

Falcon News
December, 15, 2011
Mary Cronin, Principal

Finding Kind

A documentary, "Finding Kind," will be presented at Samantha Smith Elementary School on Thursday, January 26th from 6:30-8:30 in the gym. Any parent is invited to attend as well as parents with their daughters in grades 5-6. It is not recommended for children under 10. Students that attend must be accompanied by an adult. There will be a discussion following the presentation. The documentary has received international recognition as a movement in raising awareness and healing on the negative and lasting effects of girl bullying and meanness (name-calling, threats, power struggles, competition, manipulation, secrets, rumors, excluding and fighting). To learn more about the program, you can visit their web site at www.kindcampaign.com

The event is sponsored by the Mead and Smith PTSA's. There is limited seating, some profanity and serious content.

Lost and Found

Last call for lost and found; all items will be donated to a charity over the break. I will be in Monday or Tuesday of next week to box stuff so if you think you have something lost, please e-mail me.

Lunch Accounts

During the break would be a great time to check your child's lunch account; you can make a deposit on-line right from you home in your P.J's.

Kindergarten Registration

Registration for next year's kindergarten class is fast approaching, **Thursday, February 2nd**, from 1:00-7:00 PM. Please be sure to bring birth certificates, proof of residence and immunization records. Be sure to "round-up" your neighbors and encourage them to register on this day. We will conduct a lottery for All-Day Kindergarten the following Wednesday.

Conferences

Our second round of parent/child conferences will begin on Tuesday, January 31st, Thursday, February 2nd and Friday, February 3rd. The emphasis of this conference period is report cards and student goal follow-up. You should already have an appointment as most parents signed up in September. If you are new, you may want to contact your child's teacher. If for some reason you cannot make your scheduled appointment, please be sure to call the office and/or teacher to reschedule. Students will be dismissed at 11:30 on all three conference days. Our Wednesday schedule is the regular 1:30 early dismissal.

How to Raise a Compassionate Child by: Jane Meredith Adams

While rummaging through an old box, my little girl came across the stuffed bear from when I was her age, a deeply loved creature named Teddy. "How come Teddy has no fur?" she asked. "Why doesn't he have eyes?" I explained that my cousin's dog had chewed up Teddy when I was a kid. She was aghast! Gravely, the little girl kissed Teddy's empty eye sockets. Somberly, she reported to her twin brother what happened. "We've got to fix him," she said.

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As it turns out, children have an inborn capacity for compassion. Small in stature themselves, they naturally identify with stuffed animals, other kids, pets and underdogs. The tricky part is their empathy must compete with other developmental forces including limited impulse control and their belief that their needs absolutely must come first. But, with so much turmoil and hatred in the world today, it seems more important than ever to raise kids who can understand and be kind to other people. Teaching this doesn't mean lectures or visits to soup kitchens. It should be a part of our day-to-day life. How can we as parents, teachers and significant adults in a child's life with "everything" else going on impact compassion with a child?

- Show children how to be "gentle"
- Speak softly; it's all about the tone of our voice
- Reject rudeness. Compassion requires that children respect others
- Enforce family/school rules by being consistent
- Provide structure for children
- Expect your children to help in the home/class
- Use manners to connect; thank you, please
- Outlaw name-calling
- Give consequences
- Label Kindness in the home/school
- Monitor media (movies, songs, electronic games)

Important Dates

December 19 – January 2 – Winter Break (No School)

January 16 – Martin Luther King Holiday (No School)

January 31, February 2, February 3 – Parent/Child Conferences (11:30 dismissal)

February 16, 17 and 20th – Mid Winter Break (No School)

May 7-10 – MSP Testing in Grades 3-6