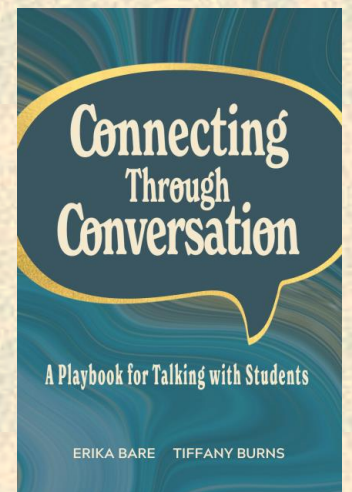


# Harnessing the Power of Connection

Utah Elementary School Principal's Conference

Erika Bare & Tiffany Burns



# SCHOOL SECRETARY

**noun.** [skool **sek**-ri-ter-ee]

Someone who solves a problem  
you did not know you had in a  
way you do not understand.

See also **wizard, magician**

# Objectives

## Connected Relationships

- Participants will apply the formula for building connected relationships for learning with their students to transform student behavior in the office.


## Communication Strategies

- Participants will apply communication strategies to build connections with other educators.


## Power Struggle

- Participants will examine strategies and sentence stems to avoid power struggles.

Would you  
Rather?

A photograph of an airplane cabin interior, showing rows of empty seats with black leather upholstery. The seats are arranged in a 2-2 configuration. The cabin walls are a light beige color, and there are several oval-shaped windows. The lighting is warm and soft. On the left side of the image, there is a white circular graphic element containing text. In the bottom right corner, there is a website URL.

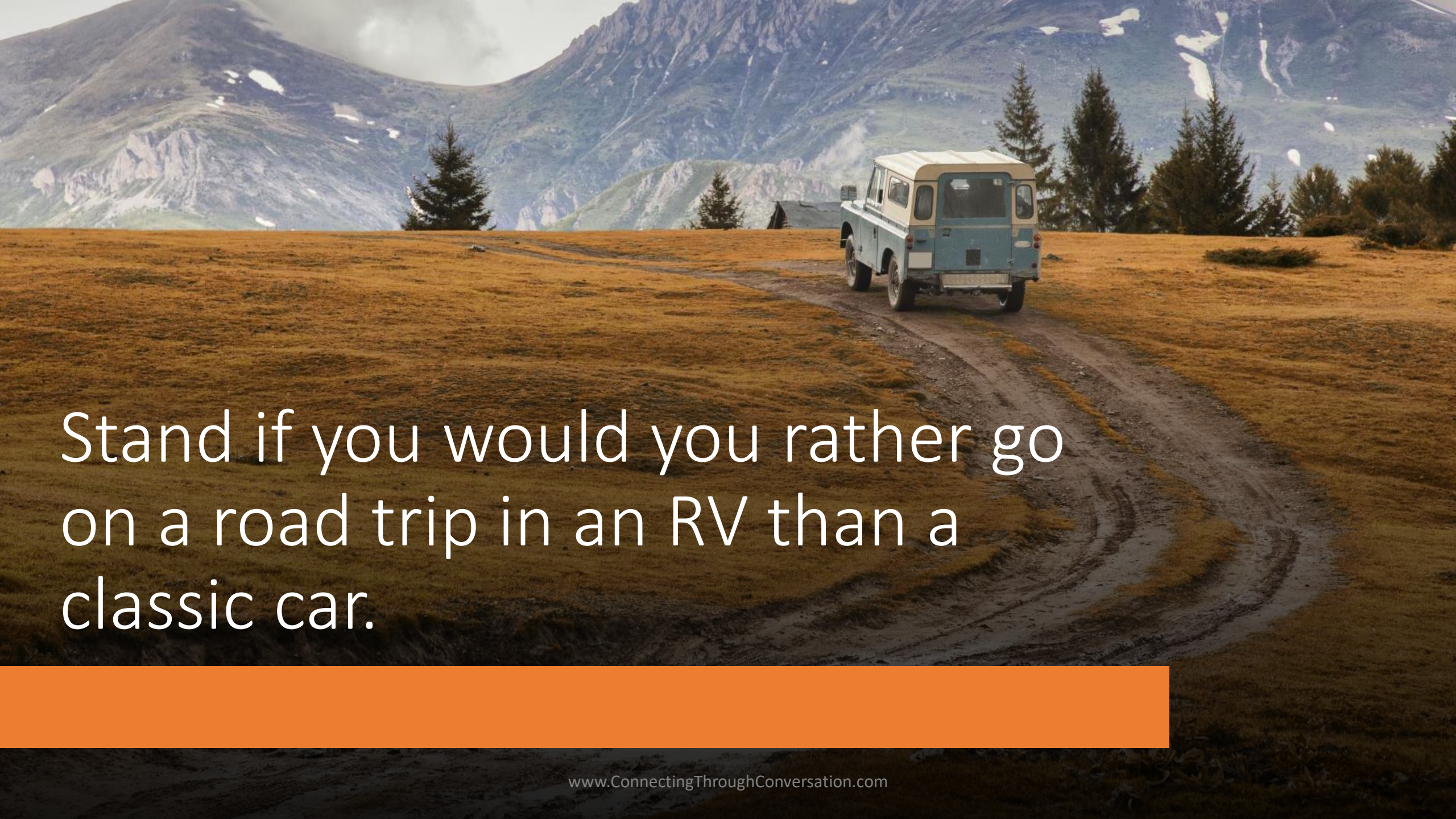
Stand if you would rather sit next to a crying baby than a chatty seatmate on a long flight.



