Harmony Day 2014

This year EHPS celebrated Harmony Day on Thursday 20 March 2014.

The message of Harmony Day is Everyone Belongs. It is a day to celebrate Australia’s cultural diversity. It is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home—from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world.

At our school, we celebrated Harmony Day in various ways. All students participated in classroom activities throughout the morning. Some classes completed surveys; others played games and/or investigated different sports played across cultures. To encourage students to explore the diverse backgrounds and experiences of their classmates, some classes participated in ‘Our Diverse Classroom’ activity. This allowed students to engage with classmates with whom they would not usually engage.

The culmination of these activities was the sharing of cultural meals at our International Food Luncheon. It was fantastic to see the school community spirit and cultural sharing. The lunch was a great success thanks to all our wonderful parents who sent delicious plates of food on the day. The students, staff and parents who attended, had a feast and enjoyed tasting foods they would not necessarily experience on a day to day basis.

By participating in Harmony Day activities, our students learn and understand how all Australian from diverse backgrounds equally belong to this school and community, and make it a better place.

This day would not have been the success it was without the
help and support from our P&C and a handful of fantastic parents who were at school to store, heat and prepare the platters for our lunchtime feast. A big thanks to Jodie Earl, Kathryn McGrath, Angel Craig, Cassandra-Lee Cook, our P&C members and our teachers.

Mrs Fletcher

**National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence**

Bullying: NO Way Poster competition

Friday 21 March 2014 was the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence. The weeks leading up to this day, ours school students participated in various learning activities to help them identify and understand the effects and ramifications of bullying. Students have learnt that bullying is repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological behaviour and it is NOT ACCEPTABLE. Students have also learnt that the behaviours that do not constitute bullying include: mutual arguments and disagreements, not liking someone or a single act of social rejection, or one-off acts of meanness or spite. However, the students understand that these conflicts still need to be addressed and resolved. Ours older students learnt about cyberbullying, which refers to bullying that is carried out through information and communication technologies.

To demonstrate their understanding and support for the’ Bullying: No Way Take a Stand Together’ campaign, our school held a poster competition. During our school assemble on
Week 8, an anti-bullying video was shown to the school, before the presentation of the prizes to the worthy winners.

The category winners were as follows:-

K-2 Winner: Chloe Lai
K-2 Runner Up: Blake McKeown
K-2 Highly Commended: Romel Quant & Husayn Etri

3-4 Winner: Robbie Alameddine
3-4 Runner-Up: Kae-Kae BowesyIon
3-4 Highly Commended: Moneba Etri

5-6 Winner: Kimia Shiralizadeh
5-6 Runner-Up: Rebecca Ton
5-6 Highly Commended: Kim Nguyen

The student's posters were of a high standard which gave the judges a challenging job to choose the winners. A big thanks to Mrs Jenny Lonergan, who donated the winner’s prizes and the P&C, who donated the minor prizes and found the time to judge the competition.

Mrs Fletcher

Young Leaders Day

Last week, Aaliyah Guzman, Ricardo Bolivar, Agatha Ang, Jack Chau, Kadijah Jallah, Danniyal Ali, Liana Mansour and Alex Maiorana attended the National Young Leaders Conference at the Sydney Entertainment Centre. The conference is an annual event founded in 1997 to develop strong leadership values amongst young Australians. The Program consists of keynote talks, presentations and interactive learning that are designed to inspire leadership and give students the opportunity to hear stories from influential people. The Sydney event alone was attended by around 6,000 other primary students.

The first speaker we heard from was Mr Bob Carr, former Premier of NSW and Foreign Affairs Minister. Mr Carr spoke of his career since leaving high school and his movement through
opposition to eventually become the Premier of NSW. He spoke of the value of persistence, particularly during his seven years as leader of the opposition in Parliament. Mr Carr saw his most significant long lasting achievements in being a person of influence as being the commencement of the Premier's Reading Challenge, saving the dolphins and establishing more National Parks in NSW.

The second speaker was a sixteen year old student, Coen Aston. Coen was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis at a young age and had spent a significant amount of his early life in and out of hospital. Leading up to a successful double lung transplant a few years ago, Coen spoke about the times when he was given only a limited amount of time to live and how he used little 'Silver Linings' to get him through. The story of his life and what got him through was truly inspirational and he now enthusiastically speaks out for cystic fibrosis sufferers and organ donation.

Finally, we heard from children's author Andy Griffiths. Andy's presentation was very entertaining. He began as a high school teacher struggling to engage his students with reading and decided to write his own books. The source of many of his stories came from childhood thoughts and experiences. He told of how he developed a story idea and then thought of worst case and unlikely scenarios to write about.

It was great to hear the stories of some very inspirational people at the conference. The students who attended are to be congratulated on their behaviour and enthusiasm shown throughout the day.

Mr McLennan

PLASTIC TUPPERWARE CONTAINERS
A reminder that there are several plastic Tupperware containers and/or similar that belong to parents and caregivers who generously donated food for our recent Harmony Day celebrations. If you did not receive your container, please contact our school office to collect.

Thank you all and enjoy the Holidays.