Kids proudly display their indigenous heritage

By Jessica Aquilina

Most children’s artwork ends stuck on a fridge. However, for nine Aboriginal children at Hilltop Road Public School in Merrylands their artwork is on display at Parramatta Artists Studios. The children, from kindergarten to year 6, used traditional methods and created artwork at Aboriginal Culture Club — which includes homework help and Aboriginal culture education.

Robert Lavery, 5, will show two pieces of his art during the exhibition. Robert said he enjoyed people looking at his art and he was looking forward to learning about his ancestors. “I like learning about Aboriginal art and dance,” he said. “I like learning about them [ancestors] because they are not alive any more and it’s important to learn about them. “It makes me feel proud to be Aboriginal.”

The club started over a year ago after Cumberland Women’s Health Centre community development worker Lauren Brown approached the school to reinvigorate their Aboriginal Homewor Club. At the club children have learnt to play indigenous musical instruments, cultural dances as well as art.

Ms Brown said the club helped the children to feel confident with their heritage. “The thing that the kids get out of the group is the realisation that this is their group or mob,” Ms Brown said. “A lot of the kids don’t necessarily know what tribes or clans they belong to. “They have created their own mob and almost their own identity as a group. “They feel more confident about themselves and even teach the school about their heritage.”

The artwork will be displayed at Parramatta Artists Studios until Sunday.

Details: Studios, level 2, 68 Macquarie Street, Parramatta.