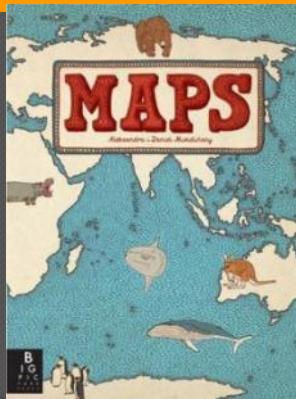




Harmony Week

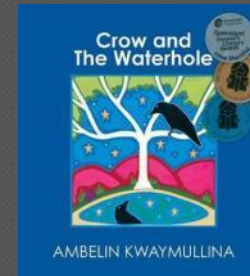
Harmony Day is held every year on 21 March to coincide with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The message of Harmony Day is everyone belongs. *It's a day to celebrate Australia's diversity – a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home.* This day gives people the opportunity to celebrate what makes each Australian unique and share commonalities. *This year is Harmony Day's 15th anniversary.*

This week of experiences reflects Outcome 2 (EYLF) where children respond to diversity with respect, exploring diversity of culture, background and traditions, sharing new understandings.



Mittagong Preschool acknowledges and respects the uniqueness of each child and his/her family, culture, structure, language, beliefs and customs. We seek to extend these community links and sense of belonging by including external learning experiences within the surrounding community (Mittagong Preschool Philosophy). With these underpinnings in mind, Harmony Week is the perfect time to celebrate the cultures represented in our group:

- Italy
- New Zealand
- Scotland
- Canada
- Netherlands
- Australia



When asked to smile for the photo, instead of cheese ... Lucy said "Maple Leaf!" (truly Canadian!)



We have celebrated in a few ways:

- Learning songs with different languages, such as *"Hello my friend hello"*.
- Reading books that represent different cultures – *"Handa's Surprise"*, *"Handa's Hen"*, *"Who's in My Family"* & *"Crow & the Waterhole"*.
- Interest table with a display of culturally diverse items (from the homes of the children, staff or Preschool)
- Watching YouTube clips of different dances – Tarantella (Italy) and Zorba (Greece)
- Learning traditional folk dances – *"Rabbit Polka"* (French) & *"Birdie Dance"* (Germany)
- Looking through the big book of Maps, looking at different countries & flags
- Making our own individual flags for display
- Tasting maple syrup (& on pancakes) that Lucy brought in from Canada





Making our Flags

After looking at a book of flags during Group, we talked about where we live & where other people we know come from – Bliss' Dad & Salvatore's Nonna from Italy, Heidi's Grandpa from Scotland, Noah's Dad from New Zealand, Ellen's Oma & Opa from the Netherlands & Lucy's Dad from Canada. We looked at a map of the world locating these countries & then looked at the flags for these countries. Then we all had the opportunity to make our own flags. We decided to make a display.



Our Flag Display



Sharing Snippets of our Cultural Diversity

