

## A Restorative School

Recently – we asked students in our school to answer the following questions as a way to dialogue about bullying and what we could do as a community to help ourselves in this respect: 1) What should students do when they see other student being bullied? 2) What should adults do when students report being bullied and 3) What should the Principal do when a student admits to being a bully? These questions were all part of our overall plan to use HERO power in our school to support kindness. We have been lucky to have Jennifer Laffier <http://www2.sd45.bc.ca/schools/ridgeview/Parents/Education/Article/Confessions%20of%20a%20mean%20girl%20-%20Vancouver%20Sun.pdf> come and speak with students about her life lesson around bullying. IN addition, we have branded ourselves a ‘Restorative School’ and today a group of six boys were in a conflict in the playground. One of the boys came to the office and asked for a circle to help resolve the conflict. I was very pleased regarding this and a circle was facilitated accordingly. The point of this – is that while we used the questions in the circle – we also needed to be flexible with the process and allow for probing questions to take us to a better place together – in many cases I find that flexibility in the process is a necessity as at time students do not have the comfort level nor skills to articulate themselves and need probing and prompting.