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ED'S WINGS & PIZZA

Friends Select Students, Faculty and Parents Get Real About Cyberbullying



Students brainstorm and role play ways to challenge cyberbullying.

Weekly Press

• Wed, Oct 26, 2011

ADL holds a series of educational workshops on the importance of behaving responsibly online

*By Haywood Brewster
Staff Reporter*

On Monday, October 24, Friends Select upper school students participated in an

interactive workshop on cyberbullying and social networking behavior led by facilitators from the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). The purpose of the workshop was to increase understanding and awareness about the problem of cyberbullying and the challenges associated with social networking.

To start, there was an icebreaker to get students thinking about their personal experience with technology and cyberbullying. The students then reviewed a case study about the impact of cyberbullying and had conversations about cyberbullying's impact in FSS students' and their friends' lives.

One of the interactive activities of the morning encouraged students to role play ways to challenge cyberbullying. The students were tasked with identifying the reasons for the cyberbullying described in a scenario; discussed the impact of cyberbullying on the individuals and the potential negative impacts; and came up with alternatives to the behavior and rewrote the scenarios focusing on the perspective of the bystander. The workshops ended with students forming groups and coming up with action plans and personal commitments.

During the student workshops, Friends Select faculty attended their own session also led by facilitators from the ADL that covered the same issues with an emphasis on how to address cyberbullying with students.

On Wednesday, October 26 at 6 p.m. in the Blauvelt Theatre, the ADL and Friends Select Parent Association will be holding a workshop for parents where similar topics will be covered with a focus on prevention and intervention. The purpose of the parent workshop is to help educate and empower adult family members to effectively discuss and respond to their teens' experiences with cyberbullying and social networking sites.

The overall goal of ADL's education efforts around cyberbullying is to help create informed youth populations who understand the importance of behaving responsibly and ethically online and who are motivated to challenge cyberbullying in their schools and online social networking communities.