



MIDLAND PARK PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

Week of Respect Newsletter

October 3-7, 2016



Midland Park Take Action Peer Leaders

Week of Respect Calendar of Events

October 3rd
**Student Senate distributing
Orange Ribbons**

October 4th
**Mental Health Awareness
Presentation
(Ganley Foundation)
Grades 9-10**

October 5th:
**Keynote Presentation:
Gian Paul Gonzalez
Grades 6-12**

October 6th
**Holocaust Presentation
Grades 11-12**

Highland School
**"A Little Potato and Hard
to Peel"
Assembly Grades 3-6
Inspirational Quotes Every
Morning**

Godwin School
**"The Boy Who Could be
Captain Hook"
Assembly Grades K-2
Inspirational Story Read to
each Class**

October 7th
**Sticks and Stones
Grade 9**

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

It has now been six years since the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act was signed into law. Our school district takes great pride in creating a climate that fosters a caring and inclusive community for all of our students. In 2011, Midland Park Public Schools set the goal to become a New Jersey school of excellence in the area of Harassment, Intim-

Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Legislation

Dr. Marie C. Cirasella, Superintendent

An important Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights legislation (ABR) compliance measure as mandated by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is that the School Safety/ School Climate Team (SS/SCT) fulfill its annual responsibility to complete the School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the ABR. Each school is required to evaluate its implementation of the ABR from July through June by using a state Self-Assessment tool of eight core elements which address all of the ABR requirements for schools. A rating is assigned for each indicator based on the criteria and the maximum grade a school may receive is 78. In Midland Park, we remain committed to working with students, staff, and community partners in developing an increased understanding of the HIB reporting process. We continue our efforts to ensure a safe and civil environment for all students, a goal which is of primary concern.

The administration and staff work collaboratively to maintain ongoing ABR compliance and reaffirm this shared commitment annually through ongoing professional development and the provision of special programs for students. We are proud of our strong record of swiftly and appropriately addressing all issues brought forward and will continue the training, survey analyses, and focus on the work and input of our School Safety Committees. For more information on this important issue, we hope you will access the district website: www.mpsnj.org and review resources on the NJDOE website: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/students/safety/behavior/hib>

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

idation 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 2016, students (with parental consent) partic-

ipated in a school climate survey for the sixth year in a row. Dr. Rust was able to interpret the data and compare and contrast the results of the 2016 survey with the data from the the previous five surveys. Dr. Rust will be making a presentation to the community on the results of the School Climate Survey on the evening of December 12, as part of our



annual HIB Community presentation. 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 remains committed to expanding its prevention efforts and initiatives. During the 2015 – 2016 school year, our members of the elementary and secondary School Climate Committees created Action Plans for each building. Thirty-five of our high school students received training in Mental

Health First Aid, as part of Midland Park's "Stigma-Free" initiative. Our High School Take Action Peer Leaders, made anti-bullying presentations to our sixth grade students. Our High School Spectrums Diversity Club, created a safe and caring environment for our students to celebrate the diversity of all students. Our middle school students received an annual "Cyberbullying" assembly provided by the Bergen County Prosecutors Office. Our eighth grade students had an opportunity to work directly with disabled students at the Children's Therapy Center. In the classroom, our teachers used curriculum infused lessons to provide "teachable moments" in bullying prevention throughout the academic disciplines. A personal highlight for me, was the opportunity to co-chaperone 45 Midland Park High School students on a Holocaust Studies tour to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., last spring. It was both powerful and thought provoking to experience two days at the

Holocaust Museum with our students. Students make "social mistakes" during adolescence. These mistakes are developmental and part of maturing. As educators, we will always dedicate ourselves to addressing these issues as they arise, and strive to continue to raise expectations for tolerance, acceptance and kindness towards one another.

The Week of Respect serves to remind our community that kindness does matter as we celebrate our diversity and treat one another with dignity throughout the year.



Highland and Godwin Schools recognize Respect Week

Peter Galasso, Highland Principal & Danielle Bache, Godwin Principal

Highland School Principal: Peter Galasso

I believe life is more complicated today for children than any other era in our history. Students today participate in more activities than ever before, take more classes, are empowered with more choice, meet higher benchmarks, juggle their time, and through it all are exposed to technology like social media that is embedded with certain pressures and demands in itself. Simultaneously, they are still figuring out how to be 'themselves'. It is not easy being a kid. That is why schools and parents have to work together to mold and reinforce the most important of life's principals.

- Yes, academics are important to shape the mind.
- Yes, joining the musical or band is important to help self-expression.
- And yes, playing a sport is important for healthy competition and team building.

