

DRAGONCOMMS ~ THE SAFE ZONE

A Publication brought to you with the help of ALUMI Media Group

Friday, December 17th, 2010

Editors Note: During this 6wk culmination period, the 7th and 8th graders of Camino Nuevo made WONDERFUL strides in areas of interpersonal communication. Positive and clear communication was the main focus. They were interested in finding ways to solve conflicts in different settings and how to better express in order to bring desired change. We fostered a 'safe' environment for sharing and talked about ways to build a confidence within oneself. Here's some of their work, stories, and experiences...

WHAT'S GOING ON RIGHT NOW?

How Immigration Policies Are Affecting Our LIVES

"Immigration has affected many peoples' lives. I'm scared of immigration even though I was born in LA . People came here for a better future and life. Many people have been separated and many people have been judged and been killed because of how they look." - **Dayanara**

"Borders should be open. We all work hard, we feel the same things, **we bleed the same blood**, we all love. It's not fair to cage us. Those who have given birth are all being separated. Its' not fair that cops look at my dad suspiciously. I'll always be different but I'm proud." - **Maya**

I think that nobody should be illegal and everyone should be treated equally. People are being deported and kids are getting separated from their moms and dads and everyone suffers A LOT. - **Marvin**

"Immigration has affected my life because I used to travel a lot but now I can't because I don't have papers to visit my dear family. My mom can't visit her family in El Salvador and we can't connect to other family members. It has affected me because I missed my grandfather's death and it really hurt my dad that I was not there. He told me that as soon as I got my papers cleared I would go visit my grandfather in his grave." - **Thelma**

Discuss/Debate/THINK!

Do you think that animals should still be killed for food and fur in today's age? In a class debate, Erick Sierra argued the affirmative (yes), and Maya Martinez argued the negative (no) ~ Checkout our blog soon to see who won!



Erick persuades audience while Maya takes notes



Ashley asks an intriguing follow-up question

Assembled on August 23, 2010; We are students enrolled in ALUMI Media's enrichment program. Every day, we meet afterschool to discuss current events and ways to communicate with our society. We hope you enjoy this newsletter!

A DRAGON'S POLL

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT **VIOLENT VIDEO GAMES?** DOES VIOLENT MEDIA AFFECT OUR YOUTH? SHOULD IT BE DISCOURAGED?

Out of a our sample of 20 students:

- **80% Say they are 'ok'**
- **10% Say they should be discouraged.**
- **10% Say they are unsure/it depends/need more facts.**

"They should be allowed because they are a way to release stress. I think they're good for you."

- Alyssa

"I think that it depends on the person. There are some really VIOLENT video games, the most I think is "Grandthief Auto," because people have committed crimes because of it. But, I think it depends on the person ,if he or she has a 'well-powered' brain."

- Erick

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More on the other side!

Dragon ART~ Express Creatively!

The King and The Knight by Samuel Garcia

There was a king named Sam. He owned a beautiful park with a playground and soccer fields. One day a rich knight came to his kingdom and asked "Can I have a part of your land to share with me and my family?" Monarch Sam was really smart so he knew he was lying and the knight just wanted to take advantage. Sam said " Take all the land you want but after this year ends you will pay me 3 billion dollars. After 24 hours monarch Sam ordered the guard to get the knight here. The knight came to his castle very curious about what monarch Sam would say. King Sam said "Pay me my money or you will die!" The knight had no choice but to pay. Unfortunately the knight was now poor, but king Sam is not unkind. He gave him half of his fortune and everyone lived happily ever after.

Love is Important in Every Way

By: Anonymous

Through my life I have always had a crush on someone. However, once I met this guy who was different from the others. When I first saw him, it was like everything else around me froze. He had brown hair complemented with his big brown eyes. He was tall, thin and one of the cutest guys I've seen in my opinion. He totally blew my mind and I hardly knew him; I didn't even know his name! I've just heard that he was really nice and funny. I didn't want to hear what others said because I don't know how he would act with me.

