



PEACEFUL SCHOOLS PROGRAM PILOT SCHOOL OVERVIEW

Frankston Heights Primary

A HOMESTEAD SCHOOL PROMOTING A SECURE BASE FOR OPTIMAL LEARNING AND CONNECTEDNESS

This school has implemented a Homestead approach which involves locating and teaching three groups of students (junior, middle and upper primary) in separate buildings and offering personalised learning. The emphasis is on nurturing learning whereby each student feels cared about. All teachers in each homestead share equal care and responsibility for students, with regular reviews and student/teacher feedback to assist planning for each student.

Whilst the school is community-minded and welcoming, there were some concerns with bullying and aggression when the school began its implementation. The first task of the CASSE Team Leader was to develop a cohesive Student Team and to meet regularly with them to help them role model as Upstanders and to mentalise or reflect about issues they identified with their peers. One concern was the preference for games in the yard to imitate themes depicted in both the "Hunger Game" movies and violent computer games. The team decided to initiate enjoyable safer games for fellow students and CASSE PSP Consultant Camillo Redi suggested the staff investigate Blue Earth activities which specialise in this. The Student Team now report a much safer school and better place to be.

The Principal, Simon Anderson, and Leadership Team believe the Homestead structure and teaching approach sits well with their implementation of the CASSE Peaceful Schools Program (PSP) with its emphasis on promoting a peaceful school environment, altruism, teamwork and inclusion across the school community.

Senior teacher Trish Hawkesworth has led an innovative and thoughtful implementation of CASSE's PSP model. The development and activities of the

student team, called the 'CASSE Crew', have included a CASSE Day, culminating in a well attended Bush Dance for families, and plans for a Sensory Garden in 2014.

FEEDBACK FROM THE 'CASSE CREW' STUDENT LEADERS

Caitlin (9 years) - "Our school is much more safe now that we have the CASSE Crew because all the students in the CASSE Crew are helping everyone who gets bullied or hurt. The teachers help because if someone doesn't listen to someone in the CASSE Crew, then they get a teacher to help them. I really like being on the CASSE team because I love helping people out and I also love being safe around our school." When asked how she has changed through this role Caitlin stated, "I'm a lot more confident and more persistent now".

Caitlin recommends that other schools implement the CASSE Peaceful Schools model as "it helps you express yourself".

Olivia (11 years) describes the role of the CASSE Crew as encouraging other students to do the right thing and has learned that she is more capable than she thought - "I have wanted to achieve more kindness in our school and it has been achieved!".

Darcy (11 year) described how he has become a "bigger person" through learning how to approach victimisers and "helping kids that are picky at finding friends by calming them down and finding a friend for them to play with." He encourages other schools to "have a go with our CASSE Peaceful Schools Model" and to "send the word around about it!".

This resource and further information about Creating A Safe Supportive Environment is available to download at www.casse.org.au.