



# Livingston

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

This month, MPE will be celebrating The Week of Respect, School Violence Awareness Week, and Red Ribbon Week. These “themed” weeks are state mandated and are used to help create a school climate that focuses on ensuring that students feel safe and supported. Likewise, MPE places a great emphasis on making sure each student feels safe and valued through emotional, social, and academic support in order to do their best and be proactive in all areas of their life.

This year, our school will continue to focus on mindfulness and growth mindset as a way for the school community to become more aware of their own personal thoughts, feelings, and actions. Furthermore, we will be focusing on the skill of perspective taking by thinking about other people’s thoughts and feelings. Michelle Borba, the author of *Unselfie*, states the importance of “helping children to define themselves as people who care about and value others”. Here at MPE, we hope our students define themselves as individuals who are both compassionate and accepting of differences.

This year, the Week of Respect is being titled, “Sole Swap”, as we learn about what it means to “put ourselves in someone else’s shoes” and the literal sense of giving shoes to those in need. MPE will be partnering with a non-profit organization, Soles4Souls, through a shoe drive. From October 1st to October 12th we will be collecting gently used shoes that will be donated to countries in poverty. In the classrooms, kindergarten will be reading the book, *In Your Shoes*, by Kristin Johnson. Grades first through fifth will be reading the book, *Those Shoes*, by Maribeth Boelts. Both of these picture books emphasize the importance of empathy and thinking of others. Attached to this letter are several different styles of shoes. I ask that your child choose one shoe to decorate and write a couple facts about themselves. Please cut out the shoe and send it back to be displayed in the main hallway of our school to represent what it means to walk in your child’s shoes.

School Violence Awareness Week will be addressed in each classroom by creating a peace flag highlights how they can show kindness to others. Additionally, the students will talk about peaceful ways to handle conflict. During Red Ribbon Week, each class will do an activity to go along with the theme, “Life is My Journey, I am traveling Drug-Free”. It will be displayed to symbolize the student’s commitment to travel through life drug-free and full of healthy choices.

I encourage you to discuss the topics of perspective taking, treating each member of our school community with kindness and value, and school safety with your child.

Thank you for your cooperation and partnership!

Danielle Imbimbo  
*School Counselor*







