Our school governance council focus for the last two meetings has been SIP priority III which is to improve students perception of social emotional security. As a reminder, some of the elements of this question on the climate survey are the following: I have been bullied or have seen someone being bullied, I have been teased in school or called names, I have been left out by others. A meeting was held with the school PBIS committee about a month ago to discuss this and to see how we can help students feel more emotionally secure in school. Here are a few ideas we have generated:

Create a buddy bench or friendship table
Pair older classes with younger classes
Include a PBIS tip in the school newsletter for parents
Explore a peer mediation group that can work with our students more directly on these issues

In January we will begin by pairing an older class with a younger class. The classes should try to do an activity together at least every other month. For any suggestions on this, please check with Lisa Taggart or Mallory Brown, they are already paired and have done activities together. When we return from the break, teachers will be provided with materials for an “I Am” project that Jill Picaso recommended earlier this year. This idea calls for students to complete the sentence I am __________________________ on a sentence strip. The hope is that students will complete the sentence with positive statements about themselves. All of the strips will then be posted on a wall somewhere in the school.

Below are the pairings of classes:

Amber and Kate
Rocio and Ana
Luz and Sulma
Nicole and Caryn

Lisa T. and Mallory
Jennifer and Damaris
Valerie and Libbe
Betsy and Maggie

Lisa C. and Jill
Barb and Frank
Rosa and Jenny
Kelly and Lindsey