Stand if you would rather work in a place where you could wear pajamas than work in an office requiring formal attire.



Stand if you would you rather  
spend a day at the mountains  
than at the beach.



Stand if you would you rather go  
on a road trip in an RV than a  
classic car.



Stand if you would you  
rather travel by train  
than plane.

Stand if you would you  
rather visit a theme park  
than a national park.



Every adult who talks  
to students is an  
educator.

---

You set the tone and create the culture in this office. This sets the tone for the entire school!



Building a culture of connection requires us to communicate with students in a way that shows care, builds relationships, and cultivates learning.



---

# What you say and how you say it matter.

Bare & Burns pg. 3



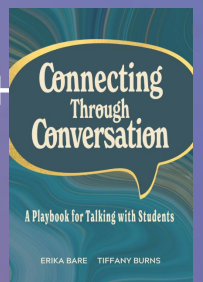
Think of the adults in school  
who made the most positive  
impact on your learning when  
you were a student.



Listening → Dignity → Trust = Connected  
Relationships for Learning

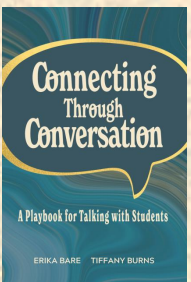
- +
  - "A student's behavior is what they did, not who they are."

-Bare and  
Burns Pg. 19



**“The words of an educator can stay with students for the rest of their lives.”**

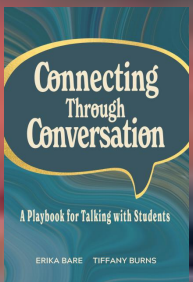
-Bare and Burns Pg. 33



# Let Them Catch Your Calm

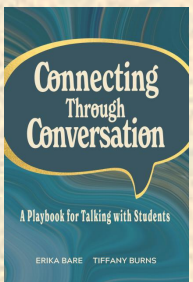
Emotions are Contagious

[www.connectingthroughconversation.com](http://www.connectingthroughconversation.com)



**“Make sure the emotions others catch from us are worth catching.”**

-Bare and Burns Pg. 32





# Care Out Loud

Pg. 44-51 &  
184-186



# Care Out Loud Sentence Stems

- I am so glad you are here!
- I care about you
- You're awesome
- This school is better because you are in it
- You are such a cool kid

