

Project Respect Hosts Teacher Training

47 of MCUSD staff were treated to stellar training by our Seattle-based Committee for Children trainer, Corrina Skildum. Funding for this training was provided through a Mental Health Services Act contract. Project Respect is an anti-bullying and character development program that has been in Mariposa County's schools since 2006. Teachers in each school are teaching their students about empathy, impulse control, anger management, problem-solving, and how to handle bullying using two different curriculums produced by The Committee for Children. Last spring, the Project Respect Committee chose two county schools, Mariposa Elementary and Lake Don Pedro, to become Project Respect Demonstration sites. As demonstration sites, these schools each have a 'coach' to help students work through bullying situations, a part time employee that supports teachers at the school, family education, and a full staff training.

The training took place at the Yosemite Bug Rustic Mountain Resort the weekend of September 18th. The Committee for Children trainer was brought in to lead the MES and LDP staffs through a complete training for the two curriculums used by Project Respect. This training gave staff the opportunity to collaborate with each other regarding their past successes, hardships, and how to work together as a team to accomplish the goal of Project Respect: to create a safe, trusting environment at their school.

However, the training was not all hard work; the teachers were able to socialize around great food, the spa, beautiful lodging, and even a yoga class! This retreat, other than providing a superb training, was given to recognize all of the staff's past and future efforts toward accomplishing the goals of Project Respect. If you would like more information about Project Respect, please visit our website at www.mariposarespect.com or email mariposarespect@sti.net.

