Getting to know our Buddies

Fairview Park Buddy programs consist of upper year level students completing activities or projects with younger students. Older students are paired with younger students from their buddy class to work collaboratively on structured learning activities. The experience provides the students with stimulating opportunities for learning and skill development.

Younger students especially enjoy the individual attention they receive from their older buddy. They make comments such as, "He makes me feel special; he says nice things to me". "We do lots of fun things together". "She's my friend". Participation in buddy programs enhances students cooperative learning behaviours such as taking turns, listening, knowledge sharing, praising another’s effort, helping one another and completing a task. It also enhances social interaction. The older buddies can develop leadership skills and empathy, enhancing their self awareness, self confidence and self esteem. These characteristics have a positive effect on learning.

Activities that buddies can do together vary widely. They can read books, write stories, play mathematics games, sing songs, create art pieces or conduct science experiments. This year, Area 2 will be working with our Buddies from Area 7. This will take place fortnightly on a Friday morning in either Areas 2, 7 or the Art Room. We will record the things we do in a Buddy Book. Our first session together was about getting to know each other. Each buddy wrote down their partners name and drew and wrote things about them. The students were very excited to meet and work with their new buddy.