

September 12, 2008

Dear 4Su Families,

This year our class is using the *Open Circle Curriculum*, a comprehensive social and emotional learning program that supports elementary school children in developing the skills needed to be good learners and to form healthy, positive relationships with people throughout their lives.

Twice each week during the school year, the class will meet in a circle for 15 to 30 minutes. Lesson topics will include being a good listener, including one another, cooperating, understanding feelings, teasing, recognizing differences among people, getting calm, problem solving, positive self-talk, and more. The goals of the lessons are to create a cooperative classroom environment and to give children the skills they need to solve interpersonal problems and to build positive relationships.

Sometimes your child will have a homework assignment from Open Circle that might require your participation. You can help your child develop the skills we are working on in Open Circle by discussing and practicing them at home. You might ask your child to tell you what we talked about in the last Open Circle.

You will receive *Open Circle Updates* periodically to keep you informed. They will include new vocabulary words and suggestions for some books that are related to Open Circle lesson topics. You might want to check one or two of these books out of the library to read with your child. For more information about the Open Circle Program, please visit the website at [www.open-circle.org](http://www.open-circle.org).

The *Open Circle Curriculum* was developed by the Open Circle Program at the Wellesley Centers for Women, Wellesley College, and is available for all elementary grades. At each grade level, the program addresses the same core concepts and skills in ways that are specifically designed to be developmentally appropriate for students at that age. All teachers who use Open Circle have received special training to implement the curriculum in their classrooms.

If you have any questions about Open Circle, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best,

Ms. Sullivan