Family School Partnership

Last week in the Latrobe Valley Express you may have read a report in regards to bullying. Leading Snr Constable Anderson, Latrobe Valley Police youth resource officer, commented that “Working to maintain open lines of communication between parents and teachers was the most effective tool to resolve cases of bullying at school.” He also pointed out that bullying has not actually spiralled it’s just that we are far more aware. When it comes to bullying “There is no greater time to show the value of Family School Partnership! It is so important that both the school and parents are on the same page when it comes to dealing with incidents of bullying…in fact to get a positive outcome, it is vital.”

Bullying is something no school condones and at St Vincent’s we have strived to put a number of things in place to send the message of “Zero tolerance to bullying.” For example:

**Developing an understanding in the school community that**
- we have a responsibility to make sure our actions help others feel safe and be safe
- we have a responsibility to make sure we treat others with respect and dignity
- we are responsible for our own behaviour
- there is often more effective ways to meet our needs
- no problem is too big that we can’t share it

There is a great deal more to our behaviour management at St Vincent’s and staff members are happy to discuss this with you.

Ldg Snr Const Anderson spoke of the importance of your role as parents saying that families are integral at preventing bullying at schools. We believe there are a number of things you can do as parents. For example:

- listen carefully to your child, do not prompt, let them tell their story
- check out the facts with the school
- give your child positive steps they can take - role playing situations with them is an excellent way to help. (It may seem a little silly but it is a powerful tool for your child.)

The school can help you with more strategies to suit your situation. As DEECD Mark Anderson commented in the newspaper article, parents need to find out how they are going to support the school and how the school is going to support them. One of the main reasons to create partnerships our school community is to help all children succeed in school and later, in life. Let’s do it together!