Early Childhood to Primary Classroom Teacher (English as an Additional Language and upskilling to bi-literacy teaching)
Job Type:	Full Time Position.
Salary Classification:	Class Room Teacher
2019 Salary Range: (2020 salary range not yet published)	CT1 –CT9 \$72,977- \$103,697 scale; Dependent on qualifications and experience. Employment and remote incentive conditions are included, details available on request.
School:	Mäpuru Yirralka College
Responsible to:	Principal
Accommodation Provided:	Where possible independent housing available. Additional house being built 2019. Ability to share housing appreciated.
Date advert closes:	Position left open until filled.
Start Date:	To be at Mäpuru Friday 24 th January 2019

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Employer: Yirralka Education

Yirralka is the sacred land that the Creator, your ancestors have given you; your home-land; your sanctuary; the place where you feel immersed in your ancestors presence, knowledge and love; a place where you feel 'in place', secure, whole.

Yirralka Education is a legal entity, recently formed to enable Mäpuru families, elders and custodians to govern their own educational facilities, programs and their own school. It is a member-based Company Limited by Guarantee and governed by a constitution. Alongside the majority Yolŋu membership of Mäpuru elders and parents, Yirralka Education also consists of Specialist Directors who have had long term relationships with Mäpuru, it's school and remote Indigenous education and governance generally across east Arnhem Land and the Northern Territory.

Mäpuru Yirralka College began operating in January 2018 and implements a bi-cultural and bi-literacy teaching and learning program across the curriculum.

Yirralka Education and its school at Mäpuru are located on Yolŋu land. The school listens closely to all community members and the Wobulkarra, Guyamirrilil, Ritharrŋu, Ganalbiŋu, Munyuku, Ūya-ŷanmirr Gupapuyŋu land custodians and invited others who together form Yirralka Education.

Yirralka Education deeply acknowledges that Yolŋu knowledge and ways of being in the world offer an alternative, hopeful, sustainable and harmonious way forward for mankind. Yirralka Education's independent school, Mäpuru Yirralka College enables Yolŋu elders, custodians and families to give voice to their aspirations for their children and town, to lead education for their children in their college. Few westerners have been exposed to and had the possibility of glimpsing this other world view and depth of hope.

It is such a new enterprise that Yirralka Education has not yet created a web presence.

For more information please request the document "Philosophy Behind Mäpuru Yirralka College".

Background to the Position

Yirralka Education at Mäpuru is seeking teachers who can develop longstanding relationships with the people of Mäpuru in east Arnhem Land. Currently both teaching positions in the school are being advertised. The Primary Classroom Teacher and the Middle School Classroom Teacher.

The school is led by Mäpuru's elders through Yirralka Education and operates a bi-literacy and bi-cultural program in two classrooms, the Primary and Secondary. Each class consists of a teaching team, a qualified teacher and 2 local Yolŋu co-teachers (assistant teachers).

The Primary teaching position requires a teacher who is so competent at teaching initial literacy and numeracy, that they can team teach with local assistant co-teachers, to enable them to teach initial literacy and numeracy in the local language, which is Djambarrpuyŋu.

Teaching in a multi-year level class, through a bi-literacy and bi-cultural curriculum within a teaching team is a very new way of working for most teachers.

Living and working in a very remote and rewarding environment requires teachers with a special philosophical outlook and skill set which takes time and experience to develop. The college is working towards sustainability by supporting its teachers to gain these skills and provide the strongest quality education possible to its students. Relationships with a number of relief teachers who can support, you, the teacher, through relief teaching to form a sustainable working life are also being developed.

Mäpuru Yirralka College has been developing under the banner of Mäpuru Christian School, from 2011 - 2017. As a newly independent school, it is still in its infancy, some aspects are already robust and others are fragile and still being developed. Mäpuru Yirralka College requires teachers who can appreciate what has already been developed, and actively contribute to developing the next stages of college resourcing.

Primary Class composition

There are about 6 -14 beautiful, enthusiastic children ranging from Preschool through to Yr 6 in this class. The Primary area consists of 2 classrooms separated by a large verandah and breezeway side by side, enabling students to work together for part of the day and then separate into groups later in the day. This learning environment (as well as the teaching team set up) enables creative and flexible solutions to appropriate program delivery for grouping students for a range of activities. All students and Yolŋu teachers are close family members to each other.

Primary Teacher Key responsibilities

As a fully qualified teacher, you will be responsible for the Primary class and will work as a teaching team member with Yolŋu co-teachers (assistant teachers). Teaching duties include ensuring continuity of the established class routines and pedagogies and developing programs, resources, assessments and reports. The Yolŋu co-teachers will support you to fulfil your role and educate you about the students and their learning needs, the routines and pedagogies and collaboratively developed teaching programs. The Primary classroom is staffed with 1 qualified teacher and 2 Yolŋu co- teachers (assistant teachers).

