

Student Well-being: A Collective Responsibility

Stephanie Fearon

Community Partnerships

STEPHANIE FEARON: I'm really big on the community/family school connections. A lot of my work involves partnerships, and for example, one of my schools, we are working through decolonising schools and reconciliation. We've partnered up with Native Child Family Services because we don't hold all the answers. We are not sure. We shouldn't think we are the experts, but why not engage with a community organisation who does hold answers -- insights? Who are passionate? I'm working with another school that's talking about issues around sexual identity -- gender identity. We, again, are partnering up with another community organisation and families to support us in deciding what resources are, you know, we should tap into. Who should we get to come in and co-plan and co-facilitate these sessions? Same thing with all the other different forms of identities and all those uncomfortable topics, but I always say children always surprise us, and they have this way and these insights that if we don't try at least we miss out on this opportunity to let children know that we see them, that we hear them, that we see all the parts of them that impact their well-being and that we don't as a school system see that we do this alone. My work involves connecting with health advocates because there are topics around health that I don't have the deep knowledge around, and that's okay, but I have the knowledge and confidence enough to connect with an organisation that does.