

HOPATCONG BOROUGH SCHOOLS
P.O. Box 1029, Windsor Avenue
Hopatcong, NJ 07842

Contact: Elizabeth Juliano
Work: 973-770-8863
Email:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: 02/20/15

Hopatcong, NJ -

Title: Hopatcong Raises Awareness of Rare Diseases District Wide!

Cynthia Randina, Hopatcong Superintendent of Schools, Announces -

RARE DISEASE AWARENESS!!

Saturday, February 28th is Rare Disease Day. This event is celebrated globally on the last Friday in February since its European inception in 2008. Here at Hopatcong High School the students, staff and administration have joined hands to help raise the awareness of rare diseases in our towns, communities, states and country with Daniel Anastasia (and his family) spearheading this important event. During the week of February 23-27th students will be raising the community's awareness about rare diseases and are attempting to raise funds for future research studies by having a "District-Wide Jeans Day" on Friday February 27th. The money raised will go toward research, treatments and possible cures for rare diseases. Activities such as: Day by Day, Hand in Hand, where the students will trace their hands and place their names on them, to be placed around the school, will be performed in support of Rare Disease Awareness. Since rare diseases are in our "genes" students will also be wearing different shades of blue ribbons, representing the different shades of blue jeans to support the cause as well. Each ribbon will be paired with the name of a rare disease and worn with commitment by the wearer to learn about that rare disease.

A rare disease is a disease or disorder that affects fewer than 200,000 Americans at any given time and does not have a cure. About 80% of rare diseases have genetic origins while others exist due to infections either bacterial or viral. The most common problem in dealing with rare diseases is lack of funding for research which leads to lack of scientific knowledge and quality information on the diseases themselves resulting in a delay in their diagnoses and often a misdiagnosis. Because the numbers are low the funding isn't there. That is why global awareness is so important.

Please help us support Rare Disease Awareness by showing your support and interest in this very important event!!

Thank you for your help!

The Rare Disease Awareness Committee at Hopatcong High School

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.