

Dear Families:

In Open Circle recently, we talked about how to recognize **discrimination**. Discrimination occurs when we do not treat others fairly just because they belong to a particular group. In school, discrimination could include saying things that are disrespectful or mean, teasing or making jokes about a person, calling someone bad names, avoiding someone, leaving them out, ignoring them, refusing to help them, or hurting them physically – only because they belong to a particular group, look different, or speak differently. In our classroom, discrimination will not be tolerated. We are all part of the same classroom community. Everyone should be included and treated with respect.

At home, share with your child any discrimination that you or any of your family members or friends have experiences. How did it make you feel? Ask your child if he/she has ever been discriminated against. Has he/she observed other people discriminating against someone? Encourage your child to never discriminate against other people and to speak up to stop discrimination when it occurs.

Yours truly,

Ms. Sullivan

Literature Connections

Here are some books that relate to the topics we have discussed in Open Circle. You might want to check out one or two at the library and read with your child:

Mitchell, Margaree King. *Uncle Jed's Barbershop*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1993
Jed and his niece endure the hardships imposed on them by segregation in the 1920's.

Mochizuki, Ken. *Baseball Saved Us*. Lee & Low Books, 1993
A Japanese-American family is sent to an internment camp during World War II, returns home, and has to deal with the mistrust and prejudice of their neighbors.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *The Other Side*. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2001
Two girls forge a friendship despite the fears and prejudice of the adults around them.