But more important than all the aforementioned, is the most human of all principles; being kind and helping one another. This is why Highland School continues to abide by and reinforce the motto 'Do the Right Thing.' It serves as an age-appropriate summation of all we want our students to be. 'Doing the Right Thing' is doing your HW, saying please and thank-you, greeting a teacher, sitting next to someone that needs a friend, etc.

To teach our students to '*do the right thing*' is not just giving them knowledge of the correct choice, but of a life style that should permeate all aspects of their day to day activities. In the current age, this most human of principals, remains truer than ever.

Godwin Principal: Danielle Bache

Respect is a word we hear often....

Respect authority

Respect elders

Respect property

Respect friends

Respect others

Respect yourself.

It seems we are always telling students to respect everyone and everything. One small word takes on an abundance of meaning and teaching it to our young learners isn't always easy. Being respectful is one of the most important virtues to possess in today's world. Showing others respect creates a safer society for everyone. By appreciating others, even though they may do things differently than you, shows the value of another individual. Teaching by example is one of the most effective ways to reach our children. The more we show respect to others, the more natural it will become to them. Instilling values is a job we take very seriously at the primary level. We



OUR STUDENTS

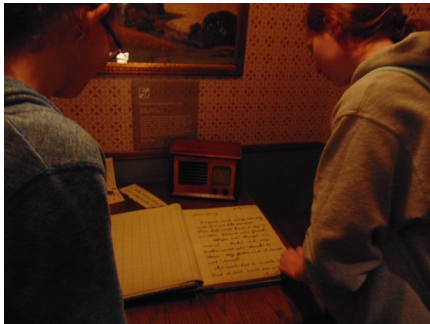
HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE SAFE, STRONG and FREE.

teach *The Golden Rule* and work with students to understand it and live it everyday. As the students grow and mature, I hope they realize that respecting oneself is by far the most important rule; for what you think of yourself is much more important than what others think of you. Be the Best Person You Can Be.

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

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

MPHS Anti-Bullying Specialist: Mrs. Nina Suri & Ms. Elizabeth Chase Ph: (201) 444-7400, ext. 212, Email: nsuri@mpsny.org
echase@mpsny.org



Message From The High School Principal *Nicholas Capuano, Principal*

As the middle and high school students returned from the summer, they entered a building representing community pride and improved school climate. The building has a fresh and welcoming physical environment that our students can be proud of. We are improving school climate by instilling “Panther” pride throughout the facility.

Clean new floors and bright lights energize the classrooms and cafeterias. Clean remodeled bathrooms for students provide a fresh upgrade. A re-imagined brand new Media Center creates an inviting learning space. A remodeled and updated auditorium creates a place where the community can gather to celebrate the performing arts.

I am also proud of the social and emotional opportunities that address school climate. Last year, 35 students received training in Stigma-Free Mental Health First Aid. This was an eight hour training that covered signs and symptoms of depression, substance abuse and resources for help. For the “Week of Respect”, the Ganley Foundation will present to our

freshman and sophomores on the topic of teen depression and suicide prevention. This presentation is both hopeful and uplifting.

One of my cherished experiences addressing school climate occurred last spring, when I had the opportunity to take 45 students and 4 staff members to the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C. Spending this 48 hours with our students, studying the recent history of the Holocaust, puts in perspective the importance of respecting differences and demonstrating kindness toward one another. As a community, we will continue to raise the bar in an effort to improve the way we understand and treat one another, as we continue to improve our school climate.

Parent Resources on Bullying:

www.stopbullying.gov

www.netSMART.org



Current Seniors - Holocaust Study Tour 2016

Respect

Jason Cata, Assistant Principal

One of the greatest qualities found in the Junior-Senior High School is the high level of RESPECT observed throughout the building and grounds. Our students and staff share their respect with each other on a daily basis. The respect can be seen through kindness, civility, as well as toward academics. Students are constantly helping each other and offering support on many levels in classes, the hallways and during athletic events. I am so pleased to see the same attributes from our staff. Thanks to respect, our schools continue to move forward in a positive way.

A Message about our District School Safety Teams

*Midland Park Jr./Sr. High School Anti-Bullying Specialists
Nina Suri and Elizabeth Chase*

The School Safety Team has been hard at work helping to make MPHS as safe and as inviting as it can be for our students. This past year, the committee created action plans to increase positive school climate. The action plans were geared towards enhancing empathy and diminishing “hot spots” where conflicts had the potential to occur. Our action plans were based on the School Climate Survey and student input. Our eighth grade students traveled to The Children’s Therapy Center where they were introduced to students with disabilities in our community. Our students readily helped the teaching staff, engaged in student activities, such as birthday celebrations, and socialized with the students. At the end of the year, MPHS invited the students from the Children’s Therapy Center to join us on our campus. We will continue to work with students, as well as the School Safety Team members, to keep our school the welcoming and accepting place it is. Keep an eye out for The School Safety Team’s future initiatives!

