



MIDLAND PARK
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Week of Respect Newsletter

October 1-5, 2012



Midland Park Take Action Peer Leaders

Week of Respect Calendar of Events

September 27th

**Elementary School
Anti-Bullying Laser
Tag Presentation**

October 1-5:

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

October 1

**Student Presentation
on Holocaust Educa-
tion Program's Study
Tour**

October 3

**School Climate As-
semblies by Dr. Paula
Rodriguez-Rust**

**Senate Will Distribute
"Respect Ribbons"**

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.midlandparkschools.k12.nj.us

As we enter our second school year under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Law, I am very proud and pleased with our on-going efforts in Midland Park Public Schools. Midland Park continues to demonstrate that it is a friendly place to live,

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

Dr. Marie C. Cirasella, Superintendent

As New Jersey school districts work to comply with the mandates of the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights, the fact that this piece of legislation is an amendment to existing law is often overlooked. The Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) Prevention Statute was originally enacted in 2001 and revised in both 2006 and 2008 to address electronic communications and notice of policy to the public. Significant research has emerged since the original law was enacted, prompting the Legislature's intent to strengthen the standards and procedures for preventing, reporting, and investigating incidents of HIB, on and off school

premises. Our district is fully committed to insuring compliance with this legislation and understands that not every incident investigated will fall under the HIB law and disciplinary consequences will be administered as needed. Through training, compliance, and HIB awareness, the climate in the Midland Park schools is one where preventive measures are in place to promote a safe and civil environment for all students.



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

work and attend school.

Last year, 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 hired Dr. Paula Rodriguez-

Rust, Sociologist, Bullying Prevention Specialist, to serve as a consultant on best-practices program implementation. At the end of last school year, students once again participated in a school climate survey. Dr. Rust was able to compare the results



of the 2011 school climate survey with the 2012 school climate survey. The results showed improvement in student perceptions of school climate over that one year period. The results also showed areas where we as a community and dis-

tributors are invited to hear this presentation.

As the district Student Assistance Counselor and Anti-Bullying Coordinator, I am excited about our prevention efforts and initiatives this school year.

tribut can focus additional attention. Dr. Rust will be making a presentation on the survey results to the community on Thursday evening, January, 24 at 7:30p.m., in Memorial Hall Auditorium at the High School. Parents and community mem-



As we recognize the Week of Respect, we are committed to respecting one another and celebrating our diversity every day of every week.

Parent Resources on Bullying

www.stopbullying.gov

www.netismartz.org

Highland and Godwin Schools recognize Respect Week

Danielle Bache, Highland Principal & Matt Murphy, Godwin Principal

The elementary school will recognize the Week of Respect with an assembly program titled, Laser Team Anti-Bullying Program, produced by Prismatic Magic. *Laser Team* is an exciting anti-bullying program that combines fun, interactive teambuilding exercises, positively-themed popular music, and dazzling laser illustrations to promote school-wide teamwork. The key character attributes that are emphasized are *respect, integrity, generosity, honesty, and truth*. Students learn why engaging in bullying

and cyberbullying, or simply standing by when someone else is being bullied, is wrong and how it undermines the team to everyone's detriment. By using lasers to create a visually exciting and dynamic learning environment, *Laser Team* is ideal for today's highly visually-oriented students ensuring that this anti-bullying message makes a lasting impact for the entire school year. (Prismaticmagic.com)

how we should respect those unique characteristics. Every day we remind students to be Bucket Fillers and



work together in the school community.



Each class will explore the theme of Respect for Individuality, created by Kelly Scala and Jennifer Finnerty. The students will explore how their differences make them special and

Message From The High School Principal

Nicholas Capuano, Principal

As our high school enters the 2012-2013 school year there is a continued focus on school climate. I see our students heading in a positive direction. As I walk, through the halls I witness more kindness and respect

for others. 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 address-



ing HIB are working. There is always room for improvement and continued growth. This school year, I look forward to building on the foundation set forth last year. 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 an ever improving learning environment.



Vision of Respect for the High School

June Chang, Vice Principal

In the year that I have spent here in Midland Park, I have witnessed a school community that is actively embracing the notion of kindness. The students of Midland Park High School have become socially aware of the damaging effects of bullying and are becoming advocates for kindness. I have seen the tireless efforts of our students determined to fundraise for many different causes. I have witnessed students reach out to others and offer random acts of kindness. As we work diligently to create a positive school environment, our programs are also reflective of our goal to be a safe and welcoming place. Towards this endeavor, we have

reinstated the Holocaust Studies Tour, where select students learn about the Holocaust and share their experiences with our school community. The mission of this program is to teach students about this horrific history and empower them to impact the future with a greater sense of humanity. It is

with this hope that I genuinely regard the Week of Respect as a very special week. It is a week in which our school community has an opportunity to take another step in the right direction and truly proclaim ourselves a safe and friendly community. WE ARE MIDLAND PARK.



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Email: kscala@midlandparkschools.k12.nj.us

MPHS Anti-Bullying Specialist: Ms. Stacie Millman, & Ms. Tara Tashjian Ph: (201) 444-7400, ext. 212,
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