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September 8, 2017

Dear Parents,

As adults, we often look back to our childhood and remember treasured friendships. As parents, teachers, and family members we want to give our students all the possible tools we can to help them have safe and happy friendships at school, and in adulthood.

To help empower our children, and to reduce the number of instances of relational aggression, a special 6 lesson unit will be implemented in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade classroom. The Ophelia Project curriculum seeks to empower girls and boys to identify, assess, and reduce relational aggression. Through the use of anecdotes, group activities, and reflections, boys and girls will develop strategies for creating safe, social climates and maintaining healthy friendships. I encourage you to explore the website <http://www.opheliaproject.org/> for more information.

This curriculum focuses on:

- Defining peer aggression with special emphasis on relational aggression
- Helping students share personal experiences when appropriate
- Identify and understand the various roles of aggressor, target and the bystander
- Creating a safe social environment by positively affecting social behavioral norms.

Our school counselor, Jason Sullivan, is partnering with our school psychologist, Casey Bayes, and our Altacare therapist, Colleen Murphy, to facilitate the unit. The unit will take place during 6<sup>th</sup> period Monday through Thursday.

It is our hope that by implementing the Ophelia Project curriculum, students will be empowered to deal with relational aggression and will choose to take actions to create a safe social and emotional climate in their classrooms and school. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Maria Pace  
Superintendent/Principal

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