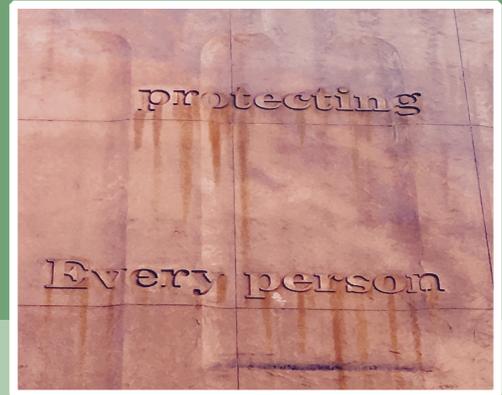


# Inspiring Equity in Education

Snapshots of evidence-based practices, including SEL, PBIS, and Restorative Practices, to help promote a positive and equitable environment for all!



FALL 2017 – Empowering our Youth

## Community Happenings

\*Unity Center open at the California Museum! Fantastic resource for teachers and students

[www.californiamuseum.org/unity-center](http://www.californiamuseum.org/unity-center)

\*\*"Choose Your Future" Expo  
December 5 @ Serna

\*Oak Park Community Holiday Fair  
December 9, 10:00-1:00  
City of Refuge Sacramento  
3216 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

## The Student Voices Project

In 2017, SCUSD launched the Lifting Student Voices Project, a collaboration between the Equity team and Program Evaluator Liberty Van Natten. The project established a listening space where students from elementary to high school participated in eight focus groups to share their ideas and emotions, and hear each other's voices on how to promote and facilitate positive culture and climate in our schools. In general, the project has revealed a critical need for schools to value student voice and student emotions, and to understand how voice impacts learning. The messages from students also emphasized how kindness and caring needs to permeate every level of our work.

Topics of discussion during the focus groups were: equity, safety, belong and connectedness, social awareness, self-management, and growth mindset. The data collected from the interviews was shared with the principals of each of the seven schools involved in order to do some sense-making with principals, collaborate on ideas and ways to process data with the staff, and to help principals use the data to inform their culture/climate plans (including SEL). The data was also shared with district leadership to inform planning for the year.

This project speaks to the importance of slowing things down, listening deeply to the voices of our students, and rethinking assumptions about school. Students are critical members of our community and their voices are essential to promoting and facilitating positive culture and climate in our schools, and it's our hope that this project will allow for continually stronger communication and engagement with our students!



## #CaptureKindness Project

Great resources for engaging students to focus on kindness!

[www.randomactsofkindness.org](http://www.randomactsofkindness.org)

## **Focus on: Stand Up, Speak Out Against Bullying**

*Guest Authors: Jessica Wharton, Bullying Prevention Specialist and Emelia-Rose Engel, CKM student*

The SEL Department recently partnered with us to participate in the fifth annual, “Stand Up, Speak Out Against Bullying Youth Rally” at the California Museum Unity Center on October 18, 2017 to co-promote anti-bullying efforts. SCUSD students from Will C. Wood Middle and Martin Luther King Jr. K-8 were able to attend the event and participate in a tour of the Unity Center. The rally, sponsored by the Sacramento Regional Coalition for Tolerance, brought together several agencies to promote a strong anti-bullying message. Speakers included Sacramento County Board of Supervisors Member Patrick Kennedy, SCUSD Board Member Michael Minnick, CKM student Emelia-Rose Engel, Monterey Trail High School student Diego Prasad, Sacramento Chief of Police Daniel Hahn, and LGBTQ Representative Evan Minton. Both SEL and Student Support and Health Services Bullying Prevention Program manned a booth that provided fun activities and anti-bullying literature for student and other attendees. More than 250 students from four school districts, school staff, and community partners were in attendance.

