



MIDLAND PARK PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS

# Week of Respect Newsletter

## October 7-11, 2013



**Midland Park Take Action Peer Leaders**

### ***Week of Respect Calendar of Events***

#### **October 7th**

**Middle/High School  
Motivational Speaker:  
Bill Deering**

#### **October 7-11:**

**Broadcasting Class will  
air Anti-Bullying PSA's  
on MPTV**

**Senate:  
Orange Ribbons  
Week of Respect**

#### **October 10**

**Student Presentation on  
Holocaust Education  
Program's Study Tour**

#### **October 11**

**High School  
"Sticks and Stones"  
Assembly**

**Elementary School  
"Power of One"**

*Harassment, intimidation and bullying are serious offenses that will not be tolerated in the Midland Park Public Schools. To report an incident of alleged harassment, intimidation and/or bullying, please contact the school principal, the school's Anti-Bullying Specialist, and/or the District Anti-Bullying Coordinator. Contact information for these staff members may be found on our district website: [www.mpsnj.org](http://www.mpsnj.org)*

### **Anti-Bullying Legislation—an Ongoing Initiative for New Jersey Schools**

*Dr. Marie C. Cirasella, Superintendent*

Schools have been defined as both places of learning and tiny societies, with culture and climate having a profound impact on a student's academic achievement, peer social interactions, and emotional well-being. The concept of insuring a positive school climate is interwoven into New Jersey's Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights legislation (ABR). The ABR amended the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) Prevention Statute originally enacted in 2001 and revised in 2006 and 2008. The legislation defines the process for New Jersey public school districts with regard to preventing, reporting, and investigating incidents of HIB, on and off school premises. It is with-

out question that insuring a safe and civil environment for all students is a primary concern for our district. The administration, staff, and Board of Education of the Midland Park Public Schools remains fully committed to insuring compliance with the ABR. We continue to work with staff and the community to insure all incidents, whether identified as HIB under the ABR or classified as student code of conduct violations, are swiftly and appropriately addressed. Ongoing staff training, survey analyses, and the support of our School Safety Committees will help insure our school environments are places where everyone feels safe, valued, and welcomed.

### ***A Message from Mr. Craig R. Rush District Anti-Bullying Coordinator***

friendly place to live, work and attend school.

In 2011, Midland Park Public Schools set the goal to become a New Jersey school of excellence in the area of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) prevention. The district

continues to work with Dr. Paula Rodriguez- Rust, Sociologist, Bullying Prevention Specialist. Dr. Rust serves as a consultant on best-practices program implementation when addressing school climate. In the spring of 2013, students (with parental con-



sent) participated in a school climate survey for the third year in a row. Dr. Rust was able to interpret the data and compare and contrast the results of the 2013 survey with the data from the 2011, 2012 surveys.

On Monday evening, October 28, Dr.

Rust will be making a presentation to the community on the results of the School Climate Survey. This presentation will take place at Midland Park High School at 8:00p.m. in Memorial Hall. All parents and interested community members are invited to attend.

As the district Student Assistance Counselor and Anti-Bullying Coordinator, I am proud to say that Midland



Park continues to expand its prevention efforts and initiatives. The Week of Respect can serve to remind our community that kindness does matter as we celebrate our diversity and treat one another with dignity.



## Highland and Godwin Schools recognize Respect Week

*Danielle Bache, Highland Principal & Matt Murphy, Godwin Principal*

### Highland School Principal: **Danielle Bache**

The Power of One is the message Highland School plans to convey during The Week of Respect. The Power of One is a Soren Bennick Production carrying the message of how ONE person can make a difference. The October 11<sup>th</sup> assembly is a series of skits presented by actors who use colors and masks to portray what bullying is, what can be done about it, and how every child has the power of one, the power to

report it and deal with bullying when they see it. Our goal is to have every child realize the power they have as a bystander and to take action and help the victim. The students will take The Power of One Oath at the end of the assembly:

I will not bully others. I will not stand by while others are bullied. I will report and deal with bullying whenever I see it...

...because I have

The Power of One!!

The students will also sign The Power of One banner signifying that they are making this Oath on a daily basis. The banner will be on display to show our commitment to end bullying and stand up for what is right.

Throughout the month, our focus will be on the trait of Respect and activities will surround it at school and home. Weekly poems and in-

spirational quotes will be recited during the morning announcements. A school wide read aloud will take place later in the month followed by class discussions about what it means to be respectful. I will broadcast the read aloud on my website, so parents may reinforce the same message at home. Through this partnership, our students will stay safe, strong and free at Highland School.

