



Harmony Day at St Brendan's Primary School: Vasal Solanki, 8, Fatima Hassan, 8, Jasmin Jo, 8, Athmeeka Balamurukan, 8, and Liyana Khan, 8. Pictures: Rodney Braithwaite



Strong bond: St Brendan's Primary School students Mehrahs Dhanoo, 6, and Olivia Mitchell, 5.

School proud to welcome all

ST BRENDAN'S STUDENTS AND STAFF CELEBRATE DIVERSE CULTURES TO MARK HARMONY DAY

By Ed McLeish

With the theme Everyone Belongs in Our School Community, Shepparton's St Brendan's Primary School students were dressed in their native colours for the school's Harmony Day on Friday.

Harmony Day — an opportunity to celebrate cultural diversity — saw the staff and students at St Brendan's participating in energetic workshops involving dance, music, drumming and movement.

Deputy principal Sally Mills said it was a "wonderful, fun-filled" day of celebrations.

"We're really proud of our multicultural school and our diversity amongst our school community," Mrs Mills said.

"Our students and families come from many different countries including Sudan, the Congo, South Africa, Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, The Philippines and Italy."

With a specifically African focus this year, St Paul's African House, Dancin Fever and Shepparton artists and former students Monga and Tina Mukasa presented the workshops.

Harmony Day usually starts on March 21, but St Brendan's staff and students couldn't contain their excitement, starting more than a week early.

Mrs Mills said this year's theme aligned with the mission and vision at the school.

"We embrace inclusiveness and diversity," she said.



In perfect harmony: Ava-Jae Singh, 9, Marlee Nickolon, 5, Marnie Morgan, 9, Angel Atkinson, 8, and Riley Singh, 8.



Family ties: Garang Akon, 10, Akoon Akon, 6, Yar Akon, 4, Alued Gayi, Adut Akon, 7 months, and Deng Akon, 8.



Celebrating culture: St Brendan's Primary School students Nimrat Kaur, 8, and Anahat Dhaliwal, 9.



Harmony fever: Jenifa Watuta, 16, Janathan Safari, 19, and Annamaria Delfina, 16, from the Dancin Fever group.