

The Rooftop Spirit

September, 2012



Safe School Ambassadors hard at work during their training (left), and 7th Grade Ambassador Alexis Minnis with program founder Rick Phillips at the Bay Area Stop Bullying Summit (right).



Students, staff, and families team up to make Rooftop a safer and more positive school community!

Yard Volunteers!

We now have volunteers at both the Mayeda and Burnett campuses during recess and lunch almost every day to help our students stay safe. We have already seen a positive change in the safety of our yard! Our wonderful volunteers are:

Marmee Aboghanem, Viki Colhoun, Whitney Couch, Kelly Dearman, Leslie Einhorn, Laura Fankushen, Jessica Fontenot, Pauline Harris, Maryann Ibrahim, Greg Kofman, Carolyn Kincaid, Valerie Klein, Dina LeFeat, Natalie Leopold, Christian McMurray, Maurice Minnis, Mary Mottola, Elaine Olshanetsky, Liz Risse, Kristin Scagliotti, Virgil Shaw, Jane Yurkevich

Volunteers are coordinated by Gloria Maciejewski at Burnett and Elaine Olshanetsky at Mayeda. If you are interested in joining the team, please let Mr. Burgos, Ms. Obayashi, or one of our coordinators know.

Safe School Ambassadors!

After two days of intensive training, forty of our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are now Safe School Ambassadors! Our Ambassadors are showing great dedication to intervening when they see mistreatment, and their efforts have not gone unnoticed!

Rooftop's Ambassadors were highlighted on KCBS and KQED radio programs, and 7th-grade Ambassador Alexis Minnis was one of only two SFUSD students invited to the Bay Area Stop Bullying Summit on September 14th. She spoke with the media about her role as an Ambassador and was interviewed by Cheryl Jennings in front of the whole summit. Rooftop's Ambassadors even got a shout-out from Mayor Ed Lee in his speech! Thank you to Alexis, and to all of our Ambassadors, for your dedication to making our school a safe and positive environment!

Mentoring for Success!

The Mentoring for Success program here at Rooftop matches staff members with 6th-8th grade students in one-on-one mentoring relationships. This district-wide program has been shown to benefit the school success of the students involved, and our staff mentors love spending time with their mentees!

However, this program requires a huge commitment from the staff mentors: each mentor volunteers one hour of his or her time every week.

We are thrilled to announce that this year, **nineteen** of our staff members have volunteered to make this commitment. This is a huge percentage of our staff, and a clear sign of their dedication to building a positive school community!

Thank you, mentors!

Burnett Second Step Skill of the Month Award Winners: September

Ananda Baldwin, Lulu Caceres, Flint Chan, Yvania Choy, Camila Contreras, Mackenna Dere, Tyreque Elleston, Benjamin Escobar, Georgia Gandy-Einhorn, Klara Johnson, Miles Keane, Jeremy Leiva, Isabella Marquez-Klein, Max McCarty, Zena Michelson, Shade O'Connor, Jacobi Raisner, Makai Robinson, Ronaldo Rodriguez, Wyatt Saydah, Aaron Smith, Jalen Voong, Leila Wunderlich.

Congratulations and thank you to these wonderful Active Listeners!

Mayeda Students Moved by "Bully" Movie

On September 13th, our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders, along with about 2,000 other SFUSD students, had the opportunity to watch the documentary film, "Bully," as a part of the Bay Area Stop Bullying Summit.

The movie dealt with serious topics including cruel and violent bullying, homophobia and anti-gay slurs, and "bully-cide." Our students were responsible and respectful audience members at the Metreon, and many expressed feeling moved by the film and inspired to take a stand against cruelty and mistreatment.

All of our 6th and 7th/8th grade teachers were present to support our students as they watched the movie, and our Language Arts teachers, Ms. Vernace and Ms. Contreras, taught lessons before and after the film to help students prepare for and process the emotionally difficult content of the movie. Thank you to all who were involved in giving our students this important experience.

Families can find more information and resources about the movie at www.thebullyproject.com, or by contacting our school social worker, Katie McDougall.

Meet: Ms. Spiering!

Full Name: Laura Spiering

Role: Literacy Intervention Teacher

Originally from: Connecticut, by way of Phoenix

Favorite thing about San Francisco:

Diverse cultures and delicious food!

Favorite food: Cookies

Hidden Talent: I can pat my head and rub my stomach at the same time... while also crossing my eyes!

Why she loves Rooftop: I love how the community works together to make the school environment a truly joyful place for the students. Children are exposed to diverse activities and have numerous opportunities to try new things and continuously learn!



Second Step Skill of the Month:

"I" Statements

"When you _____,
I feel _____."

"I" statements allow a person to share how they are feeling without criticizing or blaming. Here are some ideas and discussion questions for helping your child practice this skill at home:

K-1st: At different times of the day and during different activities, encourage your child to reflect on and express their feelings using an "I" statement.

2nd-3rd: Challenge your child to identify a wide range of feelings using "I" statements. How many feeling words can he or she come up with?

4th-5th: Discuss how these two statements feel different to the listener: 1. *When you interrupt me while I'm speaking, I feel frustrated.* 2. *You never let me finish!* What other examples can your child come up with?

6th-8th: Take turns asking and answering these questions with your child: When is it easy to use an "I" statement? When is it hard? How do you remember to use an "I" statement?