The year after, I had a class with him and I finally got to know him a *little bit* better. I now knew that his name his name was Nelson. I didn't talk to him a lot but we talked a bit. I got to know he is my age and he is smart (good in school). A few months after, I started talking to him more and he is really funny and a really nice boy. I was surprised because most boys his age aren't that nice. He was funny, because he wasn't funny because he was mean, he was funny because he made funny jokes and did funny actions. He was a really nice person and he had a very nice sister, and had a cute baby brother. Later on, I figured out he had a girlfriend. It didn't totally break my heart, but I was disappointed.

Nowadays, I am his friend and he is still funny. I have a few classes with him and I hang out with him. We laugh a lot together because we've known each other for a time. I don't really like him anymore, but I like him as a brother. Hopefully we can be friends for a while. ☺

Love At First Sight By Julie Ramirez

It was Monday morning and I was getting ready to go to school. I was really nervous cause I was going to see a lot of older kids then me. As my dad drove me to school I was breathing in and out without noticing. As my dad walked me up the stairs I felt that everyone was staring at me. I kissed my dad goodbye and left to my first class. When I came in the classroom I didn't see any kids that were with me last year in 5th grade. But, as I walked into the classroom I saw, the cutest guy ever.

THE LOVE STORY – ASHLEY OLSEN

MY FIRST CRUSH WAS IN THE FIFTH GRADE .HE WAS SPECIAL .NOT LIKE THOSE OTHER GUYS WHO DON'T RESPECT GIRLS, I COULD TELL HE DID. HE WAS A NICE CHINESE/AMERICAN BOY. HIS NAME WAS CODY. WITH STRAIGHT DARK BROWN HAIR AND DARK BROWN EYES. H E WAS SO SWEET. ALTHOUGH I KNEW HIM FOR A DAY I COULD TELL HE WAS DIFFERENT . HE WAS SO SWEET WE TALKED A LOT AND WE DID NOT CARE WHAT TIME IT WAS . IF YOU COULD LOOK AT ME RIGHT NOW YOU WOULD SEE THAT I CANT STOP SMILING. MY SOUL IS IN FIREWORKS RIGHT NOW.

"MUSIC ARE WHAT FEELINGS SOUND LIKE"

My favorite songs are the ones who give me good messages and make me feel secure. One song that gives me a good message is the song 'Just the Way You Are' by Bruno Mars. This song makes me feel like I don't have to change for anyone or anything.-Dayanara

"Grenade" by Bruno Mars is one of my best songs. It makes me feel happy and relieved from everything else that puts me down. Also a song named "Paradise..." ft Steve Aoki. That song makes me feel like damn I want to go rave it! It's awesome. - Erick

'Lean on me'- Makes me think of trust, friends, happiness- Maya

'Dear Momma' by Tupac, and 'Keep Your Head Up'- by Tupac.. They make me look back and remind me of my old life. - Alejandro

'All the Right Moves' by One Republic. The song makes me sad sometimes but at the same time happy- Brian

Lady Gaga makes me akes me feel excited, cheerful, hyper, and energetic- Maria

'Ignorance' by Paramore- Makes me feel so small compared to the world. It makes me feel so... unsmart. It is about ignorant people.

'Brick By Boring Brick'- Paramore This song's about a girl stuck in a fairytale. The song makes me hopeful.It makes me think that everything is possible. - Kimberly

A Dragon's Heart- Stories and Letters of Inspiration

Editor's Note: Students were asked, 'If you were to go away somewhere, on a trip or otherwise and you couldn't see your loved ones again, what would you want to tell them?' The response was cathartic, and incredibly POSITIVE. Enjoy...

The Last Advice
By Allison Sealove

This is my last letter to all of you: my family, friends, and just people I talk to, verbally and electronically. Although I may not see you ever again, I want you to remember me this way, by this letter. Here, I offer you my last words, wisdom, and advice.

Life has its obstacles. Determination is the key to overcome those obstacles. But to have determination, you must set a goal. And to set a goal, you must find out who you are. Find out who you are by being confident, nerve relying on others for anything. To me, others are simply helpers, even though they can be very important to you. Your friends can help you, as well as your family. However, you are the main one on your path. You choose where you're going, and who you're taking with you. It's your choice, your way, your life, and your dreams. To live your life fully, you must be your definition of success. The road to success is always under construction, and it's your job to build it in the direction you want. It's a dangerous world, and you're only a person. There's always someone out there who you can express your feelings to. There's a solution to every problem, even if the solution isn't crystal clear, it's bound to be as soon as you find out who you truly are. You're not alone, there's always someone there for you.

