

ENGLISH: *USING LANGUAGE TO PERSUADE*

PROMPT: “Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don’t matter and those who matter don’t mind”- Dr Seuss



Balletboy101 – *STATUS*:

To all reading this I feel that it’s time I spoke out and stopped being the picked on, bullied little dancer boy. I feel it’s time that everyone see’s eye to eye with me. This goes for anyone in my position, just because you’re a boy who dances don’t mean you should be any less accepted than someone who plays basketball or football. I know this seems like a bit of a rant, but it’s time for all the students of Patterson Park High school to take action, be their own person and stop conforming to the suppressing social norms that are evident throughout our school. Students need to feel free to do what it is that makes them happy and not have to feel paranoid that they will fall into the category of ‘social reject’.

All my high school life I’ve been cussed at and been the recipient of abusive slur. Labelled as “you’re a fa*”, or a slightly cleverer stab and one of my personal favourites “would you like a dress with that hom*?” Now I have struggled to comprehend how being a male dancer automatically defines someone as ‘homosexual’. I mean I am in a dance class with half naked ‘fit’ girls four times a week, whereas those who play the much more “manly” sport football hug other men in their short shorts and roll around in the mud, now I’m no expert, but which seems more gay to you ? I’m so glad I have a supportive group of friends who don’t mind who I want to be, or what I want to do, but just imagine if everyone was excepting of everyone, wouldn’t that make our school a much better place to be day to day ?

Now I know that I am not the only male in our school who loves performing arts, but I do know I’m the only male man enough to admit it. How would you feel if your friend wants to be a part of the arts and it’s their dream, yet they’re too scared to share it and be who they want because of the judgmental nature of those surrounding them? No doubt you’d feel pretty crap knowing that you crushed the prevented the dream of someone so important to you to flourish. I know that no one from our school is heartless enough to not care about crushing a friend, or are they?

I know that there are students who are worried to step out of the social norms because of parents’ expectations. My dad hated the idea of me dancing at first and for sometime cut me off because I was too different for him as a son. Just know that if they truly love you, regardless of your decisions they’ll be by your side. So I just want to encourage and compel all reading this to unravel your blind fold and see the bigger picture.