

## Cultural Diversity

I decided to participate in the Cultural Diversity competition again this year because I love to cook meals for other people and to stand proud about my culture. I chose to prepare an English breakfast and a trifle for my family and I to feast upon. The presentation option I chose was to create a video, almost like a 'vlog' in a tutorial format. The cooking all together took about 3 hours and I spent around 3 1/2 hours editing the video and draining the battery and storage on my dad's iPad! Personally, I love to pretend like I'm some celebrity sharing my life with the world. Embarrassing, I know, but it's quite enjoyable even if you're just talking to a screen. My mum (Erin), friend (Evie Irving) and I were randomly talking about Christmas as it's our favourite time of the year and how my neighbours made the most divine trifle one year. I then remembered the competition was announced which is when the light bulb moment took place. My mum and I went across to our local Coles and purchased everything we required to prepare and cook the dishes.

I was preparing the kitchen to cook when my 3-year-old brother (Gabe) decided he was helping with the project, so I thought I'd put the camera in front of us and see what happened. He really didn't do much except to eat the majority of the ingredients but I must admit, he was the main character for our video, and I think that's what makes it so special. I chose to do English meals because that's about 80% of my culture and I love to boast about it. I think my Nan (Angela) sparked the biggest interest in Britain for me after staying at her house and constantly listening to complaints about driving on the wrong side of the road, the re-arranging of her fridge magnet collection, a whole TED talk about the weather today and the traditional meals, like tomato sauce on toast and developing the British ways of pronunciation. She always tells me stories about her life growing up there and how she'll take me back one day and that's what I love most about her. I really enjoyed the competition this year and I loved sharing the food and the result of the video with my family. I wish I could say the same about my brother though, when I broke the news that we won, he didn't even remember what we had made but after a few reminders and an over-exaggeration, he was back on board. I made the video in iMovie after crashing the family iCloud and added some soundtracks and effects from YouTube to add some humour! It's quite easy, just very time consuming, but worth it! The trifle and the breakfast for dinner were truly incredible and we were all on the verge of exploding after eating it. A lot of credit also goes to my mum for buying the ingredients and supervising me, especially for not shutting down the operation after I started a fire in the microwave by putting a metal gravy boat full of chocolate in there. I can't wait to help my sister next year with her dish of choice, but I must steer clear of the microwave.

By Dakota Phillips-Ryder 8B