

# August 2010



NMACD Ensures that Successful Teaching and Learning are a Priority for All New Mexicans

## In This Issue

Whole Child/Whole Teacher Blog Join the Conversation!

Protecting Yourself from Mama Bear

Mark Your Calendar: NMACD Conference Nov 4&5

## Quick Links

[\\_NMACD.org](#)

[ASCD.org](#)

The Definitive Source for New Mexico Educators



Check out the NMACD Healthy Child/Healthy Teacher Blog found on the NMACD website <http://nmascd.org>. Click on *Whole Teacher, Whole Child Blog* (see above) and follow and contribute to the conversation! This month's topic is **Safe Teacher/Safe Child**.



### **Fear of Mama Bear**

*Penny Coppedge, Principal  
Cimmaron Public Schools*

*Up here in the mountains, most people know never to get between a mother bear and her cub.*

*Often when teachers come to me after having been confronted by an undiplomatic parent, I am reminded of the "mother bear rule."*

*We know that the school/parent partnership is vital to the academic success of our students. We also know that not all calls or visits from parents are diplomatic. Nothing seems to strike fear in the hearts of my teachers like being confronted by an unhappy parent. In talking to my teachers about these situations or in dealing with angry parents myself, I try to remember some of the following:*

*Angry parents rarely come to listen; they come to talk. It is important to use our best listening skills in these situations. Stay calm. Let them "get it all out" without interrupting or becoming defensive. Let them know you hear them without necessarily agreeing with what they are saying. Hear what the parent is angry about. Often it has little to do with the teacher or the situation at hand. Often there are other issues such*

*as being overwhelmed by economic or familial situations. Sometimes they are still harboring anger from their experience as a student. Often they are struggling with the same behaviors at home that we are struggling with at school and are looking to the teacher and the school for solutions. When parents come to the school/to your classroom, treat them like a guest. Offer them a drink of water. Try to make them feel welcome and comfortable. Let them know you are glad for the opportunity to visit with them. Avoid taking on a patronizing tone. Avoid engaging them in an argument; be careful not to get caught up in inappropriate behavior. Remain in control and be empathetic. Take notes; then address each relevant point brought out. Stick to the issues. Be open, but be specific and firm about your educational philosophy and about your school's policies. Summarize the meeting and provide next steps such as a plan of action or a time to meet again or referral to another professional such as the school counselor if appropriate. Document the meeting and inform your supervisor. In the event the parent leaves and is still unhappy, you want your supervisor to know what is going on and what occurred in the meeting.*

*Above all, be safe. If a volatile parent refuses to calm down or if she/he makes blatant threats, calmly end the meeting. Report the incident to your supervisor immediately and ask that your supervisor attend any subsequent meetings with this parent.*

### **Action Research**

"The news about NMASCD's Whole Teacher, Whole Child blog is just beginning to spark a real interest among our members. Therefore, we did not have enough data to gather results regarding the "Healthy Teacher, Healthy Child" tenets of the Whole Child initiative. Stay tuned next month for our first action research report regarding what NMASCD bloggers are sharing about the Safe Teacher, Safe Child. Better yet, join the conversation now!"

### **WATCH FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION COMING SOON!**

This year's NMASCD fall conference centers on the theme ***Whole Teacher/Whole Child—Building Bridges of Efficacy***. We believe it is teachers who must first be healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged if they are going to effectively advocate for the Whole Child. Scheduled for **November 4-5, 2010**, at the Marriott Pyramid in **Albuquerque** the conference will focus on the five tenets of the Whole Teacher/Whole Child Movement as we seek to equip you with some **key strategies, ideas, and information**.

<b>NMASCD Executive Board</b>	
<b>Dr. Ladona Clayton</b> President Clovis Christian Schools Superintendent	<b>Dr. Judy Tanner</b> Executive Director
<b>Brian Peterson</b>	<b>Dr. Kathleen Pittman</b>

President-elect Las Cruces Public Schools Principal Sunrise Elementary	Secretary Eastern New Mexico University Faculty
<b>Penny Coppedge</b> Past President Cimarron Municipal Schools Principal	

© NMASCD 2010

This message was sent to email@example.com from:

Marcy Oxford | 3150 Bowman | Las Cruces, NM 88005

[Manage Your Subscription](#)

