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## COUNSELOR CORNER

### ISSUE #9

## ACCEPTING DIFFERENCES

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I AM THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR  
AT BOTH PERUVIAN PARK  
ELEMENTARY AND SUNRISE  
ELEMENTARY. PLEASE REACH  
OUT IF YOU HAVE ANY  
QUESTIONS, OR YOU NEED  
SOMEONE TO TALK TO ABOUT  
HOW YOU ARE FEELING.

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### IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

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Being accepting of differences we  
might have with others, and seeking  
to find similarities, we can create  
friendship and respect for one  
another.

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### OBJECTIVES

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We can learn to:

- Point out differences and similarities between different people
  - Define the word prejudice
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## WHAT IS PREJUDICE?

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When we have prejudice towards another person, we judge or form opinions about that person before we know them. It can be unfair, disrespectful, and hurtful to form prejudices about someone before we even get to know them.

It's important that we notice when we, or someone else is being prejudiced. We can learn to teach ourselves and others to be more accepting of differences, and find similarities. We can all become more respectful in the way that we respond to others.

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## IS DIFFERENT BAD?

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Often we look at differences as if they are a bad thing. We might think:

- They look different than I do
- They like different things than I do
  - They have different friends
- They speak a different language at home
  - They are really tall
  - They wear braces

Differences can be what make us interesting, and unique. Also, just because we're different in some ways doesn't mean that we aren't similar in other ways.

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## CAN PEOPLE HAVE DIFFERENCES AND STILL BE FRIENDS?

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First of all—people can be very different, but still have lots in common with one another. Plus, we can still be friends with those that are different, and think differently than we do if we can accept their differences, and find things we have in common.

When we can accept differences, it helps us to get along better, and treat each other respectfully. Our classrooms and communities can be better places—places where learning and friendships can grow.