

Dear Room _____ Families,

This year we are excited to introduce a program called Caring School Community (CSC). This program will help us expand the culture of kindness and respect at our school. Studies show that such a culture is important for many reasons. Children who feel part of a caring school community tend to do better academically over time and may be less likely to engage in problem behaviors such as cigarette smoking, drug and alcohol abuse and violence.

The CSC program provides specific lessons and activities that build a caring community for children throughout the school day and the school year. These lessons include regular class meetings in which the teacher and students solve problems and discuss how they can make the class a place that is caring and safe for everyone. The lessons also include "buddy activities." Your child will be paired with an older or younger student "buddy" for activities once or twice a month that focus on developing friendships as well as academic skills.

You are an important part of our school community. The CSC program helps you participate in two ways. Once or twice a month, your child will bring home a Homeside activity. These will engage you and your child in conversations about many topics. Other school wide activities will bring you to the school for exciting family events.

We look forward to working with you to make our school a warm, caring place for everyone and to make this a great year for your child!

Sincerely,