### Godwin Principal: **Matt Murphy**

The HIB Week of Respect is a time to remind ourselves of the great responsibility we have in supporting the healthy social-emotional development of our youngsters. It is our belief that when children feel confident, safe and comfortable in the classroom environment and amongst peers, they are more likely to be successful in school. While we work so hard to help students achieve academically, it is essential that we also give significant and on-going attention to meeting their social, emotional and behavioral needs. At the primary level,



**OUR STUDENTS**

HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE SAFE, STRONG and FREE.



faculty and staff reinforce to children the importance of being respectful, expressing feelings with kind words and getting help from an adult when needed. During the Week of Respect (October 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>), there will be a particular focus on character themes. Daily announcements will define and discuss respect, fairness, caring, citizenship and bullying and teachers will incorporate character themes into daily subject lessons. Students will participate in the "Power of One" assembly and be empowered to speak up or get help when they are a witness, or bystander, to hurtful behavior. And lastly, Mrs. Scala will be kicking off our Second Step: Skills for Social and Academic Success guidance lessons. It is my hope that parents and other community members also use the Week of Respect as an opportunity to reinforce good character and anti-bullying themes at home or in the clubs, sports and other activities where you work with youngsters.



*Lidice, Czech Republic - Holocaust Study Tour 2013*

It has become evident that in this generation what drives the growth of any society is the willingness to understand. To understand is to respect, with this in mind we move toward the belief that we as individuals respect other individuals. We have many different places that our paths will take us and many different cultural values that define who each of us are. In this lies one constant, that we are all uniquely different. It is the differ-

## Message From The High School Principal

### *Nicholas Capuano, Principal*

As our high school enters the 2013-2014 school year, we continue to expand our focus on school climate. Our students are heading in a positive direction. As I walk the halls, I continue to witness more kindness and respect for one another. I see a positive school and a welcoming school culture. Our students have more awareness as to what is appropriate and not appropriate when communicating with one another. Together, our efforts in addressing HIB are working. There is always room for improvement and continued growth. We want to continue to build on the foundation set forth in the previous three years. The "Week of Respect" serves as a reminder for the entire community to focus on kindness and tolerance for others everyday. Together we can raise the bar and make

Midland Park High School a place where learning and kindness go hand in hand.

Parent Resources on Bullying:

[www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov)

[www.netsmartz.org](http://www.netsmartz.org)

**District Anti-Bullying Coordinator: Mr. Craig Rush**, Ph: (201) 444-7400, ext. 206  
Email: [crush@mpsny.org](mailto:crush@mpsny.org)

**Godwin & Highland Anti-Bullying Specialist: Ms. Kelly Scala**, Ph: (201) 445-3880, ext. 319,  
Email: [kscala@mpsny.org](mailto:kscala@mpsny.org)

**MPHS Anti-Bullying Specialist: Ms. Stacie Millman, & Ms. Jenna Simon** Ph: (201) 444-7400, ext. 212, Email: [smillman@mpsny.org](mailto:smillman@mpsny.org)  
[jsimon@mpsny.org](mailto:jsimon@mpsny.org)

## Understanding and Respect

*June Chang, Director of Curriculum & Instruction*

ences that makes us a part of the human race. Being sensitive of this, we approach our community with the true spirit and "understanding" for the week of respect. I am proud to be part of an academic school district; even prouder to be a part of a school district that integrates character and integrity in the core of its philosophy of education.

I am excited about our infusion of diversity lessons that emphasizes acceptance and empowers good citizenship. Our district is a proud member of a world renowned Holocaust Education Program that allows for the stu-



*Jewish Museum, Berlin Holocaust Study Tour 2013*

dent to immerse in the history that resonates with advocacy and activism in current times. It is not just the academics that impress the faculty at Midland Park, but the willingness of our students to take part and take action that makes Midland Park a place of acceptance-a place of respect.



## ***Do The Right Thing***

Assistant Principal, Peter Galasso

I believe life is more complicated today for children than any other era in our history. Unfortunately, I only see it getting more hectic and complicated as society progresses. Students today participate in more activities than ever before, take more classes, practice more sports, meet higher benchmarks and juggle their time. Through it all, they are exposed to technology like social media that is embedded with certain pressures and demands in itself; all the while they are still figuring out how to be a teenager. It is not easy being a kid. That is why schools and parents have to mold and reinforce what the most important life principles are, and perhaps the most important of those principles can be summed up in a favorite motto "do the right thing." Laws have come to



fruition to guide and remedy student behavior, and curriculum has been expanded to include character building. It is our duty as educators and parents to make sure we are developing not only the minds, but the character of our

children. To teach our students to "do the right thing" is not just giving them knowledge of the correct choice, but of a lifestyle that should permeate all aspects of their day-to-day activities. In the current age, this principle holds more true than ever.



***Holocaust Study Tour 2013***