



## HARMONY WEEK

From March 18 – 22, St Alipius Primary School Community, Ballarat East celebrated Harmony Week, a time to celebrate Australian multiculturalism and the successful integration of migrants into our community.

Harmony Week is about inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background, united by a set of core Australian values.

Deruka Dekuek from the Ballarat Welcome Centre/Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council (BRMC), the peak multicultural agency in the Central Highlands, visited our 3/4 community and shared her story of her life experiences growing up in South Sudan.

Sienna, Jenny, Pepper and Addie wrote the following reflection of Deruka's visit:

*In the 3/4 learning community we are learning about inspirational people. We were visited by a South Sudan African refugee named Deruka, for Harmony Day on March 21.*

*She told us about anti-racism and explained that intimidating people from different cultures is wrong. She mentioned in Australia people had intimidated her because she had a different skin colour and looked different to other people. Deruka was seven years old when her dad died in a civil war and seven years later Deruka's family moved to Australia as refugees. She couldn't go to school because of this fight and because she was poor.*

*When Deruka came to the 3/4 learning community she taught us about racism and if someone is intimidating you, you can say "Stop, I don't like what you're doing" and leave the situation or you can tell an adult. Racism is also a type of discrimination. Deruka showed us a YouTube video by Matt Norman. It was about refugees, people with different skin colour and people of different religions standing up for themselves. Deruka encouraged the 3/4 learning community to be brave and stand up for themselves.*

*At St Alipius we say no to racism and bullying - we don't want either. Our school encourages people to feel safe and respected. Deruka reminded us to be empowered, treat people equally and be excellent.*

*Eileen Rice - Principal*

