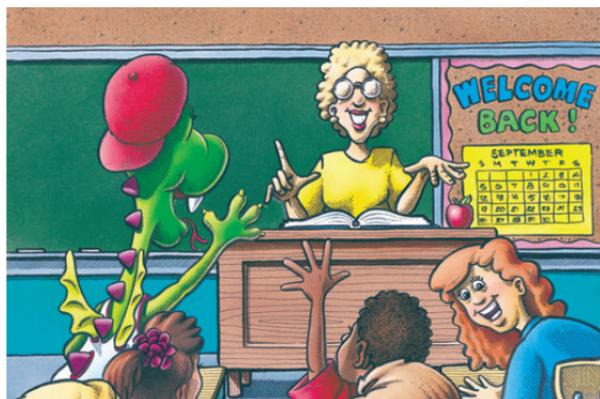




## More Ways that School Can Be Cool!

By Barbara Gilmour

Last time we met, Tanner, Truman the Dragon and the other kids had fun thinking of ways to make their school “cool.” They thought of a lot of places at school where “Cool Kind Kids” can show their good manners. There are a lot of people there to whom they can show respect. How many people and places did you think of?



The classroom is a place where you spend a lot of time. What are some ways to make your classroom “cool?” Conner had some “cool class clues” to share: “The teacher is in charge. If you respect your teacher, your teacher will respect you.”

Tanner added, “Show respect to classmates, too. If someone makes a mistake, be kind and practice The Golden

Rule. You could be the one who goofs next time.”

Nicole said, “Not picking on someone who is different from you shows respect.”

What are some other things that can help make school “cool?” Carmen said, “Coming to class prepared and taking turns during discussions.”

Rudy added, “I try to listen to other people and pay attention to what they’re saying, instead of interrupting them.”

Everyone has the right to speak and be heard. There are some kids who think it’s ok to goof off in class. “It’s fine to joke around once in a while, but all the time? That isn’t cool,” said Truman. “Clowning around at the wrong time, and misbehaving any time, makes you look un-cool.” Truman said, “Some kids think bad behavior is cool, but they don’t understand how un-cool they are. You can’t be cool if you’re acting like that!”

Tanner added, “There’s a girl in my class named Clutzo who always tries to make everyone laugh, but they end up laughing at her. She doesn’t pay attention, makes fun of other kids and interrupts the teacher. She even cheats and then blames someone else when she gets caught. If she could be a ‘Cool Kind Kid,’ she might have more friends.”

Then the kids started talking about a group project they were doing at school. Rudy said, “There are some kids who take all the fun out of it because they don’t know how to cooperate.”

Nicole said, “Everyone needs to listen to the ideas that each kid has, and then agree on what to do. It’s not cool when one person tries to make all the decisions.” Carmen added, “It’s good to do the part that you promised you would do, and not be late.”

Tanner added, “I always try to do my best. I don’t want to be the reason that our group doesn’t get a good grade.” In a “Cool Kind” classroom, everyone is polite, kind and caring. Tanner said, “It’s kind and cool to help someone who needs help.”

Truman shared, “When someone is sick, it’s cool to take their homework to him if he lives near you.” The kids all laughed, imagining a dragon coming to their house with their homework. Helping others is a great way to make your classroom “cool.”

*Barbara Gilmour, Tanner’s grandma, is the creator and developer of the Tanner’s Manners: Be a “Cool Kind Kid” Social Skills, Character Values and Anti-Bullying educational materials and the award-winning “Cool Kind Kid” Audio CD. She also writes the Children’s Manners Blog, offering tips for teaching your children manners. <http://childrenmanners.blogspot.com>. The “Cool Kind Kid” team is committed to helping kids reject bullying by offering them the social skills tools they need to redefine “cool.” ©Cool Kind Kid 866-KID-KIND. [www.CoolKindKid.com](http://www.CoolKindKid.com) © Cool Kind Kid*