



## Friday, 20 March is Harmony Day

Did you know that here at Shellharbour Public School we have around 12% of our students whose parents were born overseas? In fact, these parents were born in 15 different countries. This does not include Grandparents of children who were also born overseas.

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 21st March, the day coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. (We will be celebrating on Friday, 20 March).

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.** Don't forget, our wonderful canteen also has a meal deal, which includes many choices of wonderful foods from around the globe. **Orders are due by Monday, 16 March.**

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)*