

Cooperative Adventures

Dixie School District

Vallecito, Dixie, and Mary E. Silveira Elementary Schools

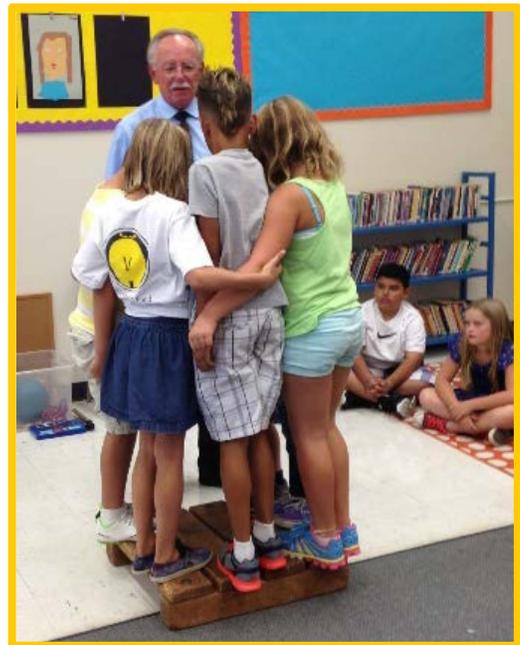
Tracy Smith, Greg Johnson, Will Anderson

Funded by our Can Do! Foundation, this unique program is a true, one-of-a-kind teambuilding opportunity brought to Dixie, Mary E. Silveira, and Vallecito students and staff through the work of Dave Nettell. With the implementation of the Common Core Standards and 21st Century learning skills, learning to get along with each other, improve communication skills and finding ways to create risk-free environments have risen to the top of teachers' priority lists. Twice a year, Dave Nettell, educational consultant, brings professional development to staff and students through classroom based challenges that make us all think about our behaviors and how we can help students understand how to make the most of their decision making, bring out the best in others, and promote social critical thinking skills all at the same time.

Dave works individually with each teacher and grade level team to customize his work with students. He also provides follow up professional development for parents and support staff. His customized reminder posters (What's my best choice right now? Say what you mean, mean what you say, but don't say it mean) can be seen throughout our schools. Dave also offers a parent education evening that brings families together for cooperative adventures and the sharing of common vocabulary that supports positive growth and learning.

A classrooms Dave Nettell experience begins with building trust through relationships. Through small challenges, Dave teaches students strategies to help them shape the world of communication around them. His strategies are hanging in every classroom all across our schools to remind us of the choices that we have. He teaches students to:

- Make good decisions
- Stop, think first
- Acknowledge that mistakes are important and necessary
- Let go and move on
- Ignore goofy behavior that takes us off task
- Encourage one another
- Work as a team
- Read body language
- And many more...



Dixie School District's students enter Miller Creek Middle School with a common base of language and strategies that they can use to navigate their way in school together. Elementary teachers and staff share common language and strategies throughout each of our schools that builds strong communal understandings of how we can all learn to make good choices more often and that these choices will help us all learn and grow in ways that will serve us for a lifetime.