

Week of Respect – Bound Brook School District

As part of the new initiative focusing on Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB in schools), the Bound Brook School District is recognizing the week of October 3rd to October 7, 2010 as a Week of Respect, since the month of October is National Bullying Prevention Month. There are specific lessons being taught this week to learn about and continue the discussions of respect, and anti-bullying messages, being touted in schools.

Monday's lessons are centered around the theme of "Bullying 101," discussing all the forms bullying can take as well as the physical, social, and emotional toll it takes on everyone involved.

Tuesday's lessons have the theme of "What Can You Do?" and take into account not only a bully and victim in bullying situations, but also bystanders – offering empowerment to bystanders as well as solution options to all the people involved.

Wednesday's lessons center around "Students and Adults Working Together," and focus on learning why students usually don't tell an adult about bullying, how to talk with an adult about bullying, and why it's important to tell, seek help, and work with adults to deal with bullying.

Thursday's topic is "Bullying Prevention: It's Not Just a Month." The uniting message on Thursday is that bullying affects everyone. Together, through a collected effort, everyone can affect how bullying is addressed in school.

On **Friday**, the final lesson of the week focuses on "The End of Bullying Begins with You." The message is that the end of bullying begins with the principal, the end of bullying begins with teachers, the end of bullying begins with all school personnel, and the end of bullying also begins with you--with each student being willing to say that bullying will not be accepted and that everyone has a right to be safe at school.

Lessons and messages will be revisited and built upon through the rest of the year, to keep the momentum going. Teachers are reporting stimulating, honest, and thoughtful discussions during lessons in the classrooms. Smalley School is uniting students in additional ways with a respect/anti-bullying t-shirt slogan contest, themed dress-days (ex: sunglasses on Friday because *we don't see bullying in our future*), and respect-themed music playing when students enter the building in the morning.