

Counselor's Communication

Harding
Academy

February 2013

Mrs. Hall's Monthly Newsletter

Harding Happenings:

Here is what is happening in our Classroom Guidance Lessons this month...

JK, SK, & 1st – Appropriate Touch:

We read a story called *Hands Are Not For Hitting*. We discussed ways that we can touch our friends in a friendly way. We practiced giving high fives and shaking each others' hands.

2nd & 3rd – Friendship:

The book *Purplicious* helped us learn about friendship. We discussed ways we should and should not treat our friends. We ended with the Compliment Game.

4th, 5th, & 6th – Learning Styles:

The older grades took a learning inventory in order to find out their learning styles. We discussed how to study based on each child's learning style.

Picture books about FRIENDSHIP:

Fish is Fish

by: Leo Lionni

Ladybug Girl and the Bug Squad

by: David Soman

Purplicious

by: Victoria & Elizabeth Kann

Chester's Way

by: Kevin Henkes

Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon

by: Patty Lovell

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Friendship

School is a place to learn, not only about math and reading, but also about relationships. Children learn about friendships and social problem solving at school and from you at home. It can be difficult to know what to say to a child who is upset about a disagreement with a friend. Although your first instinct may be to protect your child and intervene, helping them solve their own problems in a responsible and respectful way will teach them to be a peaceful problem solver and great friend. Remember, there is always more than one side to a story. Try the following suggestions to turn hurt feelings into a learning experience about friendship. Ask your child what their friend might say if we asked them what happened. By putting themselves in their friend's shoes, your child may gain understanding and be in a better position to brainstorm solutions that will work for all parties. Encourage your child to talk to their friends about their feelings. Ask how they can solve the problem without hurting someone else? Encourage them to take action to resolve the conflict.

Most importantly, teach by example. When your child sees you being a good friend, they will learn about what a good friend does. Each time you call to check on a friend, take a meal to someone who is not feeling well, or lend a helping hand, you are showing your child what it means to care for others. Take it a step further, and encourage your child to do some of these things for a friend in need. Making a simple card, inviting someone to play, or just calling to say, "Hello," are things you can do together to be a good friend to someone else.

Love one another with brotherly affection.

Romans 12:10

