

Cathy A. Parker
County Superintendent of Schools



Dear 3rd Grade Parent/Guardian:

The Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools will host the annual Children's Friendship Conference at Columbia College for every 3rd grade student in Tuolumne County, accompanied by their classroom teacher as a county-wide education field trip. The conference will focus on teaching friendship skills facilitated by teachers, school counselors, and a number of community agencies including ATCAA Head Start, Center for a Non-Violent Community, Infant/Child Enrichment Services, MeWuk Indian Health Clinic, Behavioral Health and the YES Partnership.

The conference is a collective investment in developing and reinforcing positive social norms for young children with the potential to influence positive behaviors and choices as they approach puberty.

In second and third grade, students become more aware of others and more concerned about how others view them. Their friendships with peers and relationships with adults outside their family take on greater importance. These changes make (this age-group) an opportune time for students to learn about being a caring and supportive friend and family member, how to show respect for others, and what it means to be emotionally and mentally healthy.

*California Curriculum Standards: Mental,
Emotional and Social Health, California
Department of Education, October, 2011*

At the Children's Friendship Conference, students will learn through group activities, songs, and interactive games how to describe what makes a good friend and how students can be a good friend to others, including learning about how to create and foster healthy friendships.

The planning committee is looking forward to the Children's Friendship Conference and positive outcomes for the children of our community. Should you have any questions, contact your child's school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rob Egger".

Rob Egger
Director, Differentiated Assistance
and Grant Programs