



November 9, 2020

Dear Finney Families,

As part of our Social-Emotional Learning program at Finney, we are teaching the Social Justice Standards from Teaching Tolerance through school-wide read alouds, along with lessons from the Sanford Harmony curriculum.

The focus for Second Quarter is on Diversity and Inclusion. Throughout this unit students will explore how each person is unique, become aware of ways we are all similar and different, and build a sense of community within the classroom.

The Social Justice standards we are focusing on this quarter are:

- Students will express comfort with people who are both similar to and different from them and engage respectfully with all people.
- Students will respond to diversity by building empathy, respect, understanding and connection.

Learning about diversity involves respecting and appreciating what makes each person unique. This fosters understanding and empathy—skills that support students' ability to form positive relationships with all kinds of people. Students will discuss how everyone has unique characteristics and strengths. They will also learn that it's okay to be different and will work with their classmates to recognize what makes them each unique.

We know that embracing diversity is important because students learn and grow best when they feel welcome, accepted, and connected to others. This work will help prevent discrimination and bullying also, in accordance with CVESD Board Policy:

According to Board Policy, The Chula Vista Elementary School District prohibits any discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying of any student based on the student's actual race, color, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, religion, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or gender expression; the perception of one or more of such characteristics; or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

You can learn more about the Social Emotional Learning at sanfordharmony.org and the Social Justice Standards at teachingtolerance.org. To learn about Safe and Welcoming schools, welcomingschools.org is a great place to start.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dr. Prange