



Breakwater: El Costa Video Transcript

Founder of Breakwater, El Costa: And what I did from the beginning, was say to the teachers, "the important thing is that the children first feel safe, feel secure. If they need anything, they're as safe as they are at home. There's somebody that they can trust. Then if we can keep that one element, to sort of ease the way for children, then everything else falls into place"

And I've been asked so many many times, "why did you call it Breakwater?" And I've said to the children, "When you start out in life you've got a little boat and you're learning to paddle it and you're safe. Even if you fall in you're not going to drown. You're safe, in safe harbor, protected from the waves and the storms. By the time you're ready to go by the breakwater, you're strong enough and wise enough, that you're going to be able to take care of yourself in heavy seas."

Head of School, David Sullivan: One of the questions I asked a lot of people while I was going through the interview process was, "if you could identify that one thing that is the essence of Breakwater, you know, what would it be?" What would be one thing that if you took it away it would no longer be Breakwater anymore. And I wondered what you might say to that? Or what you might think is that one thing

El: Well, one word only - love. That's what it begins with, everything grows from there.

Children's voices singing: Happiness is morning and evening, daytime and nighttime too! Happiness is anyone and anything at all. That's love, love

Child speaker: That concludes our presentations, thank you very much for coming

(Sound of audience clapping and cheering)