

**January  
2017**

# KIDS2KIDS

## Students Uniting to Create Positive Change

**Coalition for Healthy and  
Safe Communities**  
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Contact Tina or Jenn

### **Peer Leaders/ Mix It Up Lunch Day**

Long Pond School Peer Leaders began working with 5<sup>th</sup> graders during lunchtime! LPS Peer Leaders have engaged students while offering them a variety of activities that allow them to learn about each other and build relationships. For several weeks Peer Leaders sat with 5<sup>th</sup> graders and had lunch together and 5<sup>th</sup> graders sat with other students from different homerooms to get to know other peers. LPS Peer Leaders facilitated ice breaker activities and other games to help 5<sup>th</sup> graders transition to LPS. The Peer Leaders also met with each of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade homerooms to lead more activities that enabled students to learn more about each other on a more personal level. LPS Peer Leaders will work with 5<sup>th</sup> graders throughout the year which helps build new friendships, mentoring opportunities and other supportive relationships. The Andover Charger also visited the lunchroom and library during activity times. For more information about LPS Peer Leaders please contact Mrs. Pollison and Mrs. Washko, LPS Peer Leader Advisors who meet with students on a weekly basis.



### **Sparta Middle Peer Leaders Cookie Baking**

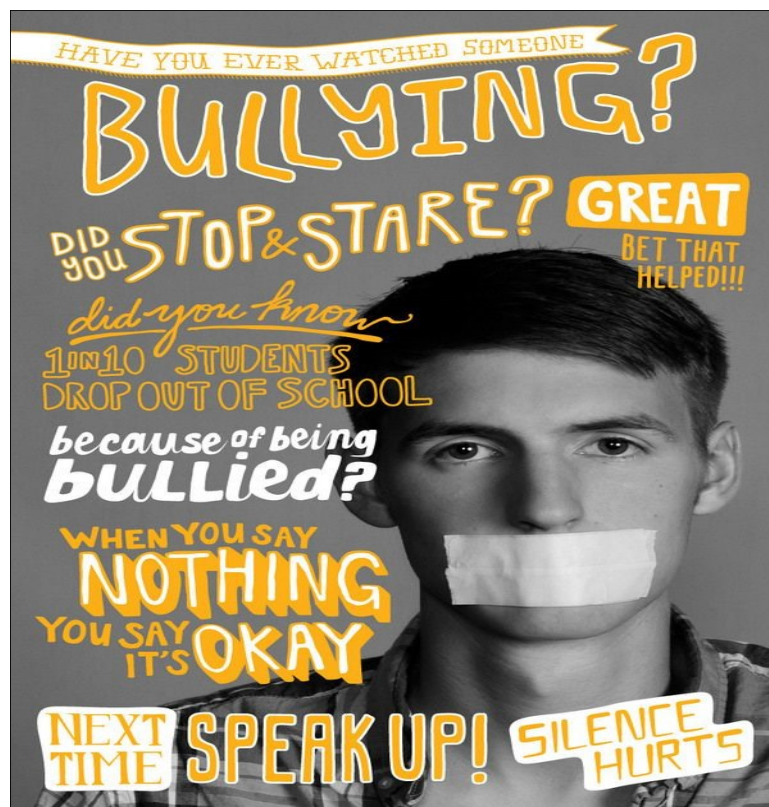
Sparta Middle School's Peer Leaders get into the holiday spirit and spread kindness and joy! To unfurl some holiday cheer, the Peer Leaders honored the local service men and women who help protect us by baking chocolate chip cookies and making holiday cards, a small token of thanking them for their service.

Every day, the men and women of the Sparta Police Department, Fire Department, and EMS personnel put their lives on the line to ensure our safety, and Sparta Middle School's Peer Leaders wanted to show their appreciation for everything the service men and women do for us and the town of Sparta. The Peer Leaders presented the holiday cookies and cards to Ben Griffin, Andrew Lopuch, and Alexa Reigstad (representatives from Sparta EMS, Fire and Police), thanking them for their service. The Peer Leaders made enough cookie platters and cards to be brought back to their headquarters for their departments to enjoy. The Peer Leaders Club at Sparta Middle School teaches students the qualities of being a good leader. "Our goal is to put a smile on everyone's face in the community!"



## GRATITUDE

Sometimes we're so busy chasing all the things we haven't got that we forget to notice the things we already have, the people in our lives and the fortunate circumstances in which we live.



No One Eats Alone™ teaches everyone how to make friends at lunch, often the most difficult part of the school day. Created and organized by students, this is our most popular program where schools in all 50 United States participate!

National No One Eats Alone Day is Friday, February 10, 2017.

**SPREAD THE LOVE!**



Beyond Differences empowers students to end social isolation in middle school through online and on campus programs. We want to ensure that every child in middle school feel accepted, included and valued by their peers no matter what their differences.

## No One Eats Alone Tips

- Create a planning group (this event is meant to be student led)
- Determine a lunchtime activity– check out [beyonddifferences.org](http://beyonddifferences.org) for their activity guide
- Make it festive (consider having a theme and decorate accordingly)
- Publicize the event– make sure everyone in your school and community knows about this great event!
- Capture the day– make sure to take photos of the fun
- Most importantly– have fun!

Unless someone like you  
cares a whole awful lot,  
Nothing is going to get better.  
It's not.

—Dr. Seuss, The Lorax

