Hello Parents and Guardians,

My name is Trudie Kibala, and I am the school counselor at Spanish Springs Elementary School. I would like to take a moment to share a little about the role of a school counselor and the goals of a comprehensive school counseling program. Here at SSES, I strive to support our students proactively by identifying issues and implementing programming based on students’ social, emotional, behavioral, and academic development. Students receive counseling interventions through classroom lessons and group or individual sessions. The success of counseling interventions hinges on fostering relationships with students, staff, and families, which I have committed myself to since joining the school full time in 2014.

One of the proactive supports available to our students and families is the [Safe Voice Nevada (safevoicenv.org)](http://safevoicenv.org/) reporting system. Anonymous reporting through Safe Voice allows students, families, or community members to submit tips concerning their own safety or that of others. In addition to Safe Voice, students can submit self-referrals using my in-building process, and families can contact me directly through phone or email tkibala@washoeschools.net. I am consistently checking in with teachers and staff to identify and support student concerns.

Research continually shows that students feel safer when they attend a school with a comprehensive developmental school counseling program. I strive to build a collaborative environment to support the social, emotional, academic and career growth of all our students here at Spanish Springs Elementary. Please contact me with any concerns. I will periodically update the Counseling Corner with helpful links and tools for families to utilize.

Trudie Kibala, MA, NCSC