To be yourself is hard and almost never easy. When you can be yourself around someone, don't let them go. If they can accept you, they are true friends, maybe more. You're the one who can change your world. *To the world, you may be one person. However, to one person you may be the world.* This is a quote that means the most to me. But why is this important? I'm telling you this because I hope that it'll help you figure out the hardest things in the world. Money isn't everything and it can't buy happiness. Your life is yours, and I want you to live it the way you want, the way it's yours. Bring forth the real you, and if people don't like, it doesn't matter. If people can't accept you, too bad, they're missing out on something.

Love is awesome. Many people say it's an illusion, but I'm sure it's not. If it was, then why have people cared about each other for a long time? Love is the abstract idea that tilts this world. Love is the best thing in this world; the thing rocks my world, at least. If you don't find that 'someone', they're out there looking for you. I believe in soul mates. Why? Because everyone has a special someone, and that someone may hurt them, but that's where the love comes in. If someone hurts you, the best thing to do is forgive them. Yeah, forgiving can be hard. Forgiving is another branch of love. If you don't forgive someone, how will you know that you care for them? *Why does Cupid never grow? Because love never gets old... Why does Cupid aim its arrow at the heart? Because love hurts.* Again, this is another quote that means a lot to me. This shows me that love is a thing that will last forever, if it's true, and if it's not, you options. Either to stay there and suffer, or to move on. If the love is true, it'll last, even if they hurt you.

Yeah, I'm pretty none of you have ever heard me sound so serious and smart. Haha, I've always considered myself weird. *You laugh at me for being weird. But I laugh at you for being all the same.*

BEING UNIQUE IS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT DEFINE WHO YOU ARE. IF PEOPLE CAN'T ACCEPT YOU THAT WAY, MOVE ON TO SOMEONE ELSE.

NOTE: THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE OUT THERE FOR YOU. AND YOU'LL END UP BEING THERE FOR THEM.

MY ADVICE MY ADVICE

You my brother always finish your education, be someone in life. Never give up, set your mind to be a responsible and important person. Also, finish college to get a degree. Last but not least be a role model to all of our family, don't mess up you can do it, everything's possible. Make our family proud that you are their son don't make don't make our family regret they had be a bigger person than I was. Even though I'm not going to be there with you guys everything is going to be fine take care of my little sister be proud of yourself never say u cant do it because you can I love you and I hope I see you soon safe and sound with our family together.

**P.S When you have a girlfriend MARRY her first before sexual intercourse. Always know her first before all of that, not only because she is pretty, that doesn't matter. What matters is the inside of how she is and treat her like your queen, make her feel like if she is the best person in the world. Live your life be with the person who you think is good for you and with the person who would always make you happy. Always use a condom unless you got married and you trust her 100 percent. I love you,
Erick Sierra**

IN THE SHADOWS OF TEARS

BY : BRENDA .M



I SAY , THIS IS IT , THIS IS THE LAST TIME I WILL SEE YOU AGAIN , WHAT I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER ME BY IS BY WHO I AM BUT BY NOT HOW I LOOK OR HOW I ACT BY , THE TIME I GO AWAY I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU BY MY HEART SO GOOD-BYE , I HOPE THAT ONE DAY WE WILL MET AGAIN , I KNOW THAT IT'S HARD TO SAY GOOD-BYE BUT I GUESS THAT THIS THE WAY THAT THINGS WILL END , I ALSO KNOW THAT YOU WERE ALWAYS MY BFF AND I KNOW HOW MANY SECRETS WE KEPT AND I ALSO KNEW THAT HOW YOU AND ME WERE GOING TO BE TOGETHER FOREVER AND THAT , IF WE WERE BORN IN THE SAME DAY WE WOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT WE WERE MEANT FOR EACH OTHER AS BFFF'S BUT I KNOW THAT IN EVERY NIGHT I WILL BE THANK-FULL FOR WHAT A FRIEND I USED TO HAVE UNTIL NOW THAT I MOVE AWAY TO ANOTHER SCHOOL SO , SO LONG .

