

Rycroft standing strong against bullying



Students and staff at Rycroft School have been working to keep classrooms, the school, and the playground safe and happy places to learn and have fun.

Students have been taking part in antibullying activities, as well as learning about the virtues of respect and empathy. They've also been working hard to follow the school routines for appropriate behaviour, both indoors and out.

Following a Dare to Care presentation last May, Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) arranged for more speakers to visit the school to talk about how to stop bullying. Performer Jeff McCann taught students about how to diffuse bullies, while a local RCMP officer spoke about different kinds of bullying, and the consequences for the bully, the person being bullied, and the onlookers.

"Students now have a clearer understanding of what bullying is and what they can do about it, both at school and outside of school hours," says Principal Lawrie McKeith.

Teachers and students have been practicing safety in the hallways, the gym and on the playground. "We're not perfect yet, but we are getting much better at walking quietly in the halls and using the playground equipment safely. We're also learning to be considerate of others' feelings," says McKeith.

Additionally, the school has been practising the virtues of respect and empathy. School staff has been recognizing students "caught" demonstrating these virtues during morning announcements, as well as at "High-5 Assemblies." The school has built a set of statements about empathy, and elementary students created a friendship quilt to demonstrate what empathy and respect mean to them.

"Each day we work towards making Rycroft a safe and caring school community. And day by day we're getting closer," says McKeith.