

HOPATCONG BOROUGH SCHOOLS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Hopatcong, NJ – Hudson Maxim, Tulsa Trail, Durban Avenue**  
**Title Hopatcong Elementary Schools Unite to Celebrate October Events**

**Cynthia Randina, Hopatcong Superintendent of Schools, Announces -**

This year the three Hopatcong Elementary Schools worked together to celebrate three important weeks in October. The School Counselors, Linda Padula (Durban), Lisa Schuffenhauer (Hudson), and Christina Takacs (Tulsa) organized the first week-long celebration in conjunction with The Center for Prevention and Counseling in Newton, who provided suggestions for events in schools across Sussex County. They kicked off the Week of Respect, October 6-10, with Blue Shirt Day to celebrate World Day of Bullying. Students in the elementary school students also shared Random Acts of Kindness, showed their pride for the Hopatcong community, created classroom Power Posters of Respect, and wore neon colors to Highlight Respect and take a stand against bullying. The students in all three schools showed great enthusiasm and dedication to being respectful every day. The Week of Respect celebrations were held state-wide to support Anti-Bully Bill of Rights.

School Violence Awareness Week will be celebrated in New Jersey Schools during the week of October 20<sup>th</sup>. Hopatcong Elementary Schools will celebrate with a cross-curricular approach. School counselors will conduct classroom lessons to educate students about bullying and provide a “High 5” strategy to deal with student conflict. Students will learn when to ignore, walk away, talk friendly, talk firmly, and report to an adult regarding a conflict with a peer. Music classes will sing songs based on respect, friendship, and positive energy. In art classes, students will work on symbols of peace. Gym classes will emphasize teamwork, good sportsmanship, and fairness.

Students will also celebrate Red Ribbon Week, along with schools across the country during the last week of October. This year, the Hopatcong Elementary Schools will focus on the national theme of “Love Yourself.” Students will wear red on Monday to show they are too smart to start. Tuesday they will be U-nique with crazy hair day. Students will be dreaming of a healthy world on PJ Day Wednesday. Thursday they will team up for healthy choices in their favorite gear. On Halloween, students will say Boo to Bad Choices. Red Ribbon Week is a time to promote healthy lifestyles and good choices.

Poster from Durban Avenue Week of Respect



Mrs. Debbie Kranz's Class with their Acts of Kindness list and tally from Hudson Maxim School



Powerful Posters from Mrs. Katie Duthaler and Mrs. Linda Minervinni at Tulsa Trail School



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If you would like more information on this topic, or to schedule an interview with Cynthia Randina, Superintendent of Schools, please call JoAnne Murray at 973-398-8801 or email at [jmmurray@hopatcongschools.org](mailto:jmmurray@hopatcongschools.org).