

Dear Family,

For the past several months, our school has been teaching the *Steps to Respect* program, a schoolwide bullying prevention program. The primary goal of the program is to help create a safe, respectful, caring learning environment that is bullying-free for all students.

As part of this program, our class is studying literature lessons that reinforce many of the concepts the children have learned in the program. We are reading the book *Yang the Third and Her Impossible Family* by Lensey Namioka. This book was selected specifically because it speaks directly to children's concerns about making friends. It is about a girl's experiences with moving to a new country and trying to make friends. *Yang the Third and Her Impossible Family* is an important part of the *Steps to Respect* program because it gives students an opportunity to discuss respect, friendship, and family. Students will also learn from the situations that are presented.

The lessons in this unit teach children to take responsibility for creating a caring school by:

- Treating each other with respect.
- Encouraging others to join in group activities.
- Using perspective taking and empathy to understand how someone else feels.
- Learning how to deal with bullying when it happens.

Thank you,

Classroom Teacher