

News From the Nest

November 4 – November 8, 2024 S.O.A.R

EAGLES

Dear Parents and Supporters of East Lake School,

Our Eagles are very busy each day learning about their academic subjects, music, art, physical education and wellness. They are also in engaged in all kinds of socio-emotional learning through being in a shared classroom space with peers with various strengths, stretches, interests, personalities and past experiences.

As a result, one of the skills they learn about is how to effectively move through conflict. Conflict can easily arise in any group of people as a result of miscommunication and assumptions on both sides. We work to address normal and healthy times of conflict through communication skills (verbal and non verbal) and enlisting adult help when students feel they need support.

As a parent, it stings to hear that something unkind might have been said or done to our child by a peer. It's important to listen, support and validate their feelings and experiences. We must also consider that there is another perspective at play by the other student. Being curious about our own child and the interaction is helpful. Checking in with your child's teacher is a great step if you feel like you need further context or details on the situation. The Adults of East Lake are very invested in your child feeling safe, comfortable, seen and heard.

Restorative work is critical at East Lake School. Through students addressing one another in a private and adult supported way, students advocate for themselves and learn to listen to their peer's perspectives. They learn to set expectations of one another and what the next steps are if someone does not meet those expectations. Students then return to the learning environment in a safe way. Parents are contacted to work in team to support students.

Words matter and the language we use to label situations is important. A significant gap exists between normal conflict and what would be called 'bullying." There are three critical criteria that support the definition of bullying. The first is that the behavior by the aggressor is highly targeted towards the victim. The second criteria is that the aggressive behavior is highly repetitive. Thirdly, there is a power differential between the aggressor and the victim.

Conflict is a normal part of being human and learning to navigate conflict takes time and practice. These are skills for life- for the workplace and for future relationships. These moments might feel uncomfortable and they lead to real growth and development.

In partnership,

Amanda Schultz, M.Ed Principal, East Lake School Rocky View Schools 403.248.1091

For translation into other languages, please click here: <u>translate.google.com</u>

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This Week:

November 4-8 Scholastic Book Fair

November 6 & 7 Student Led Conferences 3:30 – 6:30 pm

November 6 & 7 Volunteer Orientation 6:00 – 6:30 pm

November 6 & 7 Bottle Drive 3:00 – 6:00 pm

November 8Popcorn Fundraiser

November 8
Remembrance Day
Ceremony
10:30 – 11:30 am

Upcoming:

November 11 Remembrance Day No School

November 20 Parent Council & Friends 6:00 pm

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