

**March  
2015**

**Students Uniting to  
Create Positive Change**

**Coalition for Healthy and  
Safe Communities**  
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**The Bully Patrol**

The Lafayette School Bully Patrol was recently highlighted in an online article for their work done in the school. For those of you who don't know about The Bully Patrol they are a group of 7th graders who serve as mentors to elementary school classes twice a week during recess time.

Alice Sensale, the teacher who spearheaded the project, explained that the older students do much more than play alongside the younger ones. They serve as mediators between students engaged in a small argument. They organize games and activities for the group and provide academic support when needed. Most importantly, they act as role models, inviting children they notice playing by themselves to join in with others.



Mrs. Sensale credits the program's success to careful organization and students' dedication to their roles. The Bully Patrol began from their involvement in the Anti-Bullying Summit hosted by The Center. After attending the Summit the students go back to their school and create an action plan to create a more positive school climate.—*Way to go Lafayette!*

**Catch the Wave of Kindness!**

The Blizzard of 2015 didn't stop the Wantage School from warming up and celebrating "Catch the Wave of Kindness"! During this character week, we had all hands on deck! Teachers incorporated beach themed educational lessons in the classroom.



Our lunch staff decorated the cafeteria and prepared a Hawaiian inspired meal. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade chorus sang a tune about the tropical fruit papaya. The entire school tasted a piece of papaya as it was the fruit of the month.

Our art classes created surfing images that were displayed in the main hallway along with our tropical entrance. During the entire week, students loved trying to find their teacher in the surfboard ocean scene that was hung in the hallway. The entire school was talking about the ripple of kindness and how easy it can be to catch the wave.



Each morning we began our day with a good beach tune and a simple act of kindness that anyone can do. It was snowing outside our school but it felt like a kind trip to the beach! We ended our celebration with our spirit day on January 30<sup>th</sup> by wearing Hawaiian shirts, summer colors, and beach themed items!



- *Fantastic work, Wantage!*

**Surprise Treat for Students and Staff at Sussex Middle**

On Friday, December 19th, the doors to the Sussex Middle School's auditorium opened to the rich sweet aromatic smells of cocoa wafting in the air. About twenty-five student members of the school's Safety/Climate Team were at the ready with cups filled with hot chocolate to serve to arriving students, bus drivers and staff. "This is great!" exclaimed one student with his friend excitedly asking, "can we get refills?" Bus drivers and staff were equally impressed. "Irish" Dunn, a contracted driver for the district remarked, "it's a treat to be greeted in the morning with a smile and cup of hot chocolate!" As the demand grew with more students arriving, concerns arose that there would not be enough. Mrs. Longo, an English teacher at the school, assured everyone by telling them that "we made enough to serve four-hundred people." By the time school was ready to begin, there was only a few servings remaining. It was the second time the event was hosted by the school's Safety/Climate Team. "Being that it was such a big hit last year, the student members of the team were enthusiastic about doing it again....they really pushed for it" said Mrs. Vroegindewey, a guidance counselor. The school Safety/Climate consist of student volunteers and faculty who are active in promoting a positive school culture and advancing community-minded interactions among students.— *Awesome job, Sussex Middle!*



**National Drug Fact Week**

National Drug Fact Week was held from January 26th-February 1st. National Drug Fact Week is a weeklong celebration to work on shatter the myths surrounding drugs that children receive from the internet, TV, movies, music or from friends. National Drug Fact Week was launched by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA).

The Center assisted the schools in celebrating National Drug Fact Week by providing them with materials to create a banner to hang in their schools. There were many schools throughout Sussex County who participated in the week.

This is a banner that was created by Hilltop students in 7th grade who worked with their Health teacher to celebrate National Drug Fact Week.—*Great job Hilltop!*



# How to Treat Others with



Treating people with respect makes your world a nicer place to live in, whether it's at home, at school, or out in your community. And it's easy - all you have to do is treat people the way you like to have them treat you.

## Here are a few ideas:

- \*Don't insult people or make fun of them
- \*Listen to others when they speak
- \*Value other people's opinions
- \*Be considerate of people's likes and dislikes
- \*Don't make fun of or tease people
- \*Don't talk about people behind their backs
- \*Be sensitive to other people's feelings
- \*Don't pressure someone to do something he or she doesn't want to do

We live in a diverse nation made up of many different cultures, languages, races, and backgrounds. That kind of variety can make all our lives a lot more fun and interesting, but only if we get along with each other. To do that we have to respect each other. In addition to the list above, here are some ways we can respect people who are different from us:



- \*Try to learn something from other people
- \*Never stereotype people
- \*Show interest and appreciation for other people's cultures and backgrounds
- \*Don't go along with prejudices and racist attitudes