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YWCA staff and students are building a better tomorrow

With 84 K-5th grade students in the YWCA south program and 47 K-5th grade students in the YWCA Harrisburg Freedom program, the YWCA out of school time programs are off to a GREAT start! Through hands on projects, students have been learning that they can make a difference in the lives of others. "The YWCA strives to teach children the importance of respecting one another," says Nancy Fallon, out of school time director for the YWCA.

This month, the YWCA out of school time staff is talking with students on the importance of not being a bully. What makes a bully? How can I protect myself from a bully? Where to get help? Along with this, students will receive a brochure to take home and share with their family and friends. Students will have the opportunity to earn a "No Bully Here" certificate.

Bullying can take many forms. Examples include:

Verbal: name calling, teasing

Social: spreading rumors, leaving people out on purpose, breaking up friendships

Physical: hitting, punching, shoving

Cyberbullying: using the internet, mobile phones or other digital technologies to harm others

Fallon goes on to say, "Working together as teachers, neighbors, friends and families, we can make a difference for our children by setting an example and working with them to understand the importance of being respectful to everyone!" If you would like more information on how to talk with your child about bullying contact Nancy at the YWCA (605)362-9438.

The YWCA Sioux Falls is a growing, active community partner offering quality and affordable programs, services and opportunities.

The YWCA has a 90 year history rich in being the first to respond to the needs of area women. In its early years it was a place for girls and women to gather and learn, a place for young women to live, a place to find safety and shelter from violence, a place to provide childcare and early education for children, a place for women and children to grow and be healthy through fitness and aquatics, and a place to develop leadership skills and find friendships.

Over the years, the YWCA has developed many programs and services from which the community still benefits. Today, YWCA programming is mission driven and diverse in offerings, including:

- Aquatics and Water Safety
- Leadership Development
- Before & After School Care
- Health and Fitness
- Licensed Child Care
- Youth Recreation

Through these programs, the YWCA strives every day to achieve a place where women succeed, a place where children and youth thrive, where there's respect for diversity and where contributions are made towards the development of a community that is vibrant and healthy.