Dear Parents/Guardians

This term our whole school focus is on a program called ‘Catching on Early’. This program has been recommended by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and is based on Sexuality Education in Primary Schools. It is an essential curriculum component for Victorian Schools and School Council has requested that our students complete this program every two years.

Catching on Early is an evidence based resource and is designed to help schools teach sexuality education throughout each level of the school. It is developmentally based with appropriate resources for Prep students through to Year 6 students. This program builds on students’ early learning and experiences about gender, bodies and relationships. It provides a framework in which to safely discuss health, personal, social and emotional development. It also builds on other successful programs at our school already being implemented like Bounce Back and Circle Time.

There are many reasons why it is important to teach sexuality education in primary school including:

- Many children want to know
- It provides education for puberty and beyond
- The onset of puberty can begin whilst students are in primary school
- Parents want sexuality education in schools
- It helps young people to make healthy choices
- It can be protective against sexual abuse
- It can help ‘break the ice’

There are six themes that will be taught throughout the program. These are knowing me knowing you, growing and changing, my body, belonging, someone to talk to and where did I come from. As part of the program each year level will send out a letter via Tiqbiz outlining exactly what they will be teaching in that level. This will be sent home shortly.

If you have any questions about this program please speak to your child’s classroom teacher.

Kind Regards

Hayley Taylor
Welfare Coordinator