Your responsibilities will include applying your strong teaching skills to support and co-lead the Yolŋu teaching team to implement bi-literacy (Djambarrpuyŋu and English) and numeracy programs. The Yolŋu teachers will support you to teach an oral English literature based program, and numeracy programs. You the qualified teacher will support the Yolŋu teachers to teach an initial literacy program in Djambarrpuyŋu (listening, speaking, reading and writing). The Australian Curriculum areas will be integrated across these learning programs.

You will be expected to be continuously engaging with and supporting the Yolŋu co-teachers through developing and implementing the teaching and learning programs, co-planning and implementing meaningful activities relevant to the Mäpuru context and supporting the aspirations of the Yirralka Education Board for their children. Enabling the teaching team to develop the learners' identity, literacy and love of learning together as a family will also be a key focus. As the qualified teacher, it will be your role to enhance the Primary learning program through a range of relevant applied activities, song, music, arts and sports.

The Primary Teacher is also required to support the Yolŋu co-teachers to develop stronger literacy and numeracy skills. Yirralka Education also values teachers who welcome community members into their classrooms and who are flexible, creative and adaptable with uncertainty.



Primary students learning from custodians and elders on ancestral estates.



Primary students learning inside the classroom.

Upholding and supporting the vision

Yirralka Education require their teachers to uphold their college Vision Statement and assist the college to become sustainable through supporting Elders, parents, students and teachers and respecting Yolŋu traditions, knowledge, cultural practices and languages. Your role is ever rewarding in supporting this vision and includes:

- Supporting Mäpuru parents and community to live with dignity on their sacred ancestral estates.
- Supporting the teaching of, and respect for the sacredness and spirituality of the environment within an encompassing system of Yolŋu kinship.
- Actively supporting Mäpuru people to maintain their independent community lives, enabling them to do and to manage for themselves.
- Offering Mäpuru parents and community hope and stability in an ever-changing world.
- Offering an inclusive school curriculum, embedded in Yolŋu knowledges and Mäpuru's micro-enterprises.
- Supporting the Yolŋu teachers with their literacy and numeracy development, alongside knowledge of their professional responsibilities through working together during planning time and in the classrooms.
- Practising, rehearsing and role playing the actual lessons that will take place the next day with the Yolŋu co-teachers, during scheduled daily learning together and programming time.
- Determining practical/applied, relevant, learning tasks to practise English and numeracy skills across the curriculum.

- Incorporating cooperative learning tasks where students can collaborate and not have to compete. This will also be a means of developing harmony within and outside the classroom.
- Welcoming all students, including the ones who live outside of Mäpuru and visit occasionally, alongside welcoming community members into your classroom.
- Finding ways for elders and knowledge authorities to guide and have input into the curriculum and the teaching and learning activities.
- Actively participating in community life, trying to learn a Yolŋu language and use Yolŋu kinship within the school and wider community.
- Visiting and enjoying being with families outside school hours.
- Being a part of the vibrant Mäpuru community.

A Rewarding Opportunity

This is a unique opportunity to work and live in a healthy and productive remote Indigenous community. Whilst this experience is not for everyone, those that are committed and open to the opportunity will be offered a life-changing journey in which you will see the direct, positive impact you can make as a teacher on other peoples lives, the futures of learners in your class, their families and even the future of the entire town of Mäpuru.

We are excited to be able to offer this opportunity to join our passionate and dedicated team.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Application Process

Please submit a resume, cover letter and response to selection criteria to Linda Miller. This position will remain open until filled.

Email: linda.miller@ntschoools.net

Essential Criteria

- Ability to be registered as a teacher in the NT
- Early Childhood or Primary teaching qualifications and experience
- Demonstrated ability to design and implement early literacy and early numeracy programs
- EAL/D or ESL experience and/or qualifications
- NT Working With Children Card (Ochre Card)
- Demonstrated ability to work as a flexible team member in a multi-cultural team
- Demonstrated deep respect for Aboriginal cultures
- Ability to uphold Yirralka Education's Vision for their school and adhere to Cultural Safety guidelines
- Ability to work alongside and also take direction from Yolŋu teachers and Elders
- Current manual Driver Licence (or promise to obtain immediately)
- Ability to be flexible and share staff housing from time to time

Desirable Criteria

- Experience in teaching Indigenous learners and/or familiarity in teaching in multicultural settings where English is not the first language.
- Have completed or are willing to complete CDU's "Introduction to Yolŋu Culture and Language" course
- Have a good understanding of a Yolŋu language
- Have a working understanding of bi-literacy and bi-cultural learning theories and/or experience teaching in these contexts.

Two teaching positions are currently advertised, Primary and Middle School. Expressions of Interest from teaching couples or friends who are willing to share a generously appointed, two bedroom house together are encouraged to apply.