



## Maggie's Civics Corner

### Lesson #39 – Building Community

#### Maggie Says...

*Today's lesson is about Building Community. There are always people and new animals moving into our community. I especially like it when a new dog arrives. It might take us a little time to become friends, but we always seem to manage to end up that way. Let's all think of ways we can make new people and animals in our neighborhood feel welcome.*

**Sticky Situation:** New families move in and out of our neighborhoods on a fairly regular basis. Some families move in because they have changed jobs and have to move closer to where they will be working. Others might move because they want to be closer to their other family members. Imagine that a new student has just arrived at your school and has been placed in your classroom. The student comes to your community from a community in another country. The student has an unusual name and speaks with a very noticeable accent. During lunch, you overhear friends of yours making fun of the new student both because of her name and her accent. You have choices about what you could do. For example, you could join your friends and make fun of the new student. Or, you could yell at your friends that they are not nice people and then move to another table. Would you do either of these two examples? Why or why not? What would you do and why?

**Activity:** It is never just new families in a community who are teased for one reason or another. To build a strong community, however, it is important that everyone in the community feels welcomed and valued. Think of an activity that you might plan that would bring all of the different families in your community together. Take the following steps to **Create a Plan of Action** that would bring lots of people from your community together to have fun;

1. Brainstorm ideas that would bring many families in your community together to have fun;
2. Pick one **BIG IDEA** from your list and put it in writing so that you can let others know what you want to do;
3. Develop a way to encourage others in your community to read your plan and then volunteer to help you make it happen;
4. Identify the funds for supplies you will need to implement your plan;
5. Identify who you might need to ask permission from in order to implement your plan.