

PeaceBuilders Training Reveals

August 30, 2006

"It's impossible!" cried a young participant in the Aug. 16 PeaceBuilders training session, as trainer Angie Metcalf presented the first team with an early challenge.

But in less than five minutes, he and his teammates were beaming, excited at having met their goal. PeaceBuilders is one of this year's district-wide initiatives designed to move the Franklin County schools closer together in spirit as well as in daily operation. It is a comprehensive program that shifts the entire climate to a peaceful, productive and safe place for children, parents, staff and faculty.

The PeaceBuilders Pledge, recited at the beginning of each day, reminds students and teachers to "Praise people, Give up put-downs, Seek wise people as advisors and friends, Notice the hurts we cause and make amends, Right wrongs, Help others," and "Build peace, at home, at school, and in my community each day."

Throughout their training during planning week, teachers and students learned to apply PeaceBuilders principles in their day-to-day activities. In one of their final group activities they were asked to share their visions of peace for the new school. Their visions, developed separately, show remarkable similarity.

Students' visions of peace at the new school

I SEE:

Helping

Happy teachers who want to be there

Mixed social groups

Good food

Great school band

People coming together at athletic events

Less fights

Less trouble

People getting along with each other, joining hand in hand without fussing and fighting

Sunshine

I FEEL:

Safe

Happy

Calm

Quiet

Respected

Smart

Included, part of everything

Friendship

Excitement

I HEAR:

Praise for the good things that the students do

Fewer arguments; more discussions

No name calling and foul language

People laughing, smiling and playing

Inspirational music

Birds singing

Teachers' visions of peace at the new school

WHAT WOULD I SEE?

Creative, curious, active students totally immersed in a greater goal

Possibilities for all

A clean, healthful environment, windows letting in sunlight
Laughter – lots – excitement
No labels for students or teachers
Teams of teachers
Colorful Environment: Music, Dance, Art
Self-respect and respect for others
Beyond the borders: Global consciousness
People walking together, laughing, singing, conversing, praising and being poetic, working together,
helping each other, smiling, agreeing, compromising, and cooperating.
Community involvement
Faculty using positive statements about the school
Administration and school board more involved in classrooms
A family

WHAT WOULD I HEAR?

Laughter, debate, noisy classes
Respectful disagreement
Kind words
Praise
Compliments
The sound of listening
People feeling relaxed, satisfied, joyful, loved, confident and exhilarated
Community Support: Monetarily and physically
People talking about the GOOD things (Faculty, students and community)
Students laughing and excited about FCS!

WHAT WOULD I FEEL?

Love for students
Harmony among students and staff
Appreciation by administration and parents
Job satisfaction
Efficiency and productivity
Unity on and off sports fields and campus

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