Key To happiness- by Maya

Look, all happiness comes from you're heart even if im leaving you should and WILL again be happy. True happiness comes from not superficialness like ipods or any strange gadgets. You may think love will get you by through life but truly it wont. Love only helps if you truly need it, not if you need to fill an empty void. After I leave I want you to live life to the fullest, don't look back, but thrive forward. Embarrassment will only ring you down, regret only when needed for too much regret is an immense waste of time. Im sure you feel limited we are Latino everyone is telling is we don't belong saying so many ignorant things when the truth is that we are MISUNDERSTOOD. Back to limitations, limits come from the MIND!! Its all in your brain, be proud of who you are, put all limits aside, and keep open minds. DON'T get pregnant before 18, or I will personally hurt you!! That's my advice to you. Remember me by who you think I am and picture me as. My name is Maya, you wont see me again but I hope that from this letter you will see my personality, because that matters more than what I look like♥

The Last Advice By: Judith

Vanegas

I will not see you for a long time. Times will be hard, but if you follow this advice, life will be easier.

To my friends:

To my very special friends my first advice is to KEEP LAUGHING AND HAVING FUN! You will be happy as long as you are confident about yourself. Something else is that when I'm gone or another friend is gone you will be fine because you are a great person. You need to live your life so if your boyfriend/girlfriend breaks up with you remember you have great friends to support you, so don't worry about it. There are way better people out there, so don't be obsessed about that one person.

When you try something new, think

"Will I be completely determined to this?" Determination is so important.

To my family:

Imagine I am always there, because I am in your hearts. My recommendation to you is to keep going in your lives. Don't stop *your* lives because I couldn't continue *mine*. Also my other advice is that you should try something new. You don't know where that might take you. You might even get passionate about that. And lastly, commit to things that you are honestly going to do. For example, if you tried something new, you got to really stick to it and know that you really care about it. Most importantly, HAVE FUN with what you are doing and your life.

For anyone else I know:

Determination is key to everything you do. Determine yourself to the most important things that matter to you. Remember that the most important things that matter to you are the ones that stay in your hearts.

with him. We laugh a lot together because we've known each other for a time. I don't really like him anymore, but I like him as a brother. Hopefully we can be friends for a while. ☺

Dear Brother,

I am not going to be here anymore but don't cry I am going to be fine. I always wanted to be fr and independent and now that wish has come true. Now that I'm free lil brother I want you to take my place help my mom be a true leader and the most important thing of all is for you to be happy. If you are happy I'm happy where I am. I have something to tell you bro, I have always and I will forever love you

- Alma

Dear Friend,

It has been fun having you as a friend but its time for our friendship has to end. All of my life I'll treasure you and I know you can sometimes get our of control so just be proactive and jst think positive. I know that your 1st thoughts of me were negative but then you started to know me and you know I would always be there for you. I know this may sound corny but I love you as a friend and in my heart there is a spot for you. I don't want to say goodbye cus you always been there for me and ts impossible to say goodbye...just remember one part of me stays with you and if you ever sad, mad, etc just look back at the good times. Whenever you need me you know where I am.

P.S. lets keep in touch!

P.S.S haha I made you read this dude!! Lol

-Alejandro

Dear Family,

Something I would tell my loved ones about life is to take all opportunities you get!

Another thing is to never give up.

To my sister, don't listen to anything bad people tell you. Don't depend on other people, never give up and always try your best in everything and also don't target materials they only cause trouble an never bring true happiness.

To my cousins, don't fall for any tricks that people tell you, don't curse at people that insult you and don't give up.

To my boy cousins, don't spend half of your life watching tv and not living, take all opportunities people give you.

And to all my loved ones, enjoy life, enjoy life, ENJOY life, never waste it doing things that wont help you. Study and learn all you can, don't do stupid stuff to impress other people instead of yourself and if people insult you laugh in their faces like you don't care what they think about you. But most importantly live life to the extreme. Enjoy it enjoy every day like its your last day to live!! Laugh like it's your last laugh and take every day to the extreme.

