

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Parent Connection

During the month of December, Fenton's SEL program will focus on respecting diversity and preventing discrimination. Students will receive information designed to prevent bullying and discrimination related to issues of diversity. Here are some expert tips to encourage cultural understanding and acceptance at home. For more information, please see the following website:

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/experts/archive/2009/02/teaching-children-about-divers.html>

- **Examine your own prejudices and attitudes.** Children quickly pick up on and replicate their parents' attitudes on important issues such as cultural diversity. According to diversity expert Dr. Christopher Metzler from Georgetown University, "If we are to teach our children to make decisions that are not based on stereotypes, then we must do the same."
- **Explore cultural diversity at home and in the community.** Talking about diversity, stereotyping, and discrimination are important. Participating in culturally diverse activities expands the discussion to the level of action. Exposing teens to a wide range of diversity helps reduce prejudice and broadens horizons.
- **Listen and respond to their cultural experiences.** Children encounter a variety of individuals of difference cultural backgrounds at school and in their communities. Identifying experiences of discrimination or prejudice children have experienced or participated in is the first step in correcting attitudes and mediating problem situations.