



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fontana Unified Elementary Students Learn Importance of Inclusion during “Start With Hello!” Week

FONTANA, CA– Juniper Elementary School students learned that saying hello to a new face at school could be the first step in beginning a lifelong friendship during an assembly commencing Juniper’s Start With Hello! Call to Action Week on Sept. 16.

Start With Hello! is a national program conceived by Sandy Hook Promise, designed to bring young students together to promote connectivity and inclusiveness. Sandy Hook Promise is led by several family members whose children were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary in 2012.

The assembly, coordinated and hosted by the Fontana School Police Department (FSPD), kicked off a weeklong slate of activities designed to teach students to be more inclusive and connected to each other, and to minimize the effects of bullying and social isolation.

We are thrilled to partner with FSPD to bring the Sandy Hook Promise to Fontana,” Juniper Principal Tammy Fleming said. “Start with Hello! aligns well with our school goals of decreasing student marginalization and rejection before an individual chooses to hurt themselves or others. I am thankful to Police Chief Martin Sissac for bringing this program to Juniper.”

Fontana School police and safety officers spent the morning greeting students and their parents as they arrived at Juniper. During the assembly, officers demonstrated the proper method of making a classmate feel comfortable – if you see someone alone, reach out and help them by smiling and saying hello.

I think this is a good program. It helps stop and prevent bullying structures and what causes them,” Juniper fifth-grader Dylan Bradshaw said. We have a lot of new students at school and I will start saying hello to all the students I don’t know.”

School police officers and Juniper teachers joined together for a short skit showing the proper way to interact with others. “We are spending more time talking we can all understand each other better.”

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Throughout the week, Juniper students have interacted with FSPD for a variety of activities, including: