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Drive, Determination and a Good Deed

Three Bridgehampton School educators took to the waters and paddled the 18-mile open ocean journey from Montauk to Block Island in early August. In addition to the physical strength and mental aptitude they needed to complete the endeavor, their challenge was to raise funds for Paddlers for Humanity, an East Hampton-based nonprofit with a mission of bettering the lives of children living in the East End communities.



English teacher Mr. Tom House, technology teacher Ms. Judiann Carmack-Fayyaz and secondary special education science/math teacher Mr. Jeffrey Neubauer raised thousands of dollars for the trip, which Mr. House and Ms. Carmack-Fayyaz paddled in tandem. They cited the support of Paddlers for Humanity from helping to fund Bridgehampton School's robotics club, Sprouts farmstand and Habitat for Humanity local travel projects.

"This kind of undertaking points to the compassion and dedication these three teachers have for all the children of our local communities," Superintendent of Schools Mr. Robert Hauser said.

Empowering Our Educational Community

Several Bridgehampton Middle School students, along with guidance counselor Mr. Ryan Barker, attended the Hampton Bays Bullying Prevention Summit in late October, where they took part in discussions on effective bullying and cyberbullying prevention strategies and learned skills and resources to empower them and to set a positive example for others.

"It was an empowering day where our students had the opportunity to meet other middle school students from East End districts and discuss ways to spread kindness and help to put an end to bullying behaviors," Principal Mr. Mike Miller said. "Students were encouraged and motivated by the peer educators in attendance who talked about their experiences in middle school."

PROGRESS!

We want to again thank our community for your support as we continue on the additions and renovations that address the infrastructural, educational, and health and safety needs of our students. Please visit our website for updates on our construction expansion project to date.



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BRIDGEHAMPTON SCHOOLS

**Fall 2019
Newsletter**

Optimistic Outlook Academic Achievement

It's been in the air for quite a while at the Bridgehampton School, and the 2019-20 school year is really bringing it to fruition.

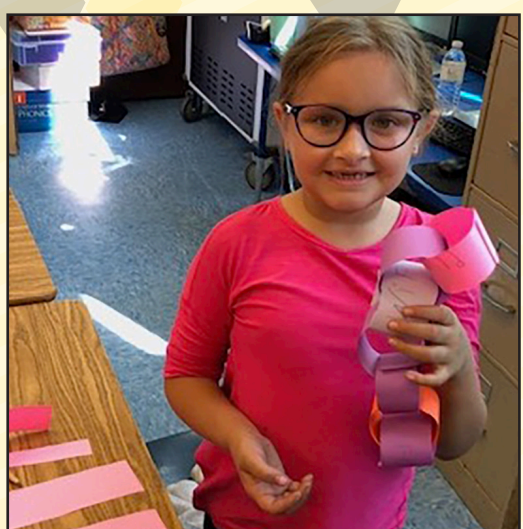
Kindness.

In addition to the all-important academic subjects, students are experiencing happiness and success when they are the recipient of a kind gesture and, even more importantly, when they are confidently sharing kindness with others.

It started in late summer during Superintendent's Conference Day, when faculty and staff heard a parent's account of how a tragic moment changed the course of life for so many. Mr. Darrell Scott, the father of Rachel Scott, who was the first victim of the Columbine High School shooting in 1999, visited the school to share an inspirational story of forgiveness and how to positively affect a school's climate, culture and social-emotional learning. That mission is the focus of the nonprofit organization named for her: Rachel's Challenge. The educators were so inspired by the message that the district worked with the organization to bring the curriculum

to the students and larger community. In September, students, families and community members were encouraged to hear more about the teenage girl who knew her life would affect the world and whose examples of kindness and acceptance are now her legacy. The chain reaction of kindness and the organization's powerful and sustainable life-changing programs were embraced in Bridgehampton with the formation of a club for students in grades 6-12. Membership has grown to 28, and it has an inspiring new name: Friends of Rachel.

The district now has its own blueprint to implement the program and expand upon it. Club members meet and greet new students when they arrive at school, and peer-to-peer support systems and intentional "check-ins" with one another make students feel valued. Current students are able to share the process with new cohorts to maintain and continue to grow the mission, making it a valuable part of the school culture and an important foundational component to academic achievement.



