Kids show others how it’s done
Courtney Crane
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TEACHERS at Bell Park North Primary know that sometimes it’s better to take a back seat.

The school has this year taken part in a program allowing grade 6 pupils to take over the classroom once a week, running activities aimed at teaching their younger peers about conflict resolution, problem solving, team building and empathy.

An initiative of Peer Support Australia, the program is built on the notion that students know more about what’s going on in one another’s lives than staff, but often lack the skills to support their friends through their problems.

Bell Park North program co-ordinator Ben Harmon said activities had focused largely on building resilience, and had seen the pupils lead groups of about a dozen. He said “pause, plan, proceed” had become a motto in the schoolyard.

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