

Rosedale Erases Bullying

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Background

Last year at Rosedale Traditional Community School the grade 9 leadership students made a collage outside of our office and got a few students to color in 4 inch squares of pink paper, in the end some were colored and some were not. It ended up the colored ones spelt out “*STOP BULLYING.*” That got our leadership 9 students of this year (2013-2014) thinking and we decided to also make a collage again, however, ours was a bit different. It says “*ERASE BULLYING*” and instead of getting a select few of students to color a piece of paper, we decided on picture day at the beginning of the year to take every students picture. Some with a pink background and some with a blue background. Our plan was to create a collage where the blue 4 inch square photos spell out the words *ERASE BULLYING*, and the pink photographs make up the background.

Process

We started this project at the very beginning of the year at picture day. One student has graphed it all out on our template. A few weeks ago we started measuring the template out of big paper to go on the wall. That took us about 4 classes to get the lines straight and the grid lightly penciled onto the paper. Once we hung it on the wall. It took a few times to get it even, but once we finished we couldn't have been more pleased. On the day we hung it on our wall we didn't yet have the pictures on so a few students wrote on a tiny “B” in the corner for our blue background pictures and then we chose to scatter a few “P” letters around so the rest of the student body at the school didn't see what we were planning. The next class we had, which was February 7th, we hung all of the pictures. The students love it! You still see students crowd around memorizing the details of it.



Materials

We used materials like drama props and costumes that we got the students to dress up in before we took the pictures back in September. Leadership students made a few signs for students to hold up during their goofy pictures (made from cardboard and paper). The signs said things like “be yourself, ”bullying isn’t cool”, and “Be-you-tiful”. Then once we started getting the template ready we measured and traced out approx. 490 -4”x4” squares in pencil on two 108”x36” inch sheets of paper. We had a total of 486 pictures. All of the students stuck the pictures on the template with double sided tape.

Goal

Our goal here at RTCS is to raise awareness about the importance of erasing bullying within our school and within our community. We believe if our collage helps to open up one person’s eyes that will be a fantastic accomplishment. At our school we can see that students get messages better if it is delivered by their peers rather than delivered by teachers. Not always, but in some cases, that is why we decided to have the whole school be a part of this project.



Teachers note:

Students created the collage and today (February 26th) we handed out pink wristbands at the start of the day to close to 400 students. Our district also held an ANTI BULLYING Pink Shirt design contest and students had the opportunity to order these shirts. The school was a sea of pink today as a result. We held an Anti-Bullying assembly that included multiple anti-bullying messages. These included:

1. A student presentation focused on the WITS strategy.
2. Administrator Presentation
3. A speech by a grade 9 student who had overcome being a victim of bullying in her life.
4. We also created a video that had Kindergarten to Grade 9 students state a series of positive statements about inclusion and acceptance with our collage as the back drop. This was woven in with still photographs from the collage and put to the song "One in a million" by the band Down with Webster

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zw80yinYmvM&feature=youtu.be>