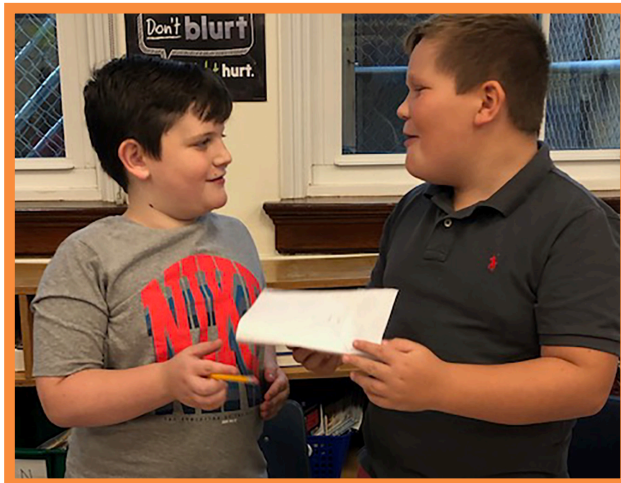
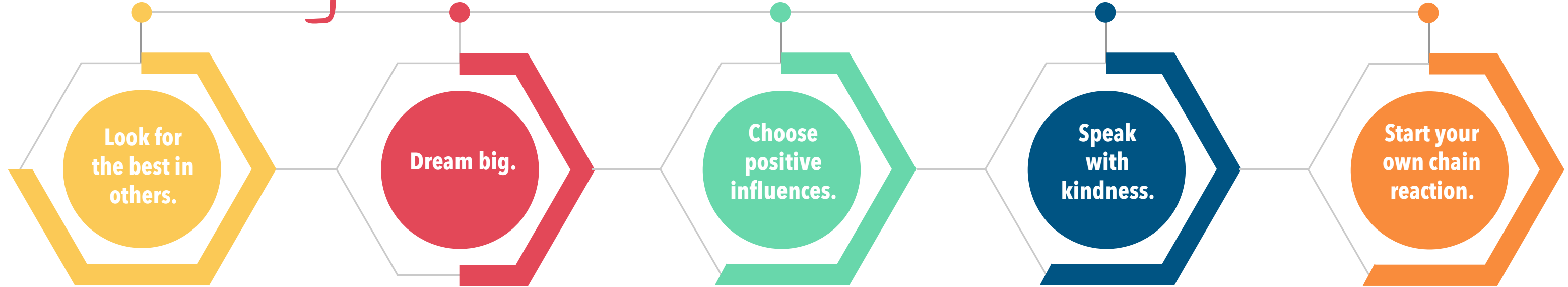
ENGAGING OPPORTUNITIES

The Bridgehampton School District's proactive approach in helping students achieve social, emotional and academic success is due in large part to its Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports program. This unique collaboration works to create productive relationships, and encourage cooperation and connections in the classroom.

"The school district thanks our instructional support team for their ongoing efforts as we continue to address the behavioral supports and positive social culture going forward," Superintendent of Schools Mr. Robert Hauser said.

Teachers and students took part in a PBIS assembly in the beginning of the school year, which focused on building relationships beyond the school day and offering opportunities for engagement and teamwork to create a more focused environment while in the classroom. Each month one student per grade level is selected and celebrated as a student of the month.

5 Challenges to a Chain Reaction of Kindness



Purposeful, Powerful, Positive Practices

Kindness prevails at all grade levels in the Bridgehampton School District.

In September, guidance counselor Mr. Ryan Barker visited every elementary class to share with students various ways to demonstrate kindness and to start a “chain reaction” to build upon the pledge that all students took in honor of Rachel’s Challenge. Each class brainstormed ways to be kind to others and wrote down acts of kindness on strips of paper that were linked together to form a chain. They also talked about how kindness can go beyond each classroom and linked all the chains of each class together to form a huge chain

in the elementary hallway. The students continue to add chains when they see acts of kindness in hopes of filling the entire hallway and to serve as a reminder that kindness can start a chain reaction when they are walking the halls.

Third graders in Ms. Bachety’s class used the lesson to put a positive spin on passing notes in class – they each prepared a kindness note to share with one another, to the delight of all their classmates.

William Barletta, a sixth grader, started the school year on a compassionate note when he saw a fellow student sitting alone

at lunchtime. William shared his kindness by picking up his own lunch and bringing it over to sit with his schoolmate so she would not feel alone. Nick Saunders, a junior, took his passion for the nation’s Armed Forces to another level when he surpassed a fundraising goal of \$125 for his participation in The Wounded Warrior Project’s Soldier Ride. Nick’s efforts and strong supporters donated just under \$2,400 to the cause – a 25-mile bike ride that began at Amagansett Farm and threaded through the scenic roads of the East End.

Nick cited the inspiring and

dedicated men and women who come home from service with both physical and invisible wounds for his commitment to raising awareness and funds for the initiative that provides rehabilitative cycling across the nation to help injured warriors restore their physical and emotional well-being.

“These are just a few of the heartwarming stories that inspire our students to help make a positive difference in our school culture,” Principal Michael Miller said. “Their generous actions are not only part of their learning experiences but of their life experiences.”

Bridgehampton Benevolence Reaches the Bahamas

When Miles Clark, a junior, learned of the devastation of Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas, he set into action a plan of compassion when he spearheaded a clothing drive to help those affected by one of the most powerful storms known to ever hit the islands.

Miles’ project was enthusiastically embraced in the Bridgehampton School and community. He and his family visited the region to deliver dozens of items of clothing, shoes, flip flops, hats and other summer clothing.

Once he arrived there with the items, he organized a field day event with games and sports with the young strangers who soon became his friends more than 1,110 miles away from home.

“This gesture points to the goodness of people in our school community,” Principal Mr. Mike Miller said. “We all commend Miles, his family and the many other families and community members who’ve generously helped by putting others before themselves.”