

Savtas Go Back To School

BIALIK ELC

Bialik's ELC students are involved in a heart-warming collaboration with Emmy Monash residents, which buddies savtas (grandmothers) with Prep classes. Two of the savtas in the program are great-grandparents to children in the Prep group, which makes the pairing even more special.

During their first session together, the savtas participated in Bialik's acclaimed Dogs for Life program with their Prep friends. It was a delight to see the students interacting with the dogs and encouraging the savtas to join in the fun. The students were keen to show the Emmy Monash residents what they'd learned in previous Dogs for Life sessions and made sure that the savtas did not miss their turns to participate.

The intergenerational relationship that is blossoming between the students and the residents is not only remarkable for the warmth, smiles and sense of community it brings to both sets of participants, but

also for the way it promotes the exchange of knowledge between them. It is an acknowledgement that both sides have lots to share and so much to learn from each other. Bialik College has an ongoing relationship with Emmy Monash with other year-levels in the school and it is lovely to see this relationship extending to the Early Learning Centre.

After the Dogs for Life session, the savtas and students enjoyed swapping stories and playing games. One of the savtas taught the Preps how to play the game "Rummikub", which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

In between visits, the children keep in touch with their Emmy Monash savtas by writing letters to them. The letters express the fun the children had together in previous sessions and how much they are looking forward to the savtas' next visit.

Going forward, the aim is to have the students visit Emmy Monash once a term so the children can see where the savtas live and participate in celebrations and chaggim together.

