

Mustangs Speak-Up Project Against Bullying and Promoting Speaking up

School: Rio Vista Elementary School

School District: Pendergast School District

Project Advisor Names: Ms. Siobhan McCarthy and Mr. Phillip McNamara

Number of students on project team: 11 students

Approximate number of students on campus: Approximately 770

Project Goal: To educate and help students to be aware of the issues of bullying, and how we can, and should stand up and speak out against it.

Project Narrative: Studies show that students are more likely to passively reinforce bullying behavior by not speaking up when observing such behavior. Our goal is to help promote a student run and guided movement within our school promoting students to stand up, and speak up whenever witnessing any bully like behavior. We believe in growing as a community by means of standing together as one, and for each other at all times. By working with and training select students to be peer advocates at school for all students around them, our goal is to normalize the importance of standing up for each other and speaking up as needed.

Goals Achieved:

- 1) Students created the name for our group: Mustangs Speak Up
- 2) Students created flyers and daily announcements to have school staff and students wear red on Wednesday's to promote bullying awareness-Red-y Wednesdays.
- 3) Students taught lessons from Second Step Curriculum to 4th and 5th grade classes on "empathy". Students emphasized the importance of other's feelings at all times and to be aware of bullying behavior.

Next year plans:

1. Next year's NJHS facilitators would like to continue having students teach in the classrooms to reinforce the importance of being kind and reporting bullying.
2. Possibly purchase of a Friendship Bench to have on our 3-5th grade playground.

3. Have a Super Hero Anti-bullying Day.

