

# Introducing Pakenham Hills P.S ELEVATE

## ▼▲ How did ELEVATE start at Pakenham Hills, and who is involved?

Pakenham Hills Primary ELEVATE began when Arita Smith, the school chaplain approached SU with the *question 'Could an ELEVATE program match the needs of the school to better connect with some tricky grade 4s?'*



After meetings, prayer and training, one of the ELEVATE Values programs (originally put together by Trav Barnes) seemed the best fit. Local mum and CRE teacher, Genevieve Shallard, was appointed as the team Director, and Ron Hurren, Peter James and Nat Kerrison are a part of the ELEVATE Team.

## ▼▲ How is ELEVATE involved in the school?

Currently Pakenham Hills ELEVATE meets together weekly with the students to share lunch, followed by games and some interactive input on values. *"The leaders are very enthusiastic and get along side the boys to talk to them. Some of them have not had an adult show interest in them so that alone is special"* shares Arita



## ▼▲ What have been the successes and challenges?

The group of boys involved are very diverse and their engagement and behaviour varies weekly, too. The team has found their priority is to make relationships foremost and more and more boys want to join in, so they're on the right track! *"Kids see me the day before and say, "See you tomorrow" or "is that group on tomorrow"? I have had to say "No" to about 6 boys who also wanted to be a part of the group"* says Arita.

## ▼▲ Hopes and Plans for the future

For a first go at partnering with SU, the school is very happy! With the current demand and interest of the boys at the school, plans are to begin running 2 groups next year.

