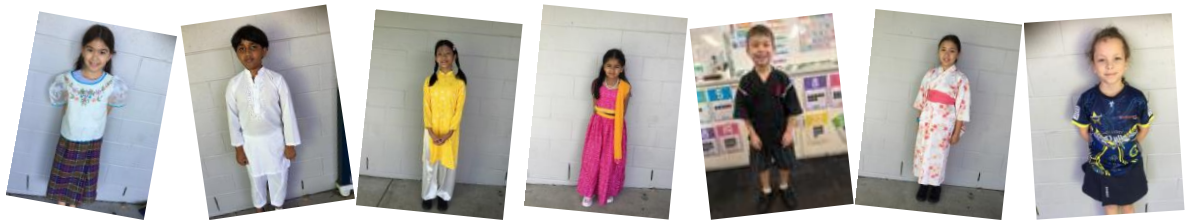


Harmonising Musgrave on the Hill

Harmony Day is celebrated on the 21 of March each year, with people coming together. This day was an original Australian creation in 1999, to highlight unity and diversity, but is now celebrated by citizens who are more conscious of inclusion and diversity.



At Musgrave Hill we celebrated Harmony Day with lots of colour, language and music. Children from all year levels took the opportunity to dress up in their vividly, vibrant traditional clothes and say the phrase, "We are one, but we are many", in their traditional language for the rest of their school mates to appreciate.



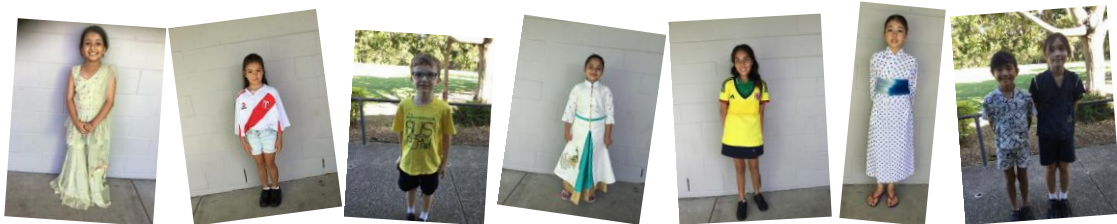
Never has the global representation of Australia been surrounded by the variety of innumerable hands held by paper chain representations of children; each one an individual statement to a universal chain link of creativity, on our Meet & Greet wall.



For some children, Harmony Day was an opportunity to pay a special tribute to a long lost, loved one, whose rich life was the embodiment of a Scottish guardsman playing for the Queen's coronation. Luca adored his great grandfather and smilingly convinced his parents to suit him up for this expression of love, in the form of his great granddad's uniform.



Viewers at the Meet & Greet assembly were moved with the response of so many children loving the idea of show-casing their traditional dress with original flair and fashion. Mrs Gleadhill expressed her delight with twinkling eyes and a lingering smile. She said, "The Harmony Day presentation was a traditional inspiration. It is a great thing to do, to highlight the diversity of cultures in our school!"



Abdullah was of the view that, "Harmony Day was a really cool day since it unites everyone and shows us that everyone is the same." Jai believes in the Harmony Day cause, "it is a great thing that our school accepts multiple races and different skin colours; and if we keep on pushing that acceptance then eventually there will be no racism in the world". Kevin thinks, "Harmony Day was a really great day because it represents our school values; we care about everyone in the world." Kento agrees with his peers stating that, "Harmony Day is very good because it unites us and it creates friendships and total bonds."



Our own beloved Principal, Ms McGuinness, not one to be left out of the day's delights, came dressed in her classic Aussie green and gold, encouraging the children and delighting in the fact that they were able to articulate the phrase, "We are one, but we are many," in their

traditional language. Some of the staff also enjoyed being part of Harmony Day by sharing their traditional backgrounds, wearing clothes that expressed their culture and saying catchphrases such as, 'Ohh up to cuz!' 'Choice ay bro!' that caused laughter wafting over the sea of interested children's faces.



But the day, as everyone agreed, belonged to the children. They were able to express in a matter of a few minutes how diverse a cultural group we are and how much we share a need to belong – we may come from many backgrounds, but at our little School on the Hill, we are one in the spirit of respect, responsibility, compassion, and excellence.



Yolanda Simpson