

## **Putting on the gloves against bullies**

By Alison Ribbon – Education Writer (Hobart Mercury August 31, 2002)

A Tasmanian school is picking a fight with bullying. Brent St Primary School in Glenorchy has set up a health and wellbeing committee to tackle the issue. Co-ordinator Maurice Devereux said the committee, formed this year was made up of teachers, teaching aides and parents. "Looking back through our records, we decided that there had been a fair bit of bullying in the playground," he said. Mr Devereux said a mediator program had been set up where older students help deal with problems between younger ones in the playground. He said Program Achieve had also been set up to educate children in the classroom about bullying. "It's a long-term thing really but we can see a change already in the students' behaviour and how they're dealing with problems," he said. Education Minister Paula Wriedt was at the school yesterday to meet the school community and help celebrate the completion of new playground equipment. A \$30,000 redevelopment of the playground, begun in 1998, includes a new sandpit and tricycle-riding area. School council chairman Leon Chick said the school also had a terrific program for children with disabilities. "We're doing some really good stuff here, especially in relation to inclusion," Mr Chick said. Six of the school's 160 students are being funded under the Inclusion Policy.