Dear Year 7 Parents/Carers,

Welcome to your first BGHS International Day. This is a day of celebration of our culturally diverse school community and is flagged as one of the highlights of the school year. This year, it will be held on the day before Harmony Day, 21 March. Normal classes will be suspended and staff and students create an atmosphere of cooperation and acceptance of all cultures through music, performance and food. This is a non-uniform day. All girls are expected to wear national traditional clothing on the day, something that represents their cultural heritage or they may like to adopt another culture for the day. If neither is possible, then girls should dress in orange, the colour of Harmony Day.

In the lead up to the day there will be meetings for all students and staff. Girls from Years 8-12 will be working on their choice of cultural stalls, getting ready for the big carnivale at recess and lunch. Some girls may be practising their performances. Year 7 students will be involved in these meetings too but some will be asked to work on specific stalls (such as SRC Drinks, English Café, Aussie BBQ). These stalls are reserved for Year 7.

What happens on the day?

In period one, all classes will remain in their roll call group to complete activities related to “Closing the Gap”, recognising the differences between life opportunities of indigenous and non-indigenous Australians.

At recess there will be some stalls available such as the English Café, Eastern European Sweets and an SRC Drinks Stall.

The day officially begins with the Parade of Nations after recess, followed by a cultural performance. In the past we have had a Japanese drumming ensemble and also percussionists from Ghana in West Africa. SRC members will report on our Hands Across the Ocean charities who were the recipients of funds raised last year. There will be a gold coin donation for this concert, collected during Roll Call. This money will go towards our chosen Hands Across the Ocean charities.

At lunchtime the school comes alive with food stalls from all around the world supported by our girls who bring in food to be sold. Again, the profits of these sales go to our Hands Across the Ocean charities. Girls should bring money to purchase food but it will not be expensive.
After lunch is our performance concert where students flaunt their many talents in a spectacular showcase of cultural performances.

The SRC leaders have been appointed to various stalls and soon all girls will attend the first planning meeting which will be held during DEAR time. All Year 7 students must each choose a cultural group from the list below and attend that meeting. It is expected that all girls contribute to the day by helping decorate the stall, setting it up or serving. All girls are asked to donate a plate of food which is representative of the group they have chosen. This will be planned during the meetings.

Year 7 girls can choose whatever stall they wish, but as the Burwood Girls International Day is a new experience for our Year 7 students, they may choose to work on the Year 7 English Café, where they could supply a cake or some cookies. Or, perhaps they might like to work on the Year 7 Aussie BBQ or the Drinks stall. We ask that girls on these two stalls either donate one kilo of thin sausages or $5 towards costs. Of course, if it is their choice to work on any other stall, then that is fine. Just remember, they will be expected to contribute in some way, perhaps in a cash donation towards ingredients.

There are two stalls that don’t require food donations: Fortune Telling and Chinese Calligraphy, but these are small groups and it is expected the participants have some skill in those fields.

This year, the stalls include:

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<tr>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>Aussie BBQ/M</th>
<th>Drinks</th>
<th>East European</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Cafe</td>
<td>French</td>
<td>Greek Souvlaki</td>
<td>Indian/Bangladeshi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indonesian Satay</td>
<td>Irish Potatoes</td>
<td>Pacific Islander</td>
<td>Italian</td>
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<td>Japanese</td>
<td>Korean</td>
<td>Mauritian</td>
<td>Middle Eastern/Turkish</td>
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<td>Thai/Burmese</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Portuguese/Spanish/South American</td>
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<td>Chinese</td>
<td>Scandinavian</td>
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Please discuss the choice of stalls with your daughter so she knows which cultural group meeting she will join. Finally, if you can spare the time, we would love to see you up at the school from midday on.

Patrice Simpson
Head Teacher HSIE / Teacher in Charge SRC

Mia Kumar
Principal

10 March 2015