

Character Education Newsletter

Mount Prospect School

Fall 2010

Dear Parents and Students,

I hope this finds you well and enjoying the autumn weather. As the school year begins, the Character Education Committee is moving into full swing to character to the forefront of your child's education. Below are some of the initiatives that will we have within our school. We look forward to celebrating our students and all of the good character traits they bring to others in and outside of the classroom. Thank you for all that you do to bring success to your children. Best Wishes to You and Your Family for a Wonderful Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

The Character Education Committee and Kimberly Borin, Ed.D. School Counselor

Mount Prospect School

Olweus Bullying Program

The Olweus Bullying Program is a district-wide initiative for bullying prevention. The entire district has been trained to implement this outstanding program. The multi-level components make this program unique amidst all other programs. These components include: School-Level Component, Classroom-Level Component, Individual Level Component (working with students and parents) and the Community-Level Component. The program is designed for all students and is preventive and responsive in nature. The program is backed by years of research and requires systematic efforts over a long period of time to create a culture shift that prevents bullying. You will see more information about this program coming out soon.

In the interim, all of the classrooms will be having class meetings as a way to discuss friendship issues and social climate. Each classroom also has rules posted which include:

1. We will not bully others.
2. We will try to help students who are bullied.
3. We will try to include students who are left out.
4. If we know that somebody is being bullied, we will tell an adult at school and an adult at home.

Children Practicing Respect

Recently at Mount Prospect the Children Practicing Respect Group was brought in for an assembly. This program also highlighted the need for respect in all areas of life. The different kinds of respect included:

- Self-respect: Saying no to drugs and alcohol
- Respecting each other: Bullying, teasing, respecting different viewpoints
- Respecting parents: Obedience and appreciation
- Respecting teachers as authority: Politeness and class etiquette
- Respecting the belongings of others: Borrowing and public property
- Respecting our country: Patriotism and respect for our leaders

The DUDE Award and the ACE Award

At Mount Prospect School, students are recognized in several ways. Formally they are recognized with one of two awards; the DUDE Award (Doers of Unique Deeds of Excellence) and the ACE Award (Achieving Character Excellence). For both awards students are recognized for making excellent choices in good character and for going above and beyond the call of duty. The ACE Award in particular is given to students who go out of their way to give extra effort and kindness to a person or situation. The student is chosen by the Character Education Committee. For the DUDE Award, classroom teachers award students for showing excellent character in and outside of the classroom. All of our students are recognized at our school assemblies. We are very proud of the efforts they give to make our school and our world a better place.