

Counselor Corner (October, 2017 – Part 1)

October is National Bullying Prevention Month. Granite Oaks Middle School supports the national focus on bully prevention with assemblies, daily announcements, lunchtime pledge signing, an art mural in the amphitheatre, specific lessons in elective and PE classes and the annual Bully Prevention survey. Students, staff and administrators participate in the above activities during the month of October to demonstrate our entire campus's commitment to creating a challenging learning environment that is caring, safe and welcoming to all students.

The middle school years are particularly challenging for students, families, staff and administrators dealing with the phenomenon of bullying. Young people adjusting to the personal, physical, emotional and social development of the adolescent years are vulnerable to bullying behaviors. Statistics pertaining to bullying in the areas of reporting and prevention are as follows:

64% of children who were bullied did not report it; only 36% reported the bullying;
More than half of bullying situation (57%) stop when a peer intervenes on behalf of the student being bullied;
School-based bullying prevention programs decrease bullying by up to 25%; and,
The reasons for being bullied reported most often by students were Looks (55%), body shape (37%), and race (16%).
Pacer Bullying Prevention Center (www.pacer.org/bullying/resources/stats.asp)

As a compliment to the October activities, Granite Oaks Middle School will also be kicking off PBIS (Positive Behavior and Support) with a Welcome to the Nest rally reinforcing the Falcon Creed of being Respectful, Responsible and Resilient students on our campus. The ongoing emphasis on positive behavior can be seen in an increased awareness among students of the types of behaviors that promote kindness, compassion, concern and community. The upcoming month of October's activities is also a great opportunity for parents, families and students to have conversations about the Falcon Creed, bully prevention and good citizenship. For parents and family members who would like to check out resources to add to these conversations, the following websites may be helpful ---

<http://stopbullying.gov>

<http://paceteenagainstbullying.org>

<http://wiredsafety.org>

Linda Marcarian, MS
lmarcarian@rocklinusd.org

Rosemary Elston, MA
relston@rocklinusd.org