

Sunday 15 October 2017



## Events to mark first anniversary of Manrique/Lutz family tragedy

St Lucy's school in Wahroonga - a Catholic primary school for students with disabilities - is preparing for the first anniversary of the Manrique/Lutz family tragedy this week.

"Over the year since Elisa, Martin, Maria and Fernando passed away, the school community has worked together to create a legacy for the students and their mother, and to leave a trace of their lives in our school," St Lucy's principal David Raphael said.

"Soon after the tragic event in October 2017, St Lucy's was inundated with offers of generous support from our wider community. In response, the school and our Parents & Friends body has established *The Eli and Martin Bursary*.

"Eli and Martin were happy, affectionate, bright students who often delighted their teachers with their capacity for learning, their curiosity and their abilities across all aspects of their education."

Mr Raphael said the Bursary will focus on Eli and Martin's particular artistic talents and the joy they took in art making. It will provide St Lucy's families experiencing financial hardship the opportunity to access after school and holiday creative arts programs and excursions; it will also contribute to the Creative Arts Scholarship Program.

"It was also Maria's wish that her children's artistic gifts be shared and celebrated. With this as our inspiration, we have created the *Elisa and Martin Manrique Art Exhibition*, a collection of beautiful artworks created by both children.

"The exhibition will go on tour next month, initially to the Museum of Contemporary Art, then to other galleries and spaces around NSW. Details will be posted on the school's website and Facebook page."

Mr Raphael said the St Lucy's Art Studio will also be dedicated to honour Elisa and Martin, while an artisan-made bench will be dedicated to their mother, Maria.

"The inspiration for the bench came from Maria's fellow parents who, as her close friends, chose materials to reflect her integrity, strength and beauty.

"For our students who lost their dear friends, we will dedicate Tuesday 17th October to the image we have of Eli and Martin and of all of our students. Each one is a capable, potent and creative being and we celebrate their gifts with a day entitled *The Artist in Me* to explore artistic expression and identify as an artist. The day will focus on friendship and the power of collaboration and artistic expression. It is our aim that every student contribute to some innovative art making.

"We look forward to welcoming Tim Sharp, artist of Laser Beak Man, who will officially open our Exhibition and Art Studio and visiting art sessions with the students. It will be wonderful to have a role model like Tim visit our budding artists.

"We continue to be supported by our community, our wonderful neighbouring schools and by the excellent psychologists in our Therapy Team who have guided and supported the students, staff and families through this first year."

*For further information, please contact Jim Hanna on 0414 828 629*

