

# Savtas' and students' special bond

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BIALIK College's ongoing relationship with Emmy Monash has recently extended down to the school's Early Learning Centre with students participating in an intergenerational collaboration with Emmy residents.

The program buddies 'savtas' with prep classes and two residents have enjoyed a special bond, paired with their great-grandchildren.

During their first session together, the savtas and students took part in a popular animal therapy initiative, Bialik's Dogs for Life program.

The intergenerational relationship that is blossoming between the students and the residents is filled with genuine warmth,

smiles and gives all a sense of community.

The program allows both sides to share and learn from each other.

After the Dogs for Life session, the savtas and students enjoyed swapping stories and playing games including a favourite, Rummikub.

In between visits, the children keep in touch with their Emmy Monash savtas by writing letters to them, which has proven to be another way of bridging the generational gap.

Emily wrote to resident Esther Wise, "Thank you for coming to our class. Thank you for teaching us Rummikub, it was a cool game. I saw you laugh and I think you enjoyed Dogs for Life, I had fun with you."



**Emmy Monash 'savta' Esther Wise with Bialik ELC students Sonny Gelbak (left) and Miller Janover.**

Going forward, the aim is to have the students visit Emmy Monash once a term and participate in celebrations and chagim with the residents.