



MIDLAND PARK PUBLIC
SCHOOLS

Week of Respect Newsletter

October 6-10, 2014



Midland Park Take Action Peer Leaders

Week of Respect Calendar of Events

October 6th

**Motivational speaker
and comedian,
Mr. Kevin Wanzer,
grades 6 - 12**

**Student Senate is hand-
ing out Orange Ribbons**

**The PLEDGE Assembly –
Grades K – 5**

October 9:

**Student Presentation on
Holocaust Education
Program's Study Tour -
Grade 11**

October 10

**High School
"Sticks and Stones"
Assembly-
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

Climate Change continues in Midland Park Public Schools as we continue ongoing efforts to improve school climate and raise the awareness and sensitivity to Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying. Our school district takes great pride in being a caring and inclusive community for all of our students.

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

Dr. Marie C. Cirasella, Superintendent

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) website provides information on the work of The Anti-Bullying Task Force (ABTF), indicating it, "...was established in March 2012 as part of an amendment to "Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act," (N.J.S.A. 18A:37-13.2)...offering guidance to the NJDOE for educators, principals, chief administrators, anti-bullying specialists, anti-bullying coordinators, and others in the field regarding a clearer understanding of the complexities in the ABR." In its report, the ABTF indicated the single greatest challenge when it comes to identifying and addressing "bullying" or "Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying" (HIB), is the difficulty in defining these terms. In Midland Park, we continue to work with stu-

dents, staff, and community partners in developing a greater understanding of what accurately defines an HIB incident or that which is more rightly remediated under a student code of conduct. Ensuring a safe and civil environment for all students is a primary concern in our district. The administration, staff, and all in the Midland Park Public Schools work collaboratively to maintain ongoing ABR compliance. This year, we reaffirm our shared commitment to ensuring all incidents, whether identified as HIB or student code of conduct violations, are swiftly and appropriately addressed. Ongoing staff training, survey analyses, and the support of our School Safety Teams, make our district schools instructional environments where everyone feels safe, valued, and welcomed.

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

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 2014, students (with parental consent) participated in a school climate survey for the fourth year in a row. Dr. Rust was able to interpret the data and compare and contrast the results of the 2014



later this school year. All parents and interested community members will be 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 2013 – 2014 school year,

survey with the data from the 2011, 2012, and 2013 surveys. Dr. Rust will be making a presentation to the community on the results of the School Climate Survey

our parent members of the elementary and secondary School Safety Teams received a full-day in-service training. In addition, select members of our staff received train-

ing in dealing with the specific needs of LGBTQ students. Our High School Take Action Peer Leaders, as well as our High School Spectrums Diversity Club, made anti-bullying presentations to our middle school students. Our middle school students also had a Cyber-bullying assembly provided by the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office. In the classroom, our teachers used curriculum infused lessons to provide "teachable moments" in bullying prevention throughout the academic disciplines.



Highland and Godwin Schools Recognize Respect Week

Peter Galasso, Highland Principal & Danielle Bache, Godwin Principal

Highland School Principal: Peter Galasso

I am excited for the opportunity to serve as Principal of Highland School. Over the past several years I have witnessed some incredibly kind and generous behavior at the Jr. / Sr. High School, and I am positive that those behaviors were not fostered over night. Rather, were engrained in the children of Midland Park as 3 and 4 year olds, then cultivated through their elementary years by caring parents and teachers. It is a wonderful opportunity to "get in" at the ground level of maturity so that all those positive behaviors represented by our young adults may be nurtured.

It is no secret that when students do right by each other and do right by the people that believe in them, they are building a fundamental understanding of healthy social norms that have a positive affect on many, if not all, aspects of their lives. Witnessing a student doing something good, and then recognizing that student's deed, fashions a self-confidence and self worth that cannot be taught in standardized curriculum. Childhood insights and growth of this nature are realized only through the curriculum of life. And as corny as that may sound, positive life lessons that are re-enforced are the most important lessons we can adopt in our schools. These lessons will not show up on state tests, or final exams, but will be vindicated by the culture of our schools. At Highland School we are looking to expand our curriculum to include this vital human component.

