



“Being a peer mediator is very inspiring. I love helping others emotionally, mentally, and physically.”

— La'toya Cunningham

What's Your Problem?

Conflict Mediation

“C.M. is coming.” Signs sporting this slogan were displayed all over the school starting in November.

Literally hundreds of students were confused as to what C.M. meant. Eventually, word got around, and students found out about Conflict Mediation. Advised by Mrs. Catherine Turner, this program was designed to let peer mediators solve conflicts among students.

“Teachers and administrators can't guarantee safety alone,” said Mrs. Turner. “We need the help of students.”

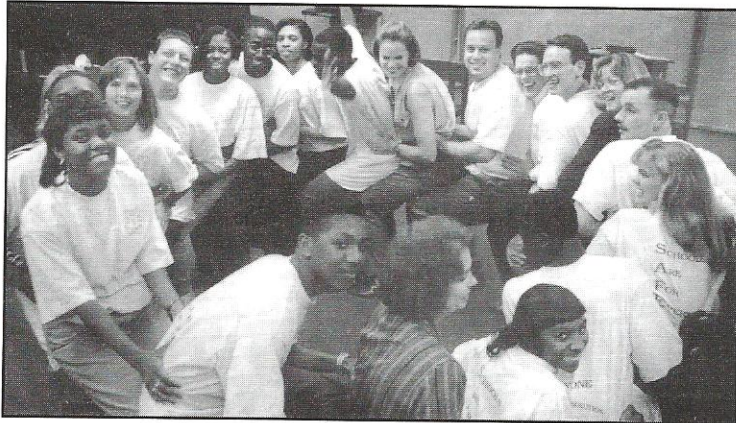
Twenty members of the S.A.F.E. (Schools Are For Everyone) Team and five teachers attended a two-day workshop on conflict-intervention techniques. During the seminar, they participated in team-building games, exercised role playing, and watched up-to-date films focused on positive peer pressure, communication skills, and problem-solving techniques.

“I think that the S.A.F.E. Team holds many good things for the things for the future,” said peer mediator Marlo Sutphin. “I'm happy to be part of it.”

Halfway through the year, peer mediation folders were placed in each classroom. When teachers recognized that two students were not getting along, they filled out a referral and submitted it to Mrs. Turner or Mr. Barnhill. A peer mediator was then assigned to work with quarreling students.

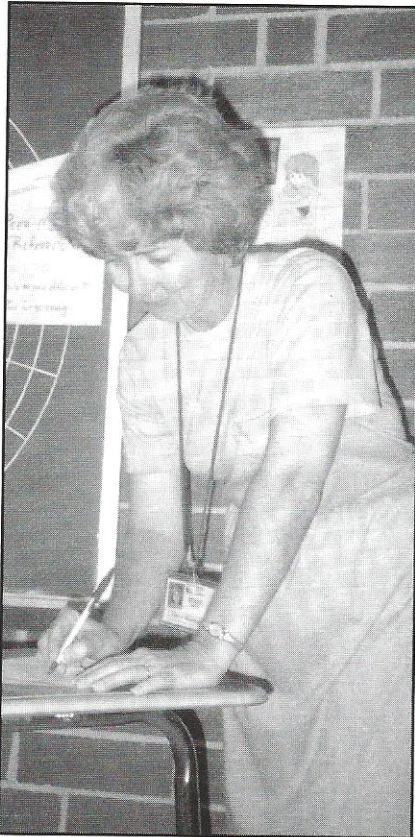
“Peer mediation really helped to ease the tension and solve a problem between me and a classmate,” said junior Stacy Davis.

— Monica Smoak



Lean on me. Peer mediators of the S.A.F.E. team, composed of teachers, students, and administrators, take part in a team-building activity. Many students benefited from peer mediation.

A helping hand. After recognizing a problem between two of her students, teacher Cheryl Murdaugh fills out a peer mediation referral. Placing referral folders in each classroom made the forms easily accessible to students and teachers.



Ready, willing, and able. Senior Ben Teasdell looks over a “feelings work sheet” during lunchtime just before he acts as a mediator for two students. Conflict mediators helped to solve conflicts during their lunch and SAC periods.