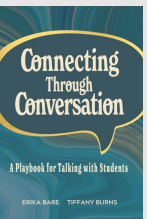
# Routines to Show Care

Intentional greetings

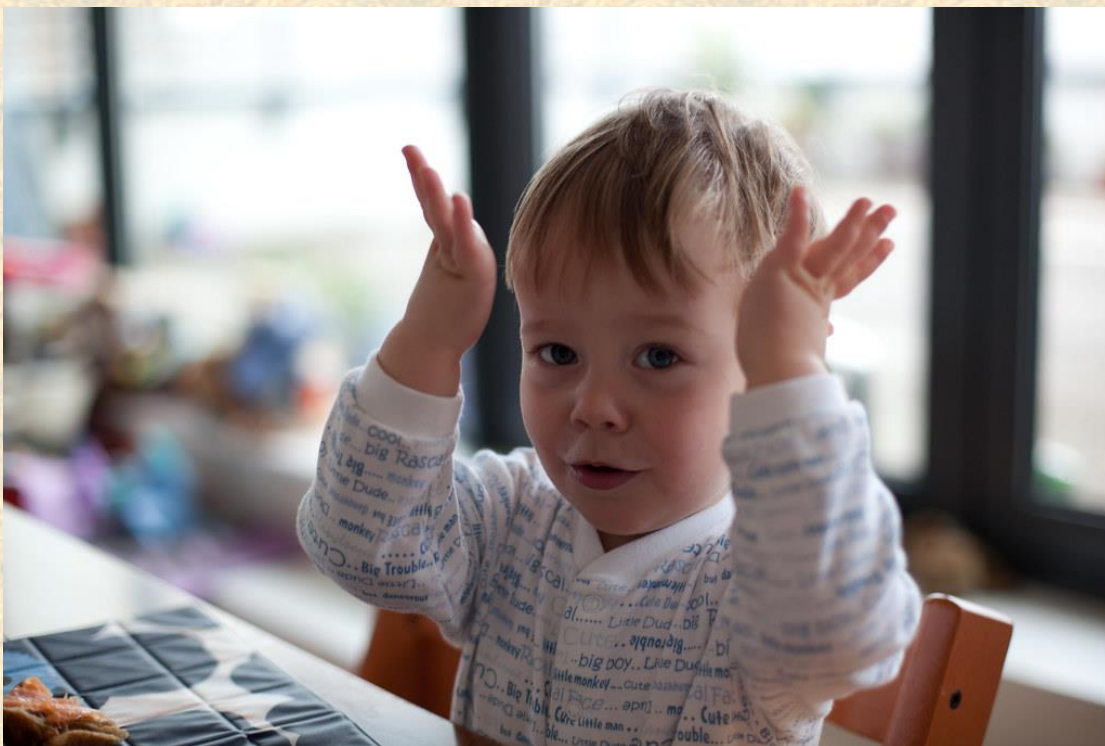
Say an individual goodbye

Celebrate milestones

Use what you know!







# Your Body is Talking.

What is it saying?

# Small Talk Isn't Small

“Remembering something you discussed with a student days or weeks earlier demonstrates care and shows students that you are paying attention to who they are.”

- Bare and Burns Pg. 53



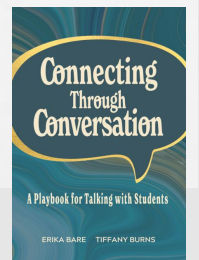
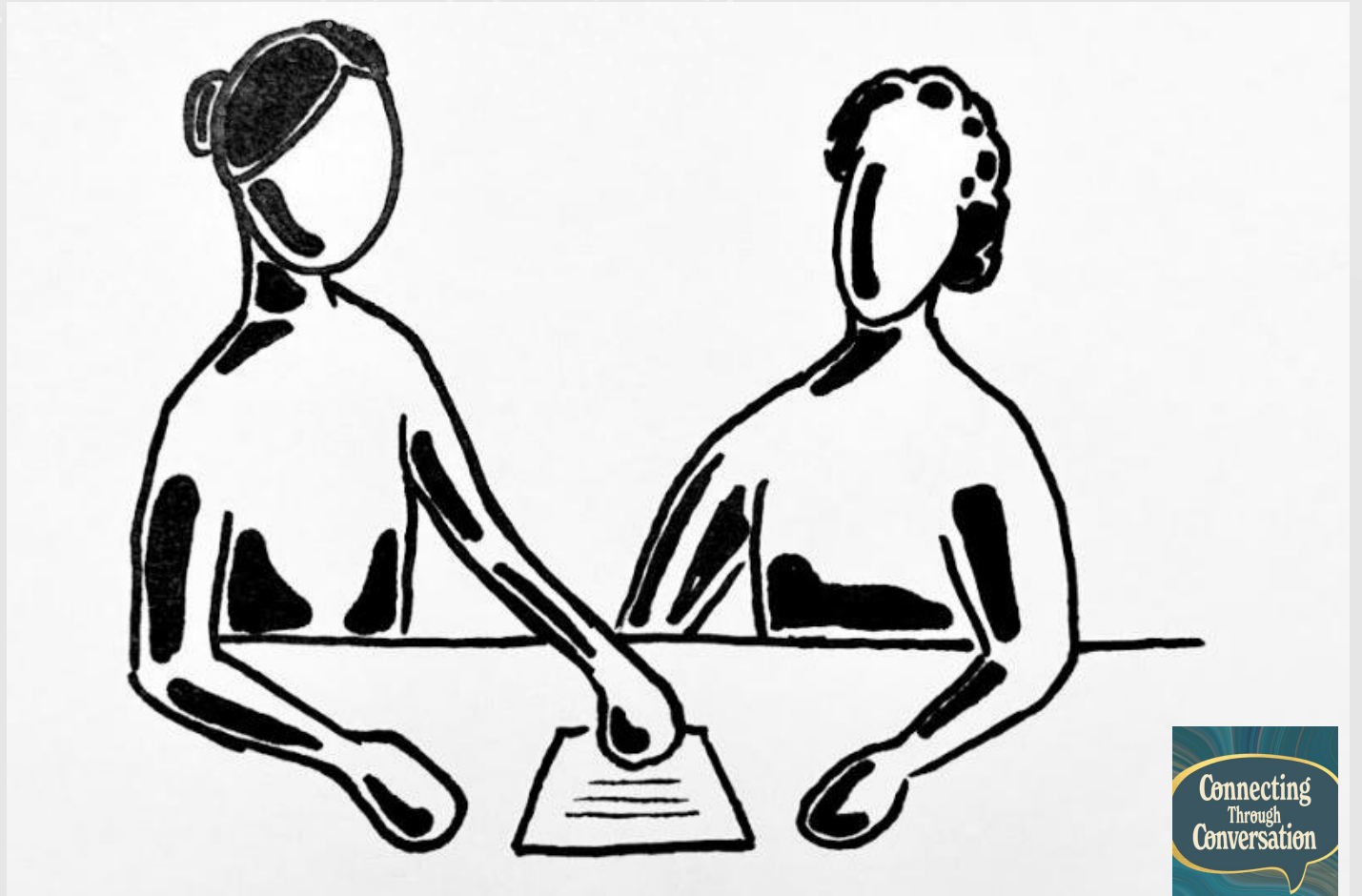


