

## COMMUNITY GROUPS



Community Groups at Margaret Hendry School are characterised by Connection, Conversation, Culture and having positive social impact on the local community. As a community, we are diverse in nature. We come from varying cultural and linguistic backgrounds. United, our backgrounds and experiences provide rich and meaningful opportunities for all children to have 'windows' into others cultures and ways of being, along with 'mirrors' of their own individual culture and ways of being.

### Connection

As a large school, we focus on the close relationships that children and families develop within their smaller K-6 sub school. In each 'School within a School', children work with up to 150 learners throughout the day. Our Community Groups work to bring us together across the school into social impact groups organised under the pillars for learning. Each pillar is represented by an inspirational Australian. These representatives were selected through a whole school inquiry with children, staff and community members in 2021. Each Community Day, within learning communities, children will move into their allocated community groups and take action to do large and small acts that positively impact their local community and more broadly. Some examples of practice include letterbox drops to local community sharing positive messages, assisting local community to maintain gardens, keeping our local area clean, signposting areas with key responsibilities for keeping areas safe, clean and positively activated, fundraising for communities in need, or connecting through sharing stories and language with older citizens. By nature, we seek to connect and positively impact those around us.

### Conversation

At the heart of each Community Day will be the opportunity for rich conversation. We will invite our families in to share lunch with us on these days and simply chat over a shared meal. It is through informal conversation that we learn new things, have opportunity to explore possible lines of inquiry, and deepen our knowledge of others ways of being, knowing and doing. We nurture relationships across age groups within school and inter-generationally. We connect with our partnered organisations to support developing English skills within our community and to provide opportunities for conversation for those who don't always have someone to speak to. During these times, we wonder, we question, we teach, we learn.

### Culture

Community is all inclusive. As we seek to understand others ways of knowing, being and doing, we also seek to validate each individual child's ways of knowing being and doing. This is achieved through sharing of culture, history and traditions from the people within our community that combine to make us the rich and diverse community that we are. This can be seen through families attending the school to share stories either written or oral in their home language, share traditional games, showcase traditional dress and celebrations, demonstrate and share cooking/recipes and ways of coming together, and more.