

# Around Dawson

With Assistant Principal Barbara Diamond

November 2011

## The Puppet People Perform *Bully Busters* for Dawson Students

The Puppet People zoomed in on puppet motor cycles to bring students a show about character building, anger management and crisis intervention. The program, *Bully Busters*, was set in the less structured areas of school: the bus, the cafeteria and the playground. The various puppet characters revealed the best way to deal with bullies without resorting to violence.

The themes of the program were to Stand Up For Yourself, Stand Up For Others, and When To Tell a Grown-Up. Students learned that they have an important part in making the school bully free. Situations used in the play included a bigger kid intimidating a smaller one by verbal taunts, a friend telling her friend whom she can and cannot be friends with and a bigger kid intimidating and threatening to hurt littler kids and asking for money to leave them alone.

*Bully Busters* reinforced many of the lessons students learn in Second Step and other character development and anti-bullying activities currently in use with Dawson students. Students once again were reminded that getting into a fight isn't right. The story line demonstrated that excluding others, selfish behavior and any behavior that creates hurt feelings are all behaviors that they need to avoid and also stand up to should they see them occurring. Students were also reminded that it is ok to seek adult help if bullying occurs.

## Homework Helpline Available to Students from Big Y

For the 20th academic year, Big Y's Homework Helpline is available as a resource to help students achieve success in the classroom. The Homework Helpline is a free service, available Monday through Thursday from 4:00 PM to 7:00 Pm by calling 1-800-866-BIGY or by logging on to [www.bigy.com/homework](http://www.bigy.com/homework). The Homework Helpline is staffed by a team of certified teachers with a variety of classroom experience. They all teach their own students during the day and then spend three hours nightly assisting students who use this homework resource service. No more excuses about not knowing what to do or how to approach a task! Homework Helpline can come to the rescue.

Until next time, Barbara Diamond