This committee is comprised of teachers, administrators, guidance counselors, case managers and parents.

Meet our members!

MS/HS School Safety Team

Nick Capuano, *Principal*

Craig Rush, *Anti-Bullying Coordinator*

Nina Suri, *Anti-Bullying Specialist*

Elizabeth Chase, *Anti-Bullying Specialist*

Debbi Kochajki, *SHIP case manager*

Ethan Grubman, *HS Teacher*

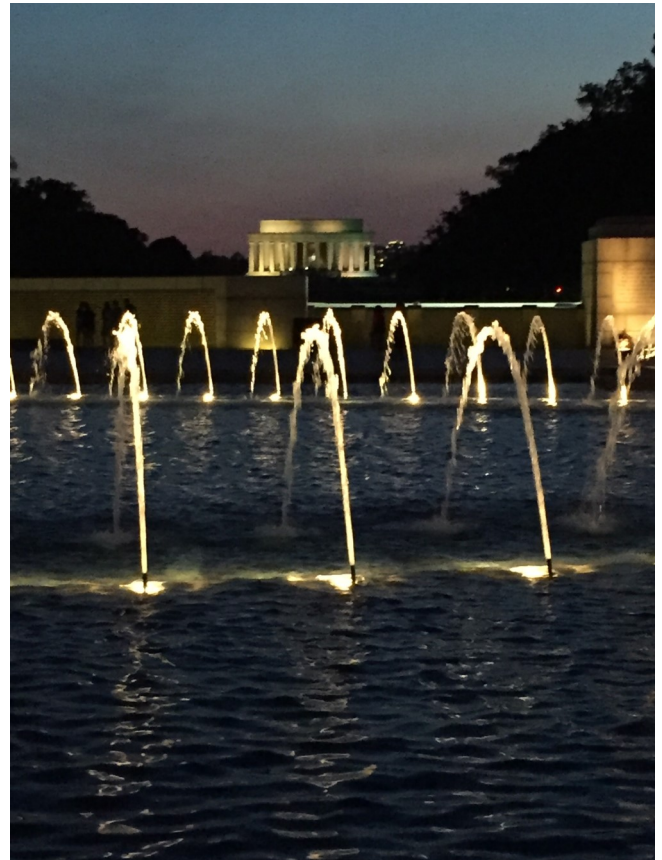
Emily Walker, *MS Teacher*

Lisa McNerney, *MS/HS Teacher*

Karen Corcoran, *MS/HS Nurse*

Mary Hosier, *Parent*

Trish Olson, *Parent*



Holocaust Study Tour , Washington D.C. 2016

Highland and Godwin Kelly Scala, Anti-Bullying Specialist

The Safety Teams at Highland/Godwin have been busy working with the staff, parents and students over the last few years to improve the school climate.

The Godwin staff consists of Ms. Bache (Principal), Mrs. Scala (Anti-Bullying Specialist), Ann Baker (CST HIP Representative), Craig Rush (Anti-Bullying Coordinator), Mrs. Chase (Teacher), Mrs. Mullady (Teacher), Mrs. Dhalwani (Parent), Mrs. Mahoney (Parent). Mr. Galasso told the team he would be conducting "Do the Right Thing" assemblies with the students rewarding those students who exhibited positive role models and were recommended by their teachers. A mentor program was also implemented in Highland with the 3rd and 6th grades to foster positive role model relationships.

There was also the opportunity for parents to attend an evening with Dr. Rust on the results from the School Climate Survey. A mentor program was implemented with the 3rd and 6th grades to foster positive role model relationships.

At Highland, the team consists of Mr. Galasso (Principal), Mrs. Scala (Anti-Bullying Specialist), Ann Baker (CST HIP Representative), Craig Rush (Anti-Bullying Coordinator), Mrs. Chase (Teacher), Mrs. Mullady (Teacher), Mrs. Dhalwani (Parent), Mrs. Mahoney (Parent). Mr. Galasso told the team he would be conducting "Do the Right Thing" assemblies with the students rewarding those students who exhibited positive role models and were recommended by their teachers. A mentor program was also implemented in Highland with the 3rd and 6th grades to foster positive role model relationships.



Godwin School Buddy Bench



Holocaust Study Tour 2016