## To Look or Not to look

*"Sometimes, a student may only have the capacity to look at you or listen to you. Not both."*

*-Bare & Burns Pg. 74*

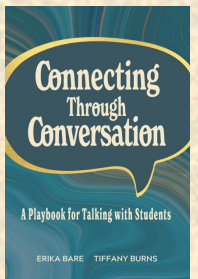
# Third Point



Adobe Stock | #133918221



# One-to-One-to-One



# What ideas do you connect with or what questions do you have?

Connected Relationships for Learning formula

A student's behavior is what they did, not who they are.

Let them catch your calm

Care out loud

Your body is talking

Small talk isn't small



Break Time



Buzz





# To Talk or Not to Talk

*"Kids, like adults, need opportunities to think uninterrupted thoughts."*

*-Bare and Burns Pg. 60*



“Sometimes, we try to solve problem for students when they simply want to be heard.”

-Bare & Burns Pg. 81

---

# Acknowledge, Validate, Coach



Acknowledge and name the emotion the other person is expressing



Validate that what they are feeling is valid, and you can understand why they might be feeling that way



Coach or teach to a new understanding

# Who's the boss? Avoiding Power Struggles

Don't ask a question if it is not a choice

Do offer choices you can live with

"I wish"

Say it and run

# Sentence Frames to Avoid a Power Struggle



- I care about you too much to argue.
- I'll talk to you when your voice sounds like mine.
- Use diffusers: I hear you. Good point. Noted.
- Well. . . that was unexpected.

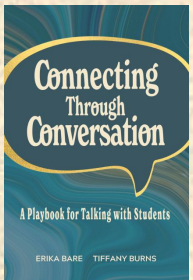
# Another Stinking Learning Opportunity (A.S.L.O.)

Humans make mistakes. Congratulations on being human.



on.com

Pg. 128-124



# An Effective Apology

- Acknowledges that a mistake was made
- Expresses regret that it happened
- Includes a vow not to be a repeat offender
- Guesses at how it made them feel
- Checks in to see if you got it right
- Offers to make it right
- Apologizes to the same person or group impacted by the mistake

"Regardless of our intention, our impact is what is lasting and ultimately what matters."

-Bare and Burns Pg. 101



# When the Heat is on: The Grown-Ups

Start with care



Let them catch your calm



Acknowledge and Validate



Close the loop

# Closing The Loop: How to Report

Have you developed a communication protocol with your administrator?



What does your administrator expect to be looped in on?



Who is responsible for communicating the information?

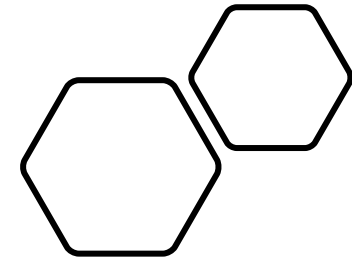


Who else needs to know?

## SCHOOL SECRETARY:

You always save the day by passing out Band-Aids to kids, making extra copies for teachers, and answering calls from worried parents. You run both the office and the school with ease, bringing warmth to the building and everyone inside it.

–Teresa Kwant

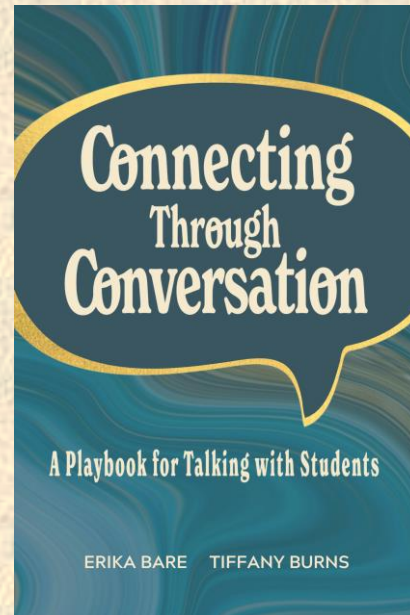


# At the very heart of education is connection.

Bare & Burns Pg. 3



*Feedback Survey*



[www.connectingthroughconversation.com](http://www.connectingthroughconversation.com)



*Follow Us!*