

*The SELPA3 Community Advisory Committee Presents:*

## **Playground Pals**

*How parents and staff at Foothill Elementary created an inclusive recess program that benefits the entire school!*

For many kids with special needs, recess is a time of isolation and awkwardness and sometimes even bullying. Lacking the social skills needed to communicate with peers and engage in recess activities, they miss out on unique opportunities for socialization and learning. Parents and staff at Foothill Elementary School joined forces to address this problem by starting a Playground Pals Bus Stop program, where student monitors plan and lead fun and safe activities on the playground, encourage friendships, and use Project Cornerstone skills to act as peer mediators to help the students deal with minor playground conflicts. The monitors, composed of typically developing 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade volunteers as well as a few students with special needs, are trained to encourage a happy and positive playground experience for other kids. Two parent volunteers or staff members are stationed at the bus stop along with the monitors to help facilitate their responsibilities. Students with special needs are assisted in their efforts to participate. Every child at Foothill now recognizes the large bus stop sign on the playground as a place where they can find kindness, friendship, and respect.

Foothill parent Ruchi Joshi and Foothill Special Day Class teacher Karen Smyrl will describe the program, its benefits, and the steps they took to get Playground Pals started.

### **Don't Miss This Free Presentation!**

**Date: Tuesday, November 18, 2014**  
**Time: 12pm – 1pm**  
**(Free lunch available for the first 30 attendees)**  
**Location: Cambrian School District Office Board Room**  
**4115 Jacksol Drive, San Jose, CA 95124**

Questions? Contact [chair@selpa3cac.org](mailto:chair@selpa3cac.org). For more information about our CAC see [www.selpa3cac.org](http://www.selpa3cac.org)

***Want to help plan future events? Attend our business meeting at 11:30am!***

Special Education Local Plan Area III (SELPA3) includes the following school districts: Cambrian, Campbell, Campbell High, Lakeside, Loma Prieta, Los Gatos, Los Gatos – Saratoga High, Luther Burbank, Moreland, Saratoga, and Union.