

September, 2011

Dear Parent /Guardian,

During the 2010-2011 school year, the Moon Area School District adopted the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (OBPP) which encompasses kindergarten through 12th grade. This researched-based program reduces bullying in schools and also helps to make school a safer, more positive place where students can learn. The goals of OBPP are to reduce bullying problems and prevent new bullying problems from happening. The program also works to make relationships better among students and is designed for all students, not just those who are bullied or are bullying others.

This past school year, our school district trained administrators, teachers, professional support staff, coaches, custodians, cafeteria workers and bus drivers in reference to OBPP. Kick-off activities and regular class meetings were conducted as well as special bullying related programs in all of our school buildings. Our students from kindergarten to grade 12 are very much aware of the Bully Free Rules as well as strategies to implement if a bullying situation would occur. As a result of topics being discussed during class meetings, many students in the elementary, middle and high schools have intervened on behalf of the person being bullied. Also, several bullying situations have been reported by students, as well as parents.

As we begin our second year with the OBPP, we will use the data received this past year from the OBPP staff survey and student questionnaire to strengthen areas of the program that need attention as well as continuing to support the ideals of the entire program. In addition, we will continue to investigate all reported cases of bullying following school board policy. Although the OBPP takes place at school, parents and guardians play a key role in the process. At home you can talk with your child about the Bully Free Rules. Your child will be asked to tell an adult at school and at home if he or she is bullied or sees bullying happening at school. It will be very important that you take bullying seriously. If a problem should arise, we ask you to contact the staff of your child's school and provide specific details of the incident.

Bullying should not be seen as "kids being kids" or something that all of us must accept because that is the way it always has been. Having a safe school experience is something that all students should be able to enjoy.

Each school in our district will once again have a kick-off activity sometime during the month of September. If last year was any indication, the enthusiasm of the students and adults involved will be exceptional. Working cooperatively as a school district community, with the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program as our guide, we will continue to foster the ideal of **"doing the right thing"** and saying **"no"** to bullying.

Sincerely,

Mr. Johnson, Principal Hyde Elementary

Mr. Martonik, MAPS/Olweus Coordinator