



Springer Elementary School

1120 Rose Avenue • Mountain View, CA 94040

650-943-4200 (tel) • 650-965-9683 (fax)

Bob Celeste

Principal

bceleste@lasdschools.org

From the Principal

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FRIENDSHIP for All...

Last Tuesday evening, the PTA presented the second in a series of panel discussions. This discussion introduced the LIFESKILL of FRIENDSHIP for the end of the month of January and the entire month of February. The panel discussion was intended to be an interactive discussion directed by Amanda Ferris, school based CHAC counselor, and I. We were not disappointed.

The students and parents who attended the evening event recognized that FRIENDSHIP is the strongest antidote for bullying. At Springer Elementary School, our staff, parents, and students are concerned about certain types of bullying that appear subtle, yet damaging to a child's self esteem.

During the presentation, we identified bullying examples that seemed to be taking place at our school. Examples included isolation, put downs, and comments that centered around the idea that differences are not accepted by some students. Once the types of bullying taking place at our school were identified, students and parents wanted to know what could be done to eliminate these hurtful teasing comments.

The request led directly to an introduction to the 12 criteria necessary to develop a climate of friendship on the Springer campus. Students and parents learned that the upcoming FRIENDSHIP campaign will be active and offer students an opportunity to recognize and practice friendship skills.

Once recognized, the students and staff will mount a graphic survey on the Springer STAR wall to capture the qualities of FRIENDSHIP tried, practiced, or permanently implemented by Springer students. It will be very interesting to observe the growth of the graph over the next few weeks.

All students will participate in grade level assemblies to learn more about the 12 Friendship criteria. In addition, the biggest lesson of all will be for our children to learn how these common Friendship skills can be put into action to totally eliminate bullying on the Springer campus.