Making the most of so many cultures

AN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Eliza Barr

YOU could travel the whole world for a truly international experience, or you could step into Sydney's most multicultural high school for a day and encounter a taste of almost every country on Earth.

Burwood Girls High School recently celebrated International Day, and HSIE head teacher Patrice Simpson said it was all about celebrating culture through food, dress and dance.

"Some 75 per cent of our students come from families with English as a second language and those families encompass 68 different languages," Ms Simpson said.

Students celebrated International Day with an array of food stalls, activities such as dancing, basket weaving, calligraphy and a multicultural dress-up.

Year 9 student Amal Dib said that parents made the authentically international food at home.

"Ordinarily you would have to go all over Sydney to see this wide representation of cultures in dress and food, but we have almost all of them here at our school," Amal said.

The school raised $12,000 for their chosen international charities last year.

Ms Simpson said the school was particularly recognised by World Vision in 2014 for raising an additional $10,000 during the 40 Hour Famine.

"Events like this support what is happening in the classroom - we have a big focus on social justice." Ms Simpson said. "Empathy is not narrow-minded."

Harmony Day and International day at Burwood Girls High School. Almost 1200 students represent 75 nationalities, in national costume.

Pictures: CRAIG WILSON