Dear Parent Community,

As many of you would be aware bullying in schools is always a topical issue. Tomorrow is ‘National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence.’ Our students will be participating in activities that promote Coolbellup Community School as a safe place to learn. At the conclusion of the day students will have identified ways of staying safe at school and how to help students who are victims of bullying.

Classroom teachers will help students discover that non every conflict between students is bullying. While conflicts and aggressive behaviour need to be addressed, it is important to be clear when these behaviours are actually bullying. The definition of bullying has three critical aspects: A repeated pattern, the misuse of power within relationships, and behaviour which causes harm.

All three aspects need to be present in order for behaviour to be called bullying.

Violence, Harassment and discrimination can occur as part of bullying, but also can occur in one-off conflicts or between strangers. It is important to know the difference as the effect on the individual or group may be different and the responses to each may need to be different. Intervening in less serious bullying early can often prevent harassment, discrimination and more serious negative behaviours from becoming part of the bullying pattern.

The fact that we are hearing a lot about bullying these days may well be a positive sign that the larger community are taking it seriously and exploring ways to reduce it. Australian researchers have suggested we are more aware of the potential impact of ignoring bullying, and willing to take the necessary positive action, rather than the bullying problem actually increasing.

Bullying affects everyone involved, including people who witness it. It can have serious and long-term emotional or psychological consequences in addition to the immediate harmful effects. Bullying undermines the key values that Coolbellup Community School aims to promote in students—BE RESPONSIBLE, BE RESPECTFUL and BE SAFE.

Bullying can negatively affect how children see themselves and how they feel about themselves. The outcomes for people who bully others are also not good in the long-term. Children and young people who bully others may come to see bullying as a normal and acceptable way to behave. Those who bully others need support to learn more appropriate ways of behaving and resolving conflicts to prepare them for adulthood and to reduce the likelihood of developing even more serious anti-social behaviours.

In creating and maintaining a safe and supportive school environment, strategies to address bullying include:

- Preventing bullying through promoting a positive whole-school culture based on values agreed to by the whole school community.
- Intervening early in suspected or identified bullying issues and communicating clearly with all involved.
- Responding to bullying incidents with approaches which have been shown to be effective.

Everyone plays a part in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of others. Those who bully others often aim to impress or intimidate bystanders. The reaction of bystanders can either support of discourage bullying from happening. If bystanders do nothing, this can be seen as a form of silent approval. The attitude and reaction of bystanders can affect the culture of the school. Social disapproval of bullying behaviour can prevent bullying from occurring and help to stop it when it is happening.

For this reason our theme for tomorrow’s day of action is ‘DON’T WATCH A BULLY, BULLY!’

The school has ordered wrist bands for all students and staff, unfortunately they have not arrived as yet. They will be given out as soon as they arrive. In the meantime we will be making our own to take a stand together.

Nyree Kirby
Deputy Principal

COMING EVENTS

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Hari Hijau – Green Day Fundraiser

On Friday 6 March, the students and staff of Coolbellup Community School came together in a myriad of 'hijau' (green) for our first fundraiser for SD2 Liligundi, our Balinese sister school through the Adopt A School program. What a success it was! We raised a total of $445.85 throughout the day, with $251 from the green dress up gold coin collection alone! Bagus! Our ‘Green Stall’ looked fantastic on the green and attracted many students at lunch time.

A big thank you to all parents, community members and staff members who donated the vast amount of goods for our pre-loved books and toy stalls. I’d like to extend a big thank you to Mrs Mottram and the 12 student leaders for their hard work and effort in organizing this successful event. Our friends at SD2 Liligundi were delighted to hear about our event and are very appreciative of our efforts to support them in their learning. Look out for our second fundraiser event for SD2 next term.

Terima Kasih (Thank you),

Christiana Bain
LOTE (Indonesian) Teacher

Canteen News:
Last year we sold 919 Pies, 688 Sausage Rolls, and 762 Super/Puppy Dogs for lunch, out of 3900 orders.

For children who ordered recess, clear favourites included Chicken Yummy Drummies/Nuggests 866, Hash Browns 765 and Cheesies 483, with Yogos, Jelly and Fruit, and Custards not far behind.

I wonder what this years favourites will be?