

Dear Family,

For the past several months, our school has been teaching the *Steps to Respect* program, a schoolwide bullying prevention curriculum. 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 *Crash* by Jerry Spinelli. This book was selected specifically because it speaks directly to children's concerns about making friends and bullying. The book is about a boy's experiences with developing friendships and the choices he makes about bullying. *Crash* is an important part of the *Steps to Respect* program because it gives students the opportunity to discuss respect, friendship, and bullying. Students also learn from the situations presented in the story.

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.

We encourage you to discuss the book and the lessons with your child.

Thank you,

Classroom Teacher