P.S Never give up on anything and if anybody deserves a 2nd chance give it to them.

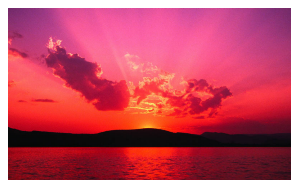
- Thelma

Bullying- A Topic that Shall Not be Ignored or Forgotten

Tired Of Being Bullied- by Maria

I had just come energetic from tutoring, I was so content . We were about to play hangman, but my future had other things planned for me . I felt like dying because people knew answers except for me , I felt dumb. My heart felt like it crumbled . Another kid joined in and thought it was funny, my obvious embarrassment. I felt depressed, then two girls

Dayanara and Thelma came to console me . It felt like two ANGELS came to help me. We went to the next class and a teacher HELPED me confront my fears . I spoke and felt a great relief . Now I feel stronger in front of anybody.



HIS STORY

I SAW MY BEST FRIEND SIT NEXT TO A KID. I SAT NEXT TO HIM TO EAT. AS I HEARD HIM ASKING HIM FOR HIS FOOD THE KID DENIED GIVING IT AWAY. SO MY FRIEND PULLED HIS FIST BACK AND WAS READY TO SOCK HIM. HE GRABBED HIM BY THE SHIRT. RIGHT WHEN HE WAS GONNA SWING, QUICKLY I GRABBED HIS FIST. "DON'T DO THAT", FOO, STOP," I TOLD HIM. HE LISTENED FOR SOME REASON, MAYBE FRIENDS SHOULD GIVE EACH OTHER MORE ADVICE. MAYBE MORE PEOPLE WOULD LISTEN.

...continued on next page

Bullying



Last year, in the 7th grade, there was a bully who always picked on a girl. She was a girl that didn't have many friends. I actually don't really know the reason why everyone 'hated' her, but there were a lot of rumors surrounding her. Some were little things like she never gets a hair cut, she was 'darkish', and things went way too far. We heard that she lived in the streets, and couldn't take showers. And that she never bought new clothes. I never actually talked to her as a friend. I was actually mean to her sometimes. When I had to sit next to her, I complained to the teacher to move my seat. She didn't. So every time we had to work in partners, I ignored her and moved to the edge of the table. In recess, I could hear everyone calling her names, and that was so wrong. But I went along with it. I never felt bad about it then. Well, she didn't come back this year. I guess she got tired of everyone picking on her. She wasn't even a mean person! Now I realize that what I did was something SO wrong. Think about your life, have you done something like this? If so, just stop because I bet if this girl was still here and everyone still bullied her, who knows what would have happened to her. I probably would have through serious depression if I was the one getting bullied everyday in middle school. - Anonymous

What has Communication enrichment taught YOU?

"Communication enrichment has left a big impact on my life. It's taught me that you're never alone and that there's always someone out there that you can express yourself to. It matters to me because it can show people how you feel and if people understand what you're going through. It's taught me that everyone has a voice and that there's a way to RISE above others in a positive way." -Kimberly Ortez

"I have been learning to communicate without bad words. I also want to keep learning how to talk politely to others so that they can treat me better." -Neri Lares

"What communication has taught me is not to be scared of other people. We all have a voice!" -Alma Oldonez

"I learned that there are MANY ways to communicate. I also learned that ignoring people when they're mad or when they don't want to talk is sometimes better. What I can teach others is that there are many ways to communicate with people positively." -Dayanara Chavira

Communications ☺

Concentrate
Omg!

Much more than feelings

Much more than laughs

Unique

Not sad or happy

It's unforgettable

Communicate with everyone

A good experience☺

Extremely cool

-Dayanara Chavira

Dragoncomm8 is: Brain Gutierrez, Erick Sierra, Giovanni Estrada, Samuel Garcia, Thelma Calvo, Brenda Mejia, Marvin Cid, Neri Lares, Evelyn Serrano, Michelle Lopez, Dayanara Chavira, Maria Santos, Maya Martinez, Julie Ramirez, Alma Oldonez, Kimberly Ortez, Ashley Quimm, JudihVenegas, Alyssa, Frankie
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