



December 16, 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Today we had our first Peaceable Bus meeting of the year. You may remember that we started the Peaceable Bus Program in 2008. The purpose of the program is to create community and responsibility among students, resulting in fewer bus problems. During our lessons the students meet as a whole bus group with teacher leaders facilitating conversation and activities to help improve the culture.

In preparation for today's lesson we had the students (grades 2-5) fill out an online survey about their individual bus. We also met with all the bus drivers to hear their thoughts and ideas about how to improve our busses. We have found that despite our efforts to improve the bus culture, we still have some significant concerns as it hasn't made the impact that we hoped. Children are still having a hard time making good choices, especially on the bus. Because of this we are concerned for our students' physical and emotional safety. Overall, there have been a lot of hurtful comments, bullying, and silent bystanders on the bus. If we let this continue, we would be ignoring our job: to provide a safe place for our Eagle children to learn and grow.

As a result of our concerns for student safety, we are going to have assigned seats on all buses after the holiday vacation. The assigned seats will remain intact for approximately three months, unless the driver or I feel there needs to be a change. After March, we will be evaluating our new approach to see if things have improved. We strongly feel that too many students continue to feel unsafe, especially emotionally, on our busses. We are confident that this change will help solve many of our bus problems.

As a parent/guardian, you have an important role in this program. If your child reports a problem on the bus to you, please let us know. We may also need to talk to you if your child's behavior is a problem on the school bus. We are doing this not to punish students, but to help them learn to be responsible members of their bus route group. Your help in educating your child about the program will be very important. Thank you for working with us in this program. If you have any questions, please call me at 694-8825. We thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Dianna Reagan

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