

April 25, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

Lakeview Elementary is a school of 430 students in an upper middle class neighborhood outside of Seattle, Washington. As in most schools in America, our students see many TV shows showing disrespectful and impolite language and examples and confuse this behavior with humor or being funny. Many of our students spend early hours before school and after school in child care facilities with little time left for family meetings and learning time. As a school community, we were concerned with behavior issues including disrespect, bullying, putdowns and other negative habits.

Last year, our PTSA raised \$7,000.00 to pay for PoliteChild in grades 1st - 4th. It was very difficult to raise this kind of money for this program and we are hoping to get some grants to help us next year. The lessons were taught this year and we saw great improvement in our students understanding of positive social skills. Students started politely greeting each other and adults when passing in the hallways, started using please and thank you more consistently and over all were kinder to each other and more respectful to adults and peers.

Teachers started seeing a difference in students also. Our school counselor team taught with classroom teachers the lessons and then the classroom teacher followed through with integrating the lessons into the rest of the two week period. We took two weeks on each lesson.

We are looking forward to implementing the "Virtue I and II" modules. We have seen great success with the SocialSmarts Course. Students' think of others more often, are more respectful and have even shared with their families the dos and don'ts of table manners.

I would highly recommend this program to any elementary school. It has made a huge difference in our school.

Sincerely,

Janice J. Heid
Principal, Lakeview Elementary School