

Better Buddies



Our school became a Better Buddies school in 2013. The Better Buddies Framework is part of the Alannah and Madeline Foundation which is a national charity aiming to keep children safe from violence.

In Better Buddies a grade 6 student buddies up with a prep student and learns the values of: caring for others, friendliness, respect, valuing difference, including others and responsibility through formal and informal activities. Better Buddies enables younger children to feel safe and cared for while older students feel valued and respected. Buddy Bear is the mascot of Better Buddies.

The Better Buddies Framework:

- Assists with students' transition into primary school
- Develops positive cross- age relationships
- Contributes to a friendly and caring school culture
- Teaches pro-social values
- Teaches pro-social skills
- Provides opportunities for peer tutoring
- Contributes to more positive behaviour through positive role models
- Develops responsibility
- Provides older students with opportunities to achieve their goals
- Builds self-confidence
- Develops empathy
- Promotes inclusion
- Involves parents
- Discourages bullying

Why are Buddy Bears used?

1. Bears are a positive symbol of childhood
2. Bears represent safety, care and friendliness
3. Bears appeal equally to boys and girls
4. They embody the values of Better Buddies
5. They provide the focus for many activities

How we have started the year.

All grade 6 students worked through the training activities provided in the kit we were given. They have received a certificate acknowledging they have completed the training. All Prep students were sent a welcome card at the end of 2013 from a buddy. This year they have met their buddy, been given a card to take home with their buddy's name and photo on it so they can talk to their parents about their buddy. They have had play lunch with their buddy and will begin regular activities in the first few weeks of February. All Prep students were also given a small purple Buddy Bear to keep with them in the classroom. They will bring their bears to each of the Buddy activities.



To find out more details about the program or the Alannah and Madeline Foundation please refer to the website: www.amf.org.au