**Opal Aged Care Facility**

**Neerigen Brook Primary School is committed to building strong, respectful relationships and partnerships within our community. Understanding and getting to know who makes up our community with regards to residents and those that provide care and being able to relate to our community members on a personal level is an important part of building a sense of belonging and safety.**

**Opal aged Care facility is located at 21 Angelo Street Armadale. This facility is within walking distance of our school. We have been working in collaboration with the residents for a number of years. Some examples of ways of building connections are, but not limited to:**

* **Class excursion. The children need to be prepared to walk, take part in an activity whilst present and walk back to school. Activities could include singing songs, reading a pre-prepared book to ensure the children are familiar with the book, one of their choosing to ensure they are confident and comfortable to share or sharing a card or picture that the children have completed to give as a gift.**
* **Invite the residents to come to a school assembly**
* **Invite the residents to come to a performance such as the choir or an incursion**
* **Invite the residents to attend school to have morning or afternoon tea and/or participate or watch a prepared activity or performance**
* **An excursion at the end of the year to sing Christmas carols**
* **Links to learning about families, relationships and building friendships works well as the residents and children both benefit from meeting new people and building the resilience and skills to develop and participate in conversation.**
* **History related tasks that give the residents the opportunity to share knowledge they have. Games, toys and how they spent their leisure time when they were a child is often highly successful and engaging for all.**
* **STEM/STEAM – Projects may include the sharing of photos, stories, recordings via IPads and QR codes**
* **3R Garden- Classes can plant, nurture and harvest produce to take to the residents as a gift. This enables the children to be able to share the process they went through to be able to provide the food.**

**There are many research studies completed on the benefits of intergenerational activities. Building the connections over the longer term is highly successful.**

**Teachers need to make contact with the aged care facility as early as possible to discuss the possibility of collaboration. Please advise all staff via collab meetings, email or in the Staff Bulletin to ensure that there is a coordinated approach to the partnership and so that the facility has one point of contact for the school.**