

January 2, 2008

Dear Mr. and Mrs. _____:

We are pleased to inform you that your child, _____ has been selected to be trained as a Peer Mediator, a leadership opportunity for 4th graders. Your child was recommended by his/her teacher to participate as a Peer Mediator because they demonstrate strong leadership qualities, commendable behavior, and an ability to relate to peers.

Peer Mediation is a form of conflict resolution in which trained students, under adult supervision, help their peers talk out and resolve interpersonal conflicts. Student mediators do not take sides or make decisions for their peers; instead they help them create their own resolutions to conflicts. Peer Mediation is a safe, effective program that has been implemented in thousands of schools across the United States.

In their training, students will learn important life-skills such as leadership, active listening, expressing feelings and needs, and problem-solving that will benefit them personally and academically. Experience as a peer mediator has also been shown to increase students' self-esteem and self-confidence.

Peer Mediation training will be conducted by a professional mediation trainer from the Bucks County Intermediate Unit, Ms. Christa Tinari, on January 15th and January 18th. Training will be 9:00 AM to 3:05 PM both days and represents a wonderful enrichment opportunity for your child. Students who participate in the training will miss class time, and they will be responsible for making up their school work. Ms. Mangano and I will work closely with the teachers to minimize missed work on those days. When training is complete, students will mediate conflicts between 3rd graders, usually during 3rd grade recess (12:40-1:05 pm), for the remainder of the school year. We will make every attempt to schedule mediation sessions so that they interfere as little as possible with academics.

We hope that you will consider giving _____ permission to participate in this excellent program and sign the permission slip below. Teachers recommended your child because they thought he or she would be a positive role model in the school.

Congratulations to your child for being selected. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions at 215-862-8026 or plang@nhsd.org.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Pamela Lang
School Counselor

I give permission for my child _____ to train for and participate in the NHS Upper Elementary Peer Mediation Program.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

