

October 11, 2012

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you know, our school is implementing the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program. Through this program students are discouraged from being a silent bystander to bullying, and are encouraged to help someone who is being bullied. This help might involve reporting an incident to an adult, telling the bully to stop and leave their classmate alone, or befriending the bullied child so that he/she feels supported. This is not something that is usually easy for children to do. It takes courage and social skills. Through regular class meetings, children engage in character education and learn strategies and skills to help someone who is being bullied.

We all know that children are going to make mistakes. It is an inevitable part of learning and growing. Generally, low-level behavior issues are swiftly dealt with by the classroom teacher or staff member present. It may involve providing the child with a verbal reminder or a minor consequence (flipping a card on the behavior chart or a loss of a privilege). When a child engages in repeated behavior or a significant behavioral issue, it may be necessary to have a more significant consequence, parental notification and communication, and/or involvement by the principal.

Over the next couple of weeks, we will begin using the attached Behavioral Incident Report. When a child chooses to engage in repeated negative behavior or a significant behavior choice (e.g. hitting) a staff member will complete this form. Parents will receive a phone call notifying them of the report, and the description of the incident will be shared with the parent. The child will complete the back-side of the form, indicating the behavior and what they can do differently next time. Younger children will be allowed to draw a picture to communicate their behavior and action plan, and older students will write a description. The Behavioral Incident Reports will be a useful communication tool between home and school.

Thank you for your continued support as we work to make our school a "Bully Free Zone!" Should you have any questions, please call me.

Sincerely,

Paul Pietrantone, Principal