



Fall 2006

# Cornerstone Club Connection

[www.projectcornerstone.org](http://www.projectcornerstone.org)

## 5 "Welcome Back-to-School" Asset-Building Ideas:

- Hold a welcome rally during lunch and have student leaders facilitate cross-grade level games/activities.
- Have everyone wear nametags the first week of school to get to know each other's names.
- Hold a homeroom luncheon in the classrooms for students to drop-in and meet the teachers.
- Create welcome back to school posters to hang on the walls and hallways.
- Have teachers and students read a welcome poem, song, or rap over the loud speaker in the morning.

## What's New With The Cornerstone Clubs?

Welcome back Cornerstone Club student leaders and advisors/coaches! We are very excited to be starting our new year of asset-building and leadership development in order to make our schools and more caring place for all students.

Our focus on asset #5 Caring School Climate is based on Project Cornerstone's developmental asset survey results for Santa Clara County students. According to the survey results, only **62% of our elementary school students** and **25% of our middle and high school students** feel that their school provides a caring, encouraging environment. The Cornerstone leadership teams are the student movement in the schools whose challenge is to create an action plan that will promote a more caring, respectful, and supportive school environment for their peers through student-led, teacher supported projects. Check out our website for some of the highlights schools across the county have been working on.

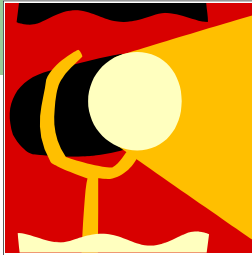
Cornerstone Clubs are growing and we are now working in 13 districts! Students are uniting in schools in the Alum Rock, Berryessa, Cambrian, Campbell elementary, Evergreen, Franklin-Mckinley, Los Gatos, Moreland, Morgan Hill, Union, Campbell high, Milpitas, San Jose, and Santa Clara school districts.



*The Peace Patrol from Forest Hills Elementary School (Campbell Elem. School district) run a respect assembly.*

**"Getting Support from nonparent adults ('Other adult relationships') is one of the developmental assets associated with positive effects on students' school attendance, sense of bonding to school, effort, conduct, and performance."**

—Starkman, Scales, and Roberts 1999



## Spotlight on Cornerstone Advisor/Coach: Gwen Anderson Castillero Middle School

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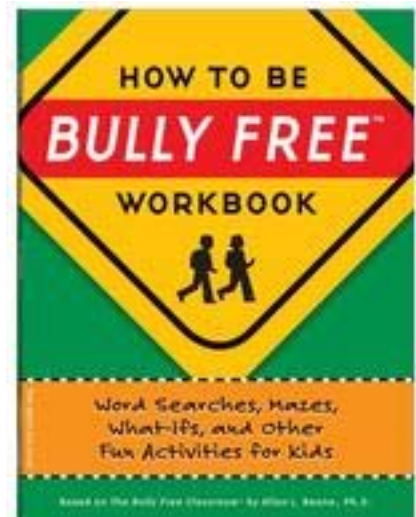
Gwen Anderson is a fine arts teacher at Castillero Middle School in Almaden Valley (SJUSD) and teaches our first ever “Cornerstone Class” where students learn about leadership, decision-making, communication skills, and many other life skills by utilizing the developmental asset framework as her guide for the course

development. It is very exciting to have an asset-builder such as Gwen in our school community and promoting the healthy development of our students. Thanks to the groundbreaking work by Gwen, two new school districts have followed her lead and are beginning their own process of offering a “Cornerstone Class” in their middle schools.

When asked about the benefits of having a Cornerstone Class at their school, Castillero students responded with “this class teaches you about things you need in life, like how to communicate with people, work out a problem, and be there for your friends.” Thank you Gwen Anderson for being a positive adult role model for your students!

### Resource Highlight: *How to Be Bully Free Workbook*

Based on the Bully Free Classroom by Allan L. Beane, Ph.D, he has created a new resource for teachers to use with their students in the K-8 grades. The *How To Be Bully Free Workbook* includes word searches, mazes, what-ifs, and other fun activities for kids to help them learn about and deal with bullying. This book can be purchased at Free Spirit Publishing at:  
[www.freespirit.com](http://www.freespirit.com)



“The relationships and connections young people have with caring others are critical elements in their healthy development”

—Scales and Leffert 1999