



Thursday, 21 March is Harmony Day

Did you know:

- Nearly half (49 per cent) of Australians were born overseas or have at least one parent who was
- We identify with over 300 ancestries
- Since 1945, more than 7.5 million people have migrated to Australia
- 85 per cent of Australians agree multiculturalism has been good for Australia
- Apart from English, the most common languages spoken in Australia are Mandarin, Arabic, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Italian, Greek, Tagalog/Filipino, Hindi, Spanish and Punjabi
- More than 70 Indigenous languages are spoken in Australia

Our diversity makes Australia a great place to live. Harmony Day is a celebration of our cultural diversity - a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home.

Held every year on the 21 March, the day coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

The message of Harmony Day is '**Everyone Belongs**'. The day aims to engage people to participate in their community, respect cultural and religious diversity and foster sense of belonging for everyone.

On Harmony Day, students will participate in activities within their class to celebrate this special day and acknowledge the cultural diversity we have here at Shellharbour.

We are encouraging students to come to school dressed either in something orange or in a costume that represents another culture, to show their support for cultural diversity and an inclusive Australia. Orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Day. Traditionally, orange signifies social communication and meaningful conversations. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect. **Students may also like to bring some healthy orange food to eat during the day, eg. rockmelon, carrots, oranges.** Alternatively, students may like to bring in traditional food for their lunch such as Spaghetti Bolognese, Sushi or Souvlaki.

Our cultural diversity is one of our greatest strengths and is at the heart of who we are. It makes Australia a great place to live. Let's join together and celebrate!



Mrs Jo Rowe (Harmony Day Co-Ordinator)