



Everything Jersey



Students given anti-bullying presentations

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MANTUA TWP. Students in Lorraine Bruner's first-grade class learned how to stay safe, strong and free at an anti-bullying presentation at Sewell school on Tuesday.

"All children deserve to be safe inside and outside their school," said Jeanette Summerville from New Jersey Child Assault Prevention. "Close your eyes and picture a place you feel really safe in your school. Now place a green sticker on that place in the diagram."

One by one, students stepped forward to place their sticker. There were several stickers in the classroom, more in the principal's office and the most in the nurse's office.

"I picked the nurse because she's so nice and she can fix boo-boos," said Mya, a student.

"In the principal's office, if a kid tried to get you, Mr. McKee would say 'You're suspended'," added her classmate, Adam.

Summerville then told the kids to think of a place where they had seen someone being bullied, had been bullied or where they think it might happen.

This time, most of the stickers were clustered on the playground. Almost every student had been the victim of or had witnessed name-calling and pushing there.

Summerville and Kim Pinto also of NJCAP then took students through a role-play of three different bullying scenarios to show them the best solutions.

"Sometimes bullying happens in the lunchroom without fights or name calling," said Pinto. "Instead, someone could not let you sit with them or leave you out of what everyone else is doing."

Using students as "witnesses" to the bullying, Summerville and Pinto demonstrated how to bring down a bully without anger. Summerville asserted her rights to sit at the lunch table or play on the playground, and the student volunteers backed her up.

"Sometimes when someone is mean to us, we might get so angry or upset we want to hit them, but that is never OK," said Pinto. "And it's always OK to tell a grown-up if you feel threatened. That doesn't make you a tattletale."

NJCAP is a statewide prevention program with its headquarters at the Educational Information Resource Center in Sewell. Since 1985, CAP has trained over two million children, parents and teachers to prevent peer assault, stranger abduction and known adult assault through various programs. In Mantua, CAP has been holding classroom workshops for first and fifth-graders for the last eight years.

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