In March this year, St Francis Catholic Primary School, Tannum Sands, invited Roger Saunders, an indigenous artist to the school. Roger is a long-time friend of St Francis Catholic Primary and is always eager to help support, encourage and promote indigenous culture. Roger was invited along to help the students paint four murals that depicted the Kanyini culture as well as the values of the school community.

Kanyini underpins the unique St Francis culture. The four connected quantities of Ngura – Place, Walytja – Family, Kurunpa – Spirituality, and Tjuukurpa – Philosophy are seen within the school community through welcome, forgiveness, comfort and a love of Jesus. The symbol of Kanyini is present in two of the four murals.

In each mural, there are enhancement words and these words were chosen by our 2015 school leaders. Each word reflects a value that the school community deem important in the school. “As we walk past these words and see them written on the murals, we are reminded each and every day of the way in which we are to treat, speak and act to those in our school community,” Kathleen Watt (Acting Principal) said.

The mural project is also part of the Building School Legacies program which has benefited the school and is something tangible that provides high value to the community as well as providing educational, social, emotional, spiritual, and cultural benefits to the students who completed the artwork.

With the generous donation through the Building School Legacies program provided to the school by Boyne Smelters, students were able to participate in such a unique, life-changing, forever memorable event. For many generations to come, students will come back and bring their families to show them the murals they created.