

Time for fun, not fighting

KIDS KEPT HAPPY AND ACTIVE

Susanna Freymark
EDUCATION EDITOR

TAKE one school principal who believes every child should have the chance for dignity, hope and purpose.

Add teaching staff who volunteer to run a Supported Play Program at recess and lunchtime, and you have a school where bullying is not on the agenda.

Lurnea Public School principal David Sim said teachers provide different playtime activities each day such as a basketball clinic, ping-pong and electronic Wii sports games so children can learn about taking turns and negotiating.

"It creates a positive playground culture," Mr Sim said. "And boredom and bullying don't become a feature of the playground."

When there are problems, everyone knows the boundaries and that issues will be dealt with fairly, Mr Sim said. "Bullying is dealt with swiftly and in a meaningful way."

The school's holistic approach to an education

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based on safe, respectful learning ties in with Mr Sim's philosophy. "As a staff we decided what was at the heart of the matter and we all wanted children in our classes who were ready to learn," Mr Sims said.

Children who are engaged in positive behaviour are more likely to learn.

"Sustained positivity is like a snowball and builds momentum," he said. "Our job is to create a sense of belonging and ownership."

Mr Sim created a new position of assistant principal for students' success to promote wellbeing.



For more on the campaign
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David Sim and deputy Lauren Dunlop with students Emmanuel Alerras, Rachel Walter and Brandon Mounsey.