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KIDS2KIDS

Students Uniting to  
Create Positive Change

Coalition for Healthy and  
Safe Communities  
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### 16th Annual Taking Flight to Change Summit a Huge Success!!

We would like to send a BIG thank you to everyone who participated in our 16th Annual Taking Flight to Change Summit on October 18th! We are thankful and send lots of appreciation to Sparta High School for hosting the Summit!

The energy, enthusiasm and excitement at the event was incredible. The summit's presentations and this year's theme— **Be**

**Kind— Every Day, Every Time, Everyone**— let everyone know that they can change the climate of their school simply by being kind. The summit also helped attendees gain the confidence to say something when they see bullying, and realize that standing by as bullying happens is as bad as the bullying itself.

We had over 115 high school leaders who were phenomenal in their assistance and energy. Middle school students and advisors were greeted the morning of the event with amazing excitement. Our keynote speaker Ty Sells knew exactly how to inspire students to make a change. A HUGE shout out goes to the Camden Sophisticated Sisters, a drill team from Camden, NJ, for joining us and dancing their hearts out on stage. Throughout the day we saw student presentations from Kittatinny Regional School, Sussex County Technical School, Stillwater School, Sparta Middle School, Sussex Middle School, Pope John Middle School, Sandyston-Walpack School, Ogdensburg Elementary and Vernon High School.

It is clear that attendees received the message and are motivated to make a difference. To share your activities with us send a description and pictures to [jenn@centerforprevention.org](mailto:jenn@centerforprevention.org).

**#Kindness365.**



### Summit Testimonials from High School Mentors:

"I learned how to work well with others."

"I learned new leadership and communication skills."

"Interacting with the younger kids and teaching them new things just makes me smile."

"I was able to get out of my shell and make a positive impact."

"I was able to be comfortable with being myself."

"I realized how much impact one person can have on someone else."



AT THE END OF THE DAY  
WHO YOU ARE IS

*totally &  
completely*

UP TO  
**YOU**

# AWESOME Week of Respect and Red Ribbon Week Updates from Sussex County Schools!

**Byram Intermediate School**– Teachers and staff welcomed Dialed Action Sports to their school where they watched an action packed BMX bike stunt show, featuring a character education message and anti-bullying message. Students and staff also had the opportunity to hear from Detective Thomas Laird of the Sussex County Prosecutor's Office about Internet Safety and the dangers of certain apps that are currently popular.



**Valley Road School**– Each teacher decorated their bulletin boards with the theme of Respect. Teachers and students participated in spirit days. Kindness stations were in the cafeteria where students were able to write a kindness message to someone they love or they wrote how they show kindness to someone they care about. Students heard messages each morning during announcements with the theme of Respect.

**Lounsberry Hollow**– Lounsebrry Hollow started the week off by wearing blue for World Day of Bullying Prevention. Students then continued the week by recognizing Respect in different aspects of their lives: respect for themselves by celebrating their uniqueness, respect for the environment by wearing gree, respect for others by a reverse voucher day where students gave vouchers to adults, and respect for their community by showing their Vernon pride. Students were also presented an assembly by Camfel Productions entitled "Eye to Eye" which highlighted the good things that can come from getting to know someone and not judging others based on their looks.



**Stillwater School**– The week started off, with staff and students wearing blue to "Stomp" Out Bullying. Students in 4th-6th grades attended an assembly on cyberbullying hosted by the Sussex County Prosecutors Office. The same night a parent session was held at the school to inform and guide parents on the very important topic. The entire week had a theme of "#kindness365", meaning that we need to be kind always! 365 days a year! Staff were provided with kindness cards and when a student was observed doing something kind, staff members had the opportunity to write their names down on a kindness card and submit it into the kindness box. Throughout the week students and staff collected school supplies for the students in Texas and Florida that were impacted by the recent hurricanes. It was truly a week full of kindness, compassion, friendship and support. #kindness365

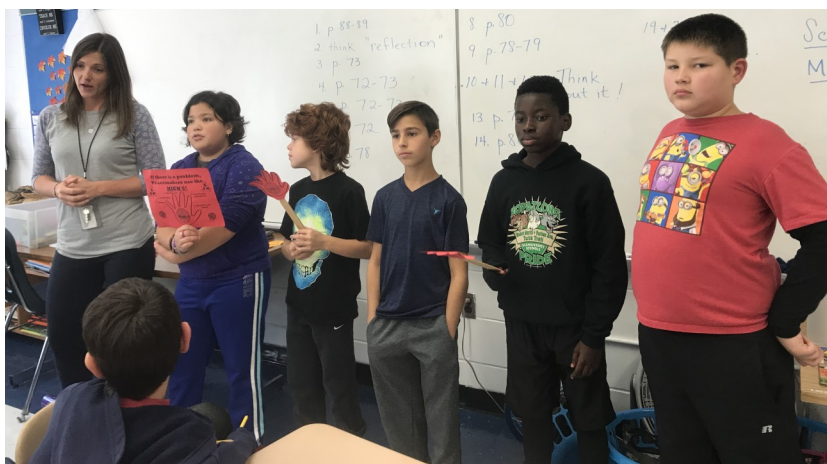






**Sussex Middle School and Wantage Elementary School–** Students and staff gathered together to honor local first responders. Representatives from the Sussex Fire Department and emergency services, New Jersey State Police and Sussex County Sheriff's Office paraded on both school grounds with sirens wailing to applause and cheers of all students and staff. Prepared bags of "Letters of Gratitude" authored by all students were individually presented to each representative.

**Durban Avenue School–** 5th grade students from the Student Culture and Climate Team helped school counselor Mrs. Kennedy teach a character education lesson on how to solve problems by using a "high five" technique when handling conflict. The "High Five" method refers to 1. Ignoring 2. Walking Away 3. Talking Friendly 4. Talking Firmly and 5. Reporting to an adult



**Sparta Middle School–** To kick off Week of Respect, Sparta Middle School hosted two youth motivational speakers, Kyle Scheele and Mike Marsteller. Both speakers spoke to students about promoting kindness and how to eradicate bullying. Students in 8th grade wrapped up Week of Respect by taking part in Kyle Scheele's Viking Funeral project, a follow-up activity to his presentation. Students shipped notecards to Kyle that have a negative emotion, feeling or an attitude that they hope to let go of and leave behind them. Kyle will at the end of the school year take all notecards from all of his presentations and burn them, symbolizing the end of the way students used to be and celebrate the new attitudes of the students.

**Kittatinny Regional–** Kittatinny celebrated kindness by having students sign their Summit banner and then hung it up in the Great Hall. "Take What You Need" Posters were hung up around the school where students could pull of the tabs that stated inspirational things such as love, peace, patience and courage. Peer leaders helped distribute Kindness Coupons "tagging" students and then asking them to pass along their kindness by "tagging" someone else. Take a Compliment– Give a Compliment day, students were provided with compliment slips during homerooms and students were encouraged to save the compliment or pass it along to a friend.

