

Murray Tigers R...O...A...R...

*There's a new call to action
alive and growing at Murray...
and it's called ROAR.*

ROAR stands for **R**espect, **O**pen communication, **A**ceptance and **R**esolving conflict.

The ROAR program seeks to foster an accepting and welcoming environment for everyone at Murray Avenue School and give our community a common language and resource pool to understand differences, and communicate thoughts and emotions effectively.

ROAR is designed to deepen an understanding of respect for ourselves and others, while building cooperation, communication, and conflict resolution skills. The language, activities, and literature of the ROAR program will permeate every aspect of our school community, thereby connecting parents, faculty, and students.

ROAR is the successor of You Can't Say You Can't Play and The Sharing Circle programs. You Can't Say You Can't Play, introduced in 1999, engaged children in grades 3 through 5 in thoughtful discussion and problem-solving about issues of inclusion and exclusion at play. The program was based on practices introduced by Vivian Gussin Paley in her book of the same name. The program thrived because of the large number of dedicated parent volunteers who visited classrooms to facilitate developmentally-appropriate conversations with children concerning issues on the playground. The Sharing Circle, introduced in 2004 for second graders by our School Psychologist, Dara Magrone, discussed themes such as joining a group, friendship, cooperation, listening and problem-solving. According to Murray Principal, Jennifer Scazafave, "You Can't Say You Can't Play and Sharing Circle programs have laid the foundation upon which we now intend to build a more comprehensive and integrated social

literacy, conflict resolution and community building program into the cultural fabric of our school."

With the help of funding from the Mamaroneck Schools Foundation, ROAR has been developed under the guidance of Priscilla Prutzman, Co-Founder and Director of the Creative Response to Conflict (CRC) organization in Nyack, New York. CRC is a recognized global leader in the field of conflict resolution in schools, and continues to support the successful CORE conflict resolution and community

building program which began three years ago at Central School. At Murray, CRC trained a 15 member Steering Committee (now named the ROAR Committee) of enthusiastic parents, teachers, teacher's aides and administrators over the summer and fall of 2005.

As one excited participant commented, "What is exciting about our collaboration with CRC and Central School is that we are creating a critical mass of children and adults across

our community who are sensitized to the importance of being respectful and kind to one another in order to create an inclusive community."

The ROAR Committee launched its first community-building program in April, with activities and literature designed to get adults and children engaged and thinking about acceptance of ourselves and others

If you would like to find out more about ROAR, please contact any of our committee members whose names are listed below. We are looking forward to enlisting more champions to support this very important initiative!

ROAR Committee: Linda Finn – teacher, Carol Graseck – teacher, Christie Makowski – teacher, Leigh-Ann Pieragostini – teacher, Dara Magrone – psychologist, Jeremy Barker Assistant Principal, Jennifer Scazafave – Principal, Lorrie O'Connor – teacher aide, Christine Stenroos – teacher aide, Kim Poretto – teacher aide, Jill Lankler – parent, Fran Reimer – parent, Linda Ryan – parent, Katie Sawyer – parent, Lauren Stern – parent

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Respect



Open communication



Acceptance



Resolving conflict