Last year as an Assistant Principal of MPHS my opening day message to the students was "Do the Right Thing." Fundamental messages reach all age levels, and the "Do the Right Thing" mantra will be introduced to the Highland School students. With persistent effort from all staff at Highland School, I truly believe that "Doing the Right

Thing" can be contagious.

Thank-you for all your efforts and continued support.

Godwin Principal: Danielle Bache

On October 6, 2014, the Godwin students will take a PLEDGE to make a difference in their lives. Their pledges may include being kinder to new students, helping others when they are in need, or to end bullying and stand up for others. The overarching theme of their pledge will focus on Character Education and more specifically Respect. Throughout the week, we will reinforce the ideals of respect, kindness, and commitment with school activities and public service announcements.

The students will be treated to an assembly program titled, *The Pledge*, from Camfel Productions during the Week of Respect. The large three-screen video assembly contains vibrant visuals, current popular music and content that is designed to spark discussion and motivate change. Following the assembly, the students will make a school based pledge and document it on a paper hand. To strengthen the home school connection, students will add a home-based pledge on the back of the hand with their family. The hands will be displayed around the school as reminders of their pledges and to be kind and respectful. The ideals of kindness and respect



OUR STUDENTS

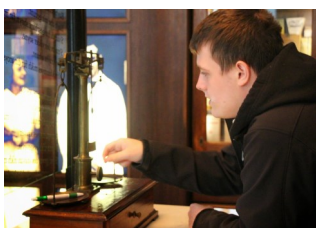
HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE SAFE, STRONG and FREE.

are such easy words for children of all ages to recognize and understand. I consider it part of the early elementary curriculum to teach students how to be kind and respectful through modeling and direct instruction. We use on the spot interventions to resolve conflicts and work closely with the guidance counselor to remediate differences. Weekly lessons will also be taught using the Second Step Program, which focuses on Academic and Social Skills for Success. With all of these components working together, students are equipped with the necessary tools to be a good citizen and a friend to everyone.

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: Ms. Nina Fasciano, & Ms. Jenna Simon Ph: (201) 444-7400, ext. 212, Email: nfasciano@mpsny.org
jsimon@mpsny.org



Holocaust Study Tour 2014

The willingness to understand is the great hope for society. To understand is to respect, with this in mind we move toward the belief that we as individuals respect other individuals. We are all uniquely different; and uniquely members of the human race. With this in mind, we approach our community with the true spirit and "understanding" for the Week of Respect. As always, I am proud to be a part of a school district that integrates character and integrity in the core of its philosophy of education.

I am excited that over the years Midland Park School's has incorporated

Message From The High School Principal

Nicholas Capuano, Principal

As the high school enters the fourth year of the "Week of Respect" initiative, I am continually impressed with the growth exhibited by our students in celebrating diversity and tolerance. Our students demonstrate not only awareness of differences, but kindness towards one another.

Classroom teachers are infusing HIB lessons into the curriculum whenever appropriate. The appropriate use of social media has been a focus, especially with the middle school students. Last January, the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office provided an assembly to the middle school on the topic of cyberbullying; a presentation we hope to provide annually. Two clubs at the high school, Spectrum Diversity Club and Take Action: Peer Leaders, have successfully increased their roles in addressing school climate issues and made positive contributions. Beginning October 6th, the Senate will be distributing orange ribbons to all students and staff to symbolize the common purpose of treating everyone with respect and dignity.

The high school is a place where more and more students are coming to school treating one another with respect and dignity. This respect and kindness is demonstrated in our hallways, in our classrooms, and on our athletic fields. As a community, we will continue to raise the bar in an effort to improve the way we understand and treat one another.

Parent Resources on Bullying:

www.stopbullying.gov

www.netsmartz.org

Understanding and Respect

June Chang, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

diversity lessons that have emphasized acceptance and empowers good citizenship. We are proud to be a part of

take action to make Midland Park a place of acceptance-a place of respect.



Jewish Museum, Berlin Holocaust Study Tour 2014

a world renowned Holocaust Education Program that allows for the student to immerse in the history that resonates with advocacy and activism in current times. I am impressed by the willingness of our students to take part and



Holocaust Study Tour 2014

