

October 11, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians,

October is National Bullying Prevention month. Schools, organizations, and communities are raising awareness of bullying prevention and teaching students how to respond effectively to bullying situations. Since the new laws are even stricter than in the past, it seemed appropriate to designate some time specifically designed to concentrate on this topic. We have previously held an assembly in September, where students watched a play performance about bullying and were informed about the new bullying laws in New Jersey.

We will be hosting our first Anti-Bullying Day on Thursday, October 13th, planned by our School Anti- Bullying Committee and Coordinator, Mr. Rigoglioso. We will begin the day outdoors while providing bagels and music for our students. It will be on a first come, first served basis, beginning at 8:15 a.m. Students will report directly to homeroom, where each class will vote for the winners of the best bullying poster and t-shirt. If your child has not made a t-shirt, kindly encourage him/her to participate by designing one prior to Thursday.

As the students go to each class, there will be anti-bullying activities planned for them. These activities will reinforce the positive attributes of our students and give them an understanding of the negative effects of bullying. These activities can include role-playing, class discussions, drawings, watching appropriate videos, listening to music, etc.

We have also planned an assembly by the BMX Bike team. The team will bring a positive anti-bullying message to the students with the excitement and enthusiasm of the best riders ever to come together as a Bmx Team! It should be a wonderful event!

Parents, most importantly, we need you to reinforce our message in your home! Please talk with your children about bullying and let them know that it will not be accepted at school, at home, or via the computer (social networking sites are vehicles for bullying). Under the new law in New Jersey, the school is required to address any reports of bullying even if the bullying did not take place on school time or school property and we must file formal reports with the Superintendent and the New Jersey Department of Education.

Lastly, don't forget to ask your child what he/she learned from our Anti-Bullying Day on October 13th! I am sure they will be anxious to share their experiences with you and the family.

Sincerely,

Anna Sciacca

Principal