

Dear Parents,

As you would know, we have been working with our Year 3/4 boys to develop and maintain positive relationships and friendships. Key strategies that we have put into place include:

- Developed a Clear Code of Conduct for play time
- Positive reinforcement through a Check in Check out process with students
- Written feedback from students after playtime to identify issues early
- Amended rules for Chasey to limit physical contact during game play
- Introduced extra activities for play time eg. Lego building materials
- Clear and consistent consequences for inappropriate behaviour - detention

While all of the above mentioned strategies are essential in providing boundaries, clear expectations and consequences for the students, we need to give the boys the opportunity to learn new friendship and relationship skills and then give them the opportunity to practise these skills in a safe environment.

We are looking to implement a Whole School Social Skills Programme in 2020, but feel it is important to start working on these behaviours as soon as we can. We can then continue that development next year through a planned approach.

In order to do this we would like to engage the Year 3/4 boys in a Mini Drumbeat specialised social skills programme with our School Chaplain, Sam Curran.

Drum Beat is normally conducted within a small group setting (up to 10 students), with a trained professional for one hour per week for 10 weeks. We would like to offer the students the opportunity to engage in two 1 hour sessions per week for the last three weeks of the term. The program will be delivered during class time on Monday and Wednesday afternoons.

The key learning areas for the program are:

Key learning Areas

- ***The Rhythm of Life***- what are some of the different rhythms around you, when is it out of time? How to get our rhythms to work together
- ***Relationships***- mutual obligations and attention needed with how to communicate effectively
- ***Harmony***- music harmony and what factors create social harmony, the way we treat each other impact on our relationships, discussion on *bullying* behaviours which are often a sign of low self-regard or victimization. Learning to work in harmony with others is fundamental to the success of our lives.
- ***Identity and Community***- remaining with our identity while being socially responsible. Building trust and responsibility, moving away from bad habits, trust and responsibility = social integration

- **Emotions and feelings-** learning feelings are natural and give us insight into our relationships with the world around us, how we express our feelings is important, repressed feelings can sometimes be unhealthy and even dangerous
- **Teamwork-** fundamental in many parts of our lives, need for a range of skills, good relationships involve team work, self-belief is critical to realizing our own potential.

As a school we are very lucky to have Ms Sam Curran to implement such a fantastic and individualised program. Sam Curran has recently completed her training in the Drumbeat programme and we will utilise this in an ongoing manner based on need in 2020. As this is a “Mini” version of the Drumbeat course Sam will focus on the following areas in her time with the students.

- The Rhythm of Life
- Relationships
- Harmony

As this program is delivered by an outside agency, parental permission is required. If you would like to have your child participate as part of this exclusive and highly valued program, please fill in the following form and return it back to school no later than Wednesday 4th December 2019.

If you have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to contact me on 97650032.

Kind regards

Renee Knapp
Deputy Principal

2nd December 2019