

26 August 2014

\*\*\*\*\* MEDIA RELEASE \*\*\*\*\*

## **KIND: Songs and Stories to Promote Cultural Empathy**

*'I was shy and not very open. I've learnt it's actually okay to show yourself. You can be who you want, you don't have to hide it.'* Grade 4 student, Corpus Christi Primary School

Over 70 grade one to three students from three primary schools in the City of Moreland and Hume will gather for a huge community concert as part of **Kids Thrive's** ground-breaking arts and cultural development program **KIND**. Students from **St Dominic's Primary School** in Broadmeadows, **Holy Child Primary School** in Dallas, and **Corpus Christi Primary School** in Glenroy will join musicians, artists, their teachers, families and the broader community for a raucous morning of music and song on **12 September 2014** from **10.30 to 12.30pm** at **Holy Child Primary School**.

The culmination of work by the students throughout the school year, the concert will feature students performing songs they have co-written, drawn from their own cultural stories, lullabies from childhood, stories of migration, and issues around diversity and fairness.

The concert has been developed by students in collaboration with **Kids Thrive** lead artist - composer and musician **Andrea Rieniets**; diversity facilitator David Henry of the Migrant Resource Centre; choreographer **Alex Harrison**; set and costume designer **Katherine Branch**; and animator **Sal Cooper**. The celebration aims to build a sense of community and broader cultural conversation between students, families, teachers and community leaders in the Hume Region.

**KIND** ('to be kind', 'to be one of a kind') engages with children aged six to nine, their extended family networks and leading cultural development artists, teachers, refugee mentors and community educators to creatively address sensitive cultural issues and promote dialogue about empathy, diversity and fairness. Developed and delivered by arts and community cultural development organisation **Kids Thrive**, this unique and groundbreaking program is designed to enable children and their extended communities to explore diversity, and to address tensions in these communities.

The program also provides professional development for teachers and agencies in using an 'anti-bias' approach in the school and community, and developing arts based, community-building practices.

Kids Thrive is Melbourne's leading arts and community development organisation committed to child-led community change. We partner artists with specialists in children's education, health, welfare and social justice, to design and deliver cross-sector programs in schools and other safe and supportive, child-focused community settings throughout Victoria, so that children's views and experience can be represented in their communities.

**Details: 12 September 2014** from **10.30 to 12.30pm** at **Holy Child Primary School**, 227 Blair St, Dallas.

### **Further information, images and media enquiries:**

Narelle Sullivan, Kids Thrive General Manager, 8256 9689 or 0437 854 633, [gm@kidsthive.org.au](mailto:gm@kidsthive.org.au)  
[www.kidsthive.org.au](http://www.kidsthive.org.au)

#### **Funding partners:**

