My name is Kelly Smith and I am a Year 5 teacher in the Junior School here at Arndell. Just over 12 months ago an incredibly special person named Brooke left us to reside in Heaven. Brooke was just 15 years old. She was a warm and loving person with a great smile and a readiness to engage with those around her even though her life hadn’t been an easy one.

Brooke battled cancer at both 2 and 5 years after developing a brain tumour. At 14, Brooke was again diagnosed with a form of brain cancer called DIPG (Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma). During this time I had the privilege of spending time with Brooke and her mother Olivia. Brooke had a few passions; Jesus, baking, school and asking challenging questions! Her greatest desire throughout her illness was that she could continue attending school and our time together was often used completing homework or assignments. Her time with her mother was often used baking. She continued to design and create as many cakes as she could manage for as long as she could.

In a display of Brooke’s loving selflessness she agreed to take part in a trial treatment program knowing that it wouldn’t help her but it may help others. A by-product of this treatment was the loss of her hair which was quite upsetting for her. It was then that I decided to grow my hair in order to cut and donate it for a wig. This is something I have been doing for almost 18 months and now the time has come to cut it. In order to continue Brooke’s legacy of helping others through the trial program she took part in, I would like to use this moment as an opportunity to raise money to ensure research can continue into curing this disease. The program Brooke was involved in was called the Kids Cancer Project. You can visit thekidscancerproject.org.au if you would like further information.

This fundraising period will culminate in a special event in our final awards assembly of the term. Mr Peterson has agreed to be the person to cut my hair! Please donate and come along to see my long hair become very short!

If you would like to donate to this important cause please visit

https://charityfundraiser.everydayhero.com/au/kelly