

## Program focuses on anti-bullying

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

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Holyoke Elementary School guidance counselor Sharon Jones hopes students will jump on board and pledge to stop bullying during a Take a Stand, Lend a Hand, Stop Bullying assembly.

Thursday, Nov. 29, students in grades K-6 will gather at the HHS auditorium for the bullying assembly. Parents as well as community members are also invited. The assembly will take place from 2-3 p.m.

Jones said the students have been working on a bullying unit at school since the beginning of October and will showcase some of the skills they have learned. They will also sing some songs. She said they have started with an education and awareness portion of bullying. "It's going to be interesting and fun," Jones said.

Jones was still trying to work out the details as of Friday, Nov. 16, but was hoping some special guests would be on hand to talk about bullying.

"This is more of a celebration," Jones said of next Thursday's assembly. It's not planned as a downer or reprimandation session.

Toward the end, the students who want to will sign a pledge to help stop bullying. Wristbands will be handed out to those who sign and the younger kids will receive a backpack tag. Large banners will be signed and hung within the school to remind students about bullying.

Jones said that around 3 p.m., the students will split into smaller groups and enjoy some activities until around 3:30 p.m.

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