



The mission of  
**Platte River Academy**  
 is to provide a content-rich,  
 academically rigorous education  
 with a well-defined, sequential curriculum  
 in a safe, orderly and caring environment

**March 05, 2009**

## Peer Conflict or Bullying?

By Mr. Barber, Assistant Principal

Conflict is an inevitable part of growing up and interaction between friends and classmates. As children learn the give-and-take of a friendship, of group cooperation, or of social interactions with others, conflict will normally occur. Social skills are developmental. Children gain capacity for empathy, for compromise and for kindness to others as they mature. Children in the primary grades generally do not always think of others first. Sally believes that a good friend is one who does what Sally wants to do. A classmate will risk being excluded if he/she doesn't do what Sally and her other friends want to do. Is this peer conflict or some level of bullying to get the classmate to do what Sally wants? I believe it is more peer conflict.

By the grades 3-5, children gradually understand friendship and play as a process that involves fun for all participants. Games with rules begin. Recess is spent with others who enjoy the same interests and activities. However, some children still do not fully understand or engage in mutual agreement or compromise when playing together or trying to resolve differences. Play is fun and interactions go smoother when everybody has their needs met. However, conflict erupts when rules are selfishly misinterpreted or it's not going as someone wants it to go.

By the upper and middle grades, children begin to recognize the value of considering the needs of others. Feelings and personal thoughts are often shared at the unfortunate expense of being disclosed or betrayed at a later time. Friendships become exclusive and cliques are formed. Some students will treat others as being "in" or "out". Jealousy and a feeling of being left out are common problems to try to resolve. The art of compromise can be taught at school and home and used to solve problems with classmates, friends, and/or siblings.

Normal peer conflict is typically characterized by the developmental level of the children involved. Aggression and hurtful remarks are part of conflict at all ages. This conflict is not necessarily evidence that a bully-victim problem exists unless it becomes pervasive and frequent.

The following table summarizes the main differences between normal peer conflict and bullying. This will be used by the school as we address reports or incidents and answer the question "Is it peer conflict or bullying?" The answer will most likely help to decide the appropriate discipline.

Normal Peer Conflict	Bullying
Equal power between friends/classmates	Imbalance of power, not friends
Happens occasionally	Repeated negative actions
Less intentional; not overtly premeditated	Purposeful, intent and timing is obvious
Uncomfortable, but not serious	Serious with threat of physical or emotional harm
Emotional reactions between peers similar in intensity	Strong emotional reaction from the victim
Not seeking power or attention	Seeking power, control or material things
Not trying to gain something	Attempt to gain material things or power
Remorse possible – will take responsibility	No remorse – blames the victim
Interest/Efforts to resolve the problem	No interest in victim's feelings

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**Attendance Line:**  
**303-243-5210**

### FROM the GOVERNING BOARD

Please remember to submit your comments regarding the "Extra Class" Financial Planning Options to [FPC@platteriveracademy.com](mailto:FPC@platteriveracademy.com) or attend the Town Hall/Board Forum next Thursday, March 12 from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. This meeting will immediately be followed by the Governing Board Meeting where the topic will be - serving on the Governing Board, information for potential candidates.



Congratulations to Mrs. Gambill's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class (1<sup>st</sup> place) and to Mrs. Byrd's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class (2<sup>nd</sup> place) for collecting the most items in our recycle to "Save the Earth" promotion. Each class will be receiving a 'sweet treat party'.

Also, please note that we are always collecting old cell phones, ink cartridges, DVD's, video games, cameras and laptop computers all of which can be left in the box in the school lobby.



**SILENT AUCTION  
FRIDAY, APRIL 3  
6PM-9:30PM**

*Please remember that the deadline to respond to your invitation to the Silent Auction is Friday, March 13, 2009. There are only 120 spots remaining!*

*If you have a business, don't forget that you can place an advertisement in the auction brochure for a minimal fee! Also, if you have a business and would like to make a donation, but are not sure what to donate, we are still seeking BIG ticket items, such as a Flat Screen TV or a Wii Gaming System, and any other electronics or mountain getaways. We also accept cash donations.*

*If you are a doctor, dentist, optometrist, or surgeon & would like to donate your time/services to be auctioned, please contact Jenny Nicholson @ (303) 356-4457.*

**Extra Spirit Wear for Sale**

Listed below are the items we have on hand: (One of each unless otherwise noted)

**HOODIES:**

<u>Navy</u>	<u>Forest Green</u>
Youth S	Youth S
Adult XS	
Adult XL	

\$27.00 - hoodies (they can be taken to ProFormance and they will embroider for a small fee)

**T-SHIRTS:**

*Long Sleeve*

*Short Sleeve*

<u>White</u>	Youth XL
	Youth L
	Adult S (2)
	Adult M
	Adult L (2)

Youth L (2)
Adult M (6)

\$12.00 - short sleeve t-shirts

\$16.00 - long sleeve t-shirts

Anyone interested can contact Chris Hovater at 303-470-9407 or [chovater@comcast.net](mailto:chovater@comcast.net).

<u>Navy</u>	Youth XL
	Youth L (3)
	Youth M
	Youth S
	Adult S
	Adult L

Youth XL (2)
Youth M (3)
Adult L (2)

<u>Green</u>	Adult S (2)
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Youth XL
Adult S (2)
Adult M
Adult L (2)
Adult XL



**SAVE THE DATES**

Our Spring Book Fair is scheduled for April 13-16. Many volunteers are needed look for signup sheet at the Lobby desk.

For more information or to volunteer, please go to: <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/prabookfair>

**2008 TAX INFORMATION**

If you would like a donation receipt from PTO for participating in the Hot Lunch Program for 2008, please email [gallegoskathy@hotmail.com](mailto:gallegoskathy@hotmail.com) to make your request. Please include your family's carpool number with your request.

Mrs. Gallegos will return your receipts via email.



When the need to purchase uniforms arises, please keep the Sunshine Fund in mind. The money spent goes into the school's PTO fund. Please feel free to call with questions and make arrangements to purchase quality clothing at a substantial savings!

If you are interested in taking over this program for the 2009-2010 school year, please contact chairperson, Diane Arensdorf/Kroneberger at 303-471-8869 or email



### March 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

### Staff Birthdays

- 2- Marilyn Nelson (3<sup>rd</sup>)
- 3- Angela Hunt (6<sup>th</sup>)
- 4- Cindy Stubbs (2<sup>nd</sup> Aide)
- 13- Diane DePinto  
(Spanish)
- 15- Mike Willsea (Science)
- 20 - Michelle Enos  
(1<sup>st</sup> Aide)
- 20 - Kathy Johnson  
(Lunch)

## March Calendar of Events

Friday, March 6

- Scrip Orders Due

Sunday, March 8

- Daylight Savings Time begins set clocks ahead one hour

Monday, March 9

- 6:30 PTO Meeting

Thursday, March 12

- 6:30-7:30 Town Hall/Board Forum
- 7:30 Board Meeting
- Hot Lunch Ordering Period Begins

Friday, March 13

- Pick-up Scrip Orders

Tuesday, March 17

- PAYMENT DUE for Hot Lunch Order

Thursday, March 19

- DRESS OF CHOICE DAY
- Report Cards go home
- 6pm SAC Meeting (postponed from 3/05)

Friday, March 20- March 27

- SPRING BREAK



Bake Sale Tomorrow  
Remember your Quarters!