

## STOP Bullying Week at Hawks Rise

Every day at Hawks Rise we work together to keep bullying from happening. In September, Ms. German and Ms. Einarson from the Guidance Office visited every classroom to teach students how to identify the types of bullying—cyber bullying, physical harm and intimidation, sexual harassment, and emotional bullying—and to help students develop strategies to put a stop to bullying behaviors. In our classroom visits, we explained to students the difference between pesky, annoying behavior and bullying, emphasizing that bullying will cause the victim to feel threatened, afraid, and intimidated rather than simply irritated.

During STOP Bullying Week, September 14<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>, the morning news report included short videos featuring a boy talking with his mom about how to stand up to bullies. Students also completed a pledge to stand up and stop bullying by signing their name to a handprint, on which they listed strategies they could use if they saw or experienced bullying at school, at home, or in the community. The hand print pledges will be displayed outside the Guidance Office for several weeks, and students and their teachers have been stopping by regularly to find their pledge on the colorful mural.

If a discussion with your child leads you to believe bullying may be happening to him or her, Leon County Schools has developed a definition to help. “Bullying includes “cyberbullying” and means systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students. It is defined as any unwanted and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior, including any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture...that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment; cause discomfort or humiliation; or unreasonably interfere with the individual’s school performance or participation.” If you suspect bullying, please contact our Principal, Ms. Friend, our Assistant Principal, Mrs. Jackson, our Dean of Students, Ms. Mitchell, or Ms. Einarson and Ms. German in Guidance so that we can assist.

We encourage families to join us as we team up to stop bullying all year. Below are resources to watch, read, and do with our children at home to help them have the confidence, tools, and trust to stand up and stop bullying every single day.

Video shown on our morning news report during STOP Bullying Week

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFAUwxvD3J8>

Link to our Student Code of Conduct

[http://leonschools.schoolwires.net/cms/lib7/FL01903265/Centricity/Domain/20/CODEOFCONDUCT2014\\_2015.pdf](http://leonschools.schoolwires.net/cms/lib7/FL01903265/Centricity/Domain/20/CODEOFCONDUCT2014_2015.pdf)

Link to the US Department of Health and Human Services Stop Bullying Website

<http://www.stopbullying.gov/index.html>

Link to Let's Stop Bullying webpage with fun games and printables for kids and their families

[http://www.letsstopbullying.co.uk/download\\_games.php](http://www.letsstopbullying.co.uk/download_games.php)