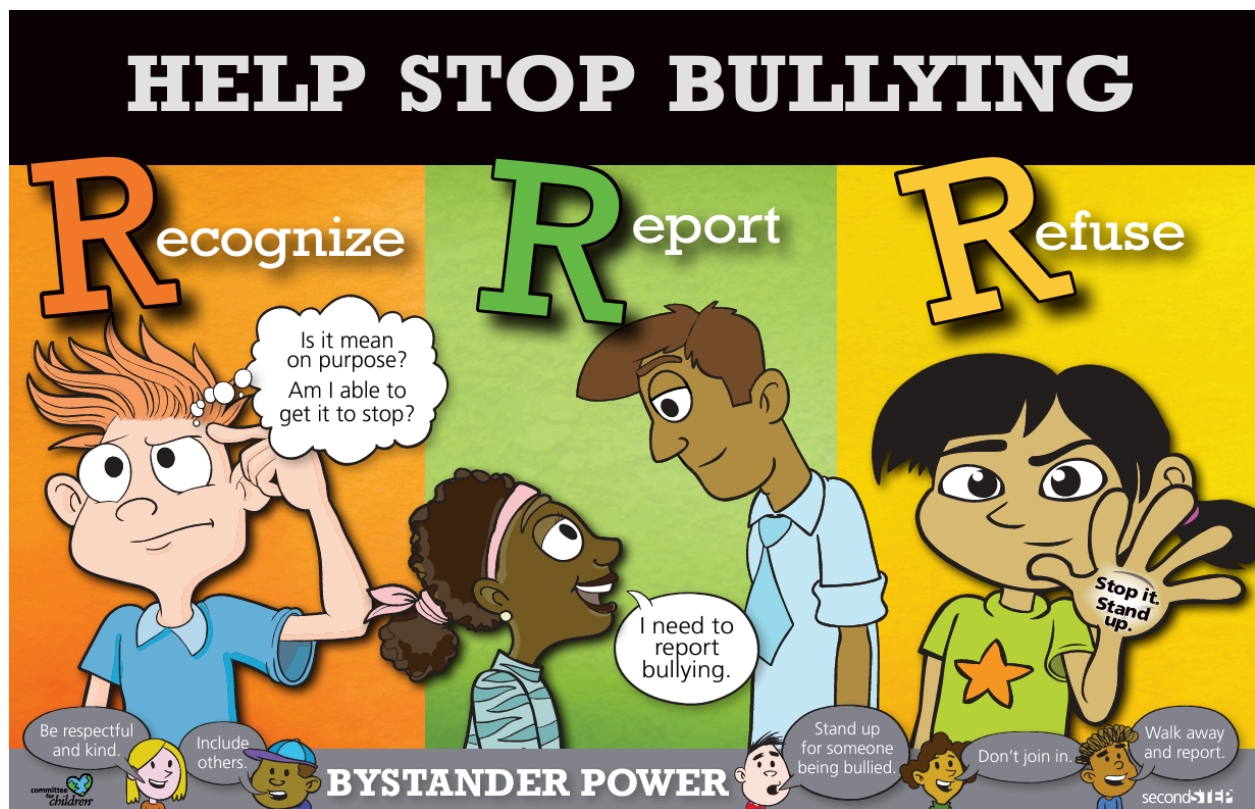


Counseling Corner

Hello families and welcome back! This month during our regular weekly classroom Counseling lessons, we will be working on our *Second Step* Bullying Prevention Unit. In this unit, your child will learn specific skills to help stop bullying. Students will learn how to:

- Recognize when bullying is happening
- Report bullying to a caring adult
- Refuse to let bullying happen to themselves or others
- Be a bystander who stands up and is part of the solution to bullying



Prior to the break, students learned about various forms of conflict and how to manage disagreements with others through conflict management strategies. We will also continue to reinforce peaceful problem solving techniques for conflict - ge. Throughout this unit, I will be highlighting the differences between conflict and bullying. Conflict is a normal part of any relationship so it is important that our students understand how to solve problems with others in a peaceful way such as ignoring, walking away, and talking it out using an assertive voice and respectful language. Bullying, however, often requires a student's willingness to report to an adult for help solving the issue. Conflict differs from bullying in that bullying:

- On purpose with the intent to hurt the target's body, belongings, and/or feelings
- Usually happens over and over again rather than a one-time incident

- Is unfair and one-sided
- The target is typically unable to stop the behavior through normal conflict resolution techniques..

For bullying prevention to work, everyone at school needs to be involved. Our teachers and staff support students by:

- Recognizing and responding to bullying.
- Listening to and seeking solutions for children who have been bullied
- Providing serious consequences to children who are engaging in bully behavior
- Using strategies that support a positive school and classroom climate

We need your help to prevent bullying too! You can get involved in making our school a safe and respectful place by:

- Letting us know if you hear about bullying at our school.
- Making sure your child knows to tell you or someone at school if he or she is being bullied.
- Giving your child the clear message that it is never okay to bully others.

If you have any questions about the Bullying Prevention Unit, please contact me. For more information on our school's anti-bullying policy and specific procedures, check our school website or contact the school office. Thank you for helping us make our school a safe, respectful place where everyone can learn.

Mrs. Gibson