

Surprise message brings joy to hospitals

STUDENTS at Pickering Brook Primary School have brought some joy to staff and patients at St John of God Midland and Princess Margaret Hospital by writing 'Thank You' and 'Get Well Soon' cards.

The initiative was coordinated by chaplain Allison Burgoyne as part of the TED (Treat Everyone Decently) program.

This term, one of the values - 'Helping Community' - was taught to the Year 1/2 and 2/3 classes.

"The Year 1/2 class chose PMH because several students had been there," Allison said.

"The Year 2/3 chose SJOGM because one of the students in that class has a mother who works there and she also came out to the classes to talk about hospitals to help familiarise the children with hospital procedures."

Staff at the hospital were so moved by the gesture, that they wrote a letter of thanks and took to social media to express their gratitude.

St John of God Midland Public and Private Hospitals CEO Dr Glen Power said caregivers and patients in the children's ward were extremely grateful for receiving the hand-crafted cards from the students.

"The cards brought a smile to the faces of our patients, doctors and caregivers and certainly helped to brighten their days," he said.

"It was very caring and thoughtful of the students to create the cards. The students showed great creativity in the incorporation of plasters into the artwork of their cards."

Allison said she was overwhelmed by the response.

"An extra surprise for us was finding out that the Acting Clinical Nurse Manager is an ex-student of Pickering Brook Primary School. He was over the moon at receiving his card," she said.

"We also received an email from a family whose child received a 'Keep Smiling' Minions Card thanking the Year 2/3 class and teacher saying it made them happy as it helped take their minds off their worries for their son.

"Their son is now recovering nicely and also typed a message saying how the card made him smile and it's now on top of their TV at home.

"I had hoped it might bring a smile to a few faces but had no idea of the real impact – to the children at our school, the parents of the children at school, SJOGM hospital staff, sick children and families of sick children.

"Talk about the ripple effect of a little love and kindness."

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