*Emelia-Rose Engel: You might wonder why I would come and talk to you about anti-bullying...what could I have to tell you? In actuality, I have a lot. I attended private school all throughout my life until 9<sup>th</sup> grade. In 7<sup>th</sup> grade, I was bullied and accused on things I had never done. It hurt my reputation and confidence immensely. I put myself down and kept wondering what I meant to others, but finally I had a break-through and I realized I was amazing and that everyone else would soon realize that! There are times when you think it won't be okay, when you wonder if everything will work out, but let me tell you that it will and you are amazing!*



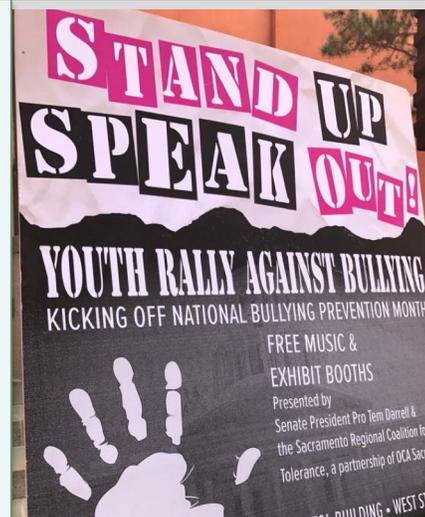
\*49% of U.S. students in grades 4-12 reporting being bullied in the past month.

\*71% of students say they have seen bullying in their schools.

\*Middle school students reported the highest frequency of bullying.

\*The classroom was the area on campus where bullying incidents occurred the most.

[www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov)



## **Focus on: Strategies for Engaging Student Voice**

1. Start a student action center with inspirational ideas for social change.
2. Co-design lesson plans with students or let them lead a class discussion.
3. Create a school-wide vision board where students and staff can add ideas.
4. Help students create original media for other students: weekly video updates, newsletters, Twitter or Instagram feeds, etc.
5. Hold regular student focus groups where students feel safe sharing their thoughts on key issues.
6. Involve students in regular goal-setting, both academic and social/emotional.
7. Establish a student mentor group where older students can support and engage the voices of younger students.

***Focus on: YELL at Facebook Headquarters***

On September 29<sup>th</sup>, students from all over the world attended the Youth Engagement and Leadership Lab (YELL) at Facebook headquarters to connect with other student leaders in order to connect and share ideas on improving school climate. The students spent the day connecting with other youth leaders, brainstorming and sharing their vision for positive school climate, and being inspired to be change agents in their communities.

The greatest part of the YELL event at Facebook headquarters was having the opportunity to meet other dedicated leaders and gain new ideas of how to better my school community. It was truly inspiring being around a group of truly dedicated people. It was very interesting learning about the problem and difficulties other schools face and how it compares to our own challenges. It was encouraging to see how other groups faced many similar challenges to our own and how they found ways to solve their problems. This event helped show us the hard work many other leadership groups do in order to better their school environment and how we can incorporate it into our school atmosphere. The activities created by the leaders of the program helped a lot in creating new ideas for our school. This event was an amazing opportunity to meet many like minded people and form many new ideas to better our school environment. - Mark Lambert

The YELL event at Facebook was so much fun and truly inspired me to create change at CKM. Getting to meet other students from schools literally around the world and seeing how students have similar problems to us in other countries and states was very interesting and helped make me feel like we aren't alone in the struggle to unite our student population. The experience at Facebook HQ was awesome because the YELL team gave us so many ideas to jump start our planning process and I feel like we really have the tools to start creating positive change at McClatchy through events and other campaigns to unite our student body, the main goal we came up with at the YELL event. - Isabelle McGuire



YELL Event Participants



Lifting Student Voices Project at Luther Burbank High School

***"In all of my work in education, there has never been a more motivating or driving force than student voice." - Andrew Marcinek***

Submit comments or questions to Shonna Franzella at [shonna-franzella@scusd.edu](mailto:shonna-franzella@scusd.edu) or Africa Fullove at [africa-fullove@scusd.edu](mailto:africa-fullove@scusd.edu).