

October 28, 2019

Kevin Pfister:

Good Evening -

I am here to present the Student Safety Data Systems Report (SSDS). The SSDS combines and replaces both the Electronic Violence and Vandalism Reporting System and the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying—Investigations, Trainings and Programs system. The Mountain Lakes School District is required to present its findings to the Board of Education twice a year - Once in October (coinciding with NJ School Violence Awareness Week or Red Ribbon Week), and once in the Spring.

We have very few reports that rise to the level of violence and vandalism as defined by the State. The three main reasons for the low numbers of reports are the following:

- 1) Our counseling team is on the front lines working with our students. Each of these members dedicate themselves to creating a safe place for our students to engage in mindful conversations that help our students respond to situations in the right way. By doing so, we are able to minimize these incidents that are reported to SSDS. This aspect of our counseling team is critical to the social, emotional, and mental health of all our students.
- 2) All our schools dedicate themselves to employ initiatives in their building that honor these ideals and illustrate the importance of a safe, supportive, and positive environment for all our students. Examples, just over the last two weeks:
 - At the High School (during this week of School Violence Awareness), we had morning announcements to remind students of what the week signifies pertaining to violence in schools, recognizing strategies to combat school violence, and identifying students in need of help. We created a Bulletin Board to raise awareness for the week's purpose and sent out resources to parents/students. Students further participated throughout Random Act of Kindness Day, and Sandy Hook Promise- Start With Hello (by saying hello to someone they didn't know in the hallway, and by writing down their favorite conversation starters on our SWH bulletin board). MLHS ended the week by wearing purple to stand in solidarity for Domestic Violence Awareness Day.
 - At Wildwood, Daily Morning Announcements are used to offer Information, strategies, statistics and/or quotes were read. Each day there day specific emphasis. Teachers were encouraged to build on these themes

throughout the day. Mrs. Fleming visited each 3rd and 5th grade classroom to present a lesson on conflict resolution and peace building.

- Monday 10/21: What is violence?
- Tuesday 10/22: Announcement Emphasis: Stress Management
- Wednesday 10/23: Announcement Emphasis: How to prevent fights/Conflict Resolution
- Thursday, 10/24: Announcement Emphasis: School Safety
- Friday, 10/25: Announcement Emphasis: Anger Management

In November, Sgt. Gil will come in and present to each 4th and 5th Grade classroom on internet safety during parent-teacher conferences.

- At Briarcliff the staff focused on developing positive relationships with our students and taking time to focus on personal wellness in class. Mrs. Ludwig met with students in small groups throughout the day to establish relationships, and also let students know what resources were available at the middle school. The Upstander's Club spread positive messages throughout the school which have gone next to many positive messages left by our local Girls Scouts who wrote messages and created a bulletin board as part of their Silver Award.
- At Lake Drive School they recognized the importance of kindness, respect and responsibility. This was done using a Spirit Week! Students and staff were asked to participate in:
 - WEAR BLUE: To take a stand against bullying!
 - HATS OFF: Hats off to being safe! Students can wear a hat to school.
 - CONFETTI DAY: Wear bright colors so we can throw kindness like confetti!
 - KINDNESS HERO: Dress like your favorite superhero or first responder.
 - Friday 10/25 – FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS: DRUG FREE: Wear your pajamas to school. (no slippers please)

Mrs. Lazeration would like to add that Bullying and cyberbullying is a difficult topic for everyone—students, parents, and teachers, and it's an increasing issue in classrooms statewide. Lake Drive continues to believe that it is critical to teach to teach our students about the negative effects of bullying, at an early age. Weareteachers.com compiled a list of books that students, staff, and parents were encouraged to read to their child/children and hopefully with our united efforts, we can put an end to bullying.

The effects of these programs allow our schools' culture and climate to improve and play a significant role in reducing incidents of violence and vandalism, as well as harassment, intimidation, and bullying. The NJDOE recognizes this as well. Beginning

on July 1, 2018 the NJDOE revised the “School Safety Team” to “Safety/Climate Team.” At all our schools, the respective Safety/Climate Teams meet to review the School Safety Data Systems Reports to identify trends and map out initiatives for the year - Including the programs that I mentioned.

Finally, the most important reason is:

- 3) The “buy in” to the ideals of Mountain Lakes from all our members of the school community: students, teachers, and most importantly, parents. We never take that for granted.

A quick review of the new SSDS Reporting System....

Incidents rising to the level of seriousness indicated by the NJDOE must be reported in a uniform manner. We use the same reporting forms at each of our schools. These forms are available from the building principals and myself. As a matter of fact, last school year we purchased a program called HIBster for the entire district. HIBster provides programs that specialize in incident prevention, management, automation, tracking, and reporting. The user-friendly tools offer our schools a simpler way to meet the requirements of legislation.

I would like to hand out our SSDS Summary incident listing for the 2018-2019 school year.

(Handout - SSDS Report)

For reporting period 2, we had 4 affirmed incidents of HIB in the district during the Spring. As a district, each school reflects on this data, the Safety/Climate Team reviews it, and we use it internally to direct and monitor our programs in an effort to continue to provide a safe and supportive environment for all our students and staff.

Now, Jessica Cavaliere, who is here in place of Mrs. Pagan, our Student Assistance Counselor, will update you on several other items, including our HIB Self-Assessment Score.

