

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The week of October 18-22 has been designated Safe Schools Week. The purpose of this week is for all schools in New Jersey to focus on the ongoing issues of school bullying and student-to-student harassment as well as other issues connected with school violence and vandalism.

Reported this past school year 2009-2010

Incidents of Violence (fighting) 5

Pearl R Miller Middle School 3

Stonybrook School 2

Incidents of Substance Abuse

Kinnelon High School 3

Incidents of Vandalism 0

Much work has been completed in refining our district emergency preparedness plan in order to keep our students and schools as safe as we can. Tonight, Mr. Matthew Scanlon, Vice Principal at Kinnelon High School and our District Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, will share with you the fruits of our labor for the past two years as we unveil our state of the art emergency plan website for both parents and staff. This initiative, funded through a successful federal grant application has placed us among the elite in this area in crisis and emergency planning as both the Morris County Chiefs Association and the Morris County Prosecutors Office has used our work as a model for other schools districts in Morris County.

There is a continuing effort to address issues that can contribute to violence and vandalism. This concern is intensified during Safe Schools Week as schools devote increased time to programs, activities and articulation sessions that contribute to a well-defined understanding of the shared responsibilities of the school community. We continue, to work on improving the Social and Emotional Learning environment in each school as demonstrated by the following activities.

Kiel School

Character of the Month:

A character trait is high- lighted each month with the emphasis on acceptance and understanding of differences. There will also be an assembly “The No Bully Magic Show” sponsored by KEHSA.

Stonybrook School

Full Value Character Education School

Stonybrook School has committed to the Project Adventure character education approach. The cornerstone of this model is teaching students to value each other. The Full Value principles of Be Here, Be Safe, Commit to Goal, Be Honest, Let Go and Move On and Care for Self and Others are incorporated in lessons during this week and throughout the year.

Pearl R. Miller School

- Anti Bullying Lesson Activities
- Anger Management Lesson Activities
- Follow Up Activities To **Rachael' s Challenge** (Anti-Bullying)
- Wear Pink Day In Conjunction With KHS(Anti Bullying)
- High School Students Speaking With PRM Students Concerning Anti Bullying Strategies
- Cyber Bullying Lesson Activities
- Words of Wisdom (Morning Announcements) the Focus On Violence Prevention
- Pillars Of Character Selections (Reinforcing Responsible Behavior)
- Code Red Drill

Kinnelon High School

Kinnelon High School is dedicated to maintaining a safe environment for its students. The staff and administration work collaboratively to emphasize the importance of responsible decision making, maintaining a healthy life-style, and developing honorable character and leadership traits in our students.

Kinnelon High School Honor Code has proven to be an asset in the day-to-day operations of our high school. The Honor Code fosters ethical decisions and respectful interaction with all members of the high school community. You can see the Honor Code on line in our student handbook. We also implemented a program of Voluntary Random Drug Testing at Kinnelon High School. Dr. Merckling has reported that there has been a decrease in substance abuse incidents and a decrease in discipline infractions at Kinnelon High School. These programs will continue to be reviewed to gauge their long-term effectiveness.

October 20th is National Bullying Prevention Day.

The Student Council and Peer Group will be selling t-shirts with the logo attached (Please see attachment). It will be a pink t-shirt with black print. All students and staff are encouraged to wear pink on this day to support anti-bullying in our school.

Fully understanding that enforcement is a key to safety, we have been working closely with the Kinnelon Police Department and Morris County Prosecutors Office. Over the past several years, they have conducted unannounced K9 sweeps at both Kinnelon High School and Pearl R. Miller Middle School. Please remember that as stated in Board policy there is no expectation to private storage in our schools and within legal guidelines, all areas in our facility, as well as our students are subject to search when warranted. Violation of our substance/ alcohol policy can lead to progressive consequences including loss of participation in activities or revocation of parking.

In closing, please watch for announcements from our **SafetyNet Program**. Our Mayor and Council, Kinnelon Police Department, KAMELOT, Kinnelon Butler Optimist Club and local clergy, support this concept. Among the topics covered:

Pedestrian, Moped and Bicycle Safety
Internet Safety
Substance and Alcohol Abuse
Wellness and Nutrition
Emergency and Crisis Preparedness
Drivers Ed/Seat Belt Safety

Watch for notices about our efforts to continue to educate our school community with workshops and assemblies throughout the school year.

Sincerely yours,

James J. Opiekun
Superintendent of Schools