

Andy dreaded going to school. He even hated recess. He suffered through the same things every day: The shoving, the teasing, the name-calling, and the threats. Today, the students who bully Andy stole his hat. Then they roughed him up when he tried to get it back. Andy thought about telling his teacher, but he feared that his teacher wouldn't really help and everything would just get worse.

Like Andy, many children don't talk to adults about the serious problems they face. Many children believe that adults can't, or won't, help. They also worry that reporting bullying is the same as tattling. Many students face bullying problems at school. Research shows that bullying can be reduced greatly, but only when the whole school (staff, students, and parents) tackle the problem together. At Greenfield Elementary, students in k-8 are receiving guidance lessons on bullying. The primary goal is to help create a safe, caring, respectful learning environment in which bullying is not tolerated. As part of the program, students will learn new skills to help them build friendships and deal with bullying. They will learn how to make friends, join group activities, manage conflicts, and recognize, refuse, and report bullying – whether it happens to them or someone else.

Please join us in creating and maintaining a safe, positive school environment. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at any time at the school.

Sincerely,

Missy Struif, school counselor