Jessica Cavaliere:
Good Evening-

We are happy to report that our HIB Self Assessment Score for:

Wildwood remained at a strong score of a 74 out of 78

Briarcliff increased from a 69 to a 72

Lake Drive increased from a 66 to a 70

And The High school increased from a 74 to 75

The increase in our score can be attributed to the dedication of teachers, counselors and students in carrying out various initiatives last school year. This included our 2018 Week of Respect activities, the One Love presentation for 9th through 12th graders on dating abuse and safety, suicide prevention training for students, Mental Health First Aid training for staff, presentations by Officer Benitez on bias crimes, the implementation of the Wildwood Mentor Program, Peer Leader led lessons at Briarcliff, Project PRIDE presentation, the development of a Mindfulness group, and Freshman Peer Leader focus groups focused on topics such as kindness, goal setting, and decision making. In addition, we administered a School Climate Survey to students and teachers as a way to better understand our school's culture. Also, last year our staff at the high school participated in a connections activity that had each staff member look through a roster of our entire student body and check whether or not they knew the students and if they knew something unique about this student to help identify students that may need additional attention and connection to our school community.

This school year our goal is to strengthen the School Safety Team and its effectiveness. We have added new teachers, community members, and students. We will be holding monthly meetings in order to more effectively monitor our school climate and implement meaningful initiatives.

The Week of Respect was very eventful this year. Throughout the week, MLHS focused on themes of kindness, respect, empathy, and positivity through various school-wide activities. October 1st marked the Second Annual Wellness Fair for Mountain Lakes High School. Various local organizations and businesses set up displays in the auxiliary gym to share their services related to health and wellness with students. Some of the most visited tables included the therapy dogs, Playa Bowls, Fitness Demonstrations by the YMCA, and the stress ball making table. Multiple students volunteered their time to help run the event during their off periods. Upon exiting the fair, students were given a brochure highlighting various Mindfulness strategies, apps to download on their phone, and techniques for managing stress & anxiety in school. Students were also invited to

give their feedback on the fair via an online survey to aid the counseling department in its planning for next year's fair.

Throughout The Week of Respect, we had positive and uplifting quotes read each day during morning announcements and began the week by wearing blue on Monday October 7th for World Day of Bullying Prevention. The students also participated by creating positive messages on our "Pass on the Positivity Post-it Board," and also gave back to our faculty through "Thank a Teacher Day". We ended the week with Laker Pride Day and challenged students to give one another a high five while passing each other in the hallways. The Peer Leaders additionally visited Wildwood School throughout the Week of Respect to facilitate Anti-Bullying, Cyberbullying, and internet safety lessons to 4th & 5th-grade classes.

We are celebrating Red Ribbon Week this final week in October to close out our very busy month. On November 1st, all students will attend an assembly hosted by former detective, Tim Shoemaker called the Good Life, a drug prevention presentation that focuses on leadership, sensitivity, goal setting, health & wellness, and consequential decision making skills.

We are looking forward to all of the future events that we have planned for this school year for students and staff.

Thank You.

Handout 1

Mountain Lakes High School Week of Respect October 7-11

Tuesday October 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Wellness Fair
Thursday and Friday October 2 and 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Freshman Focus Transition Groups
Monday-Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Positive and uplifting quotes read during morning announcements.
Monday, Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Peer Leaders to Wildwood to facilitate Anti-Bullying/Cyberbullying lessons to 4th & 5th grade classes.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Monday<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ 9:23- 10:03 (Two 5th grade homerooms)■ 12:45- 1:25 (Two 4th grade homerooms)○ Friday<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ 8:42-9:22 (Three 4th grade homerooms)■ 9:23-10:03 (Two 5th grade homerooms)
Monday October 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● #BLUEUP World Day of Bullying Prevention- wear blue
Tuesday October 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Pass on the Positivity Post-it Board by main office
Wednesday October 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● NO SCHOOL
Thursday October 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Thank a teacher day
Friday October 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Laker Pride Day<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ All students celebrate Laker Pride to show respect and unity.● Give someone a high five

**Mountain Lakes High School
School Violence Awareness Week
October 21- 25**

Monday-Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Morning announcements to remind students what week signifies pertaining to violence in schools, recognizing strategies to combat school violence, and identifying students in need of help.
Monday October 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bulletin Board to raise awareness for the week's purpose ● Send out resources to parents/students
Tuesday October 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Random act of kindness day
Wednesday October 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sandy hook promise- start with hello <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Start with Hello bulletin board ○ Say Hello in the hallway to someone you don't know
Thursday October 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wear purple for Domestic Violence Awareness Day

**Mountain Lakes High School
Red Ribbon Week: Send a Message. Stay Drug Free.
October 28- November 1**

Monday October 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wear red to pledge for a healthy lifestyle ● Posters displayed throughout school with Red Ribbon theme and drug and alcohol facts ● Morning announcements about Red Ribbon Week & drug/alcohol statistics & resources (all week) ● Email about Red Ribbon Week, Drug IQ Quiz, Truth.com Human Quiz <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://www.thetruth.com/quizzes/human-quiz ○ https://teens.drugabuse.gov/quiz/national-drug-alcohol-facts-week/take-iq-challenge/2019
Tuesday October 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hugs Not Drugs Day
Wednesday October 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Team up against drugs- wear sports team jersey
Thursday October 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Say Boo to drugs- dress up in your Halloween costumes
Friday November 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Good Life Presentation by former detective Tim Shoemaker for students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Period 2-3 (8:53- 10:16): 11th & 12th ○ Period 8-9 (1:11- 2:36): 9th & 10th grade