



FAIR HAVEN BOARD OF EDUCATION

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October 2011

Dear Sickles and Knollwood Parents,

On Thursday evening, October 20 beginning at 7pm, we will be hosting a presentation about our district bullying prevention initiative, the *Olweus Bullying Prevention Program*, in the Knollwood all-purpose-room. Members of our administrative team will explain the basic components of the program and how we are implementing it in Fair Haven.

The Olweus Program is a best practice bullying prevention program recommended by the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence. All members of our staff received training in the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program on September 1 and will receive further training on our October 10 professional day. The goals of the Olweus program are:

- Reduce existing bully/victim problems among school children
- Prevent the development of new bully/victim problems
- Achieve better peer relations at school

The heart of the Olweus program lies within the weekly classroom meetings, which focus on the development and clarification of classroom and school rules against bullying. These rules will be introduced at a kick-off event for each building to be held during the month of October and then will be displayed prominently throughout our buildings.

Within the next few weeks, students at grades 3-8 will be taking the "Olweus Bullying Questionnaire" as part of our bullying prevention efforts. The purpose of this survey is to give us insight into how our students currently view the climate of our schools. In late spring, our students will re-take the survey so that we will be able to see the results of our bullying prevention program efforts.

We are grateful to the Fair Haven PTA for financially supporting our bullying prevention efforts by paying the cost of all Olweus training and materials. This