

Dear Family,

We are starting a unit on **Peer Relationships** from Harmony SEL, our social and emotional learning program. Throughout this unit, students will identify the qualities important to friendship, practice providing their classmates with support, and implement effective strategies for dealing with bullying.

What Makes a Friend is different for everyone, but positive relationships have certain elements in common. Since children's learning occurs within the social context of the classroom, the quality of those relationships influences their academic functioning and attitudes toward school. In this unit, students will identify personal characteristics that help people make and maintain friendships, discuss how friends can be both similar and different, and consider the kind of friend they want to be to others.

Being Supportive helps create a positive classroom environment. Students will explore ways to provide support to one another and identify specific situations in which they can do so. They will practice these behaviors on a regular basis to help create a community where all students feel supported.

Battling Bullies is everyone's responsibility. Children who are bullied can experience significant psychological distress and, as a result, perform poorly in and avoid school. In this unit, students will learn about the roles of the bully, target, and bystander in bullying scenarios. They will also practice strategies for responding to bullying and for providing bullied peers with support.

An important part of this program is for students to continue discussing and practicing concepts outside the classroom. I'm hoping you can reinforce at home what we are learning in class. Ask your child about these concepts!

Thank you for your involvement. Please contact me if you have any questions about the Harmony program.

Sincerely,
Jessica Davis
Poinciana Elementary Principal