



Talking About Bullying

by Barbara Gilmour

Tanner, Nicole, Rudy, Carmen, Stephen and Truman the Dragon all greeted Ms. Gilmour as they arrived for another “Cool Kind Kid” class. Ms. Gilmour began by asking, “Now that you are all back in school, how are you helping school be cool?”

“Boy, that’s not easy. Too many kids don’t see school as a cool place,” said Rudy.

Nicole jumped in with, “That’s because too many kids are being bullied, and that’s not cool.”

Carmen was waving her hand, “Nicole is right, it’s hard for school to be cool when the bullies rule and are uncool.”

Stephen said, “We need to do what we said last time, get the kids to think about The Golden Rule. If kids think about how it would feel to have something mean done to them, maybe they wouldn’t do mean things to others.”

Tanner added, “There were some great ideas in the School Rules! song that we can use.”

Truman shared, “I asked my teacher if we could make a poster of the song lyrics for our classroom. He said we could do one for the hallway also. That way all the kids can see it. That’s cool!”

“Way to go, Truman,” the kids responded.

“I see that you are all very eager to help your school be cooler and find ways to let the kids who bully know they aren’t cool at all,” replied Ms. Gilmour. “Now, who remembers what we said the “Cool Kind Kid” Challenge is?”

All hands were waving. Tanner said, “Are you TOUGH enough to be KIND?” and “Are you COOL enough to be KIND?”

Ms. Gilmour asked, “How can you help kids begin to use the challenge to stop the bullying and make school cooler?”

Carmen was first to say, “I want to challenge the kids who don’t do anything when they see or hear someone being picked on, teased or bullied. We can ask them, ‘Are you being kind when you ignore what is going on?’ Being tough and cool enough to be kind means standing up for someone!” The kids all cheered for Carmen.

Rudy was anxious to add, “We can be kind to the bullied kids. We can include them, encourage them and be their friends. We can challenge all kids to believe that being cool means being kind.” Everyone high-fived Rudy.

Truman stood up to his full height and said, “If I wanted to, I could be a bully just because of my size, and everyone would be afraid of me.” The kids all pretended to shake with fear. “But,” Truman continued, “I want to be kind, caring and respectful, and treat everyone as equals. I believe it really is cool to be kind. I think we should challenge the kids who bully. Are they really tough? Do they really think what they do is cool? Let’s help them learn that tough kids are kind and cool kids are kind.”

Nicole added, “And bullying is soooooo uncool.”

Everyone cheered, “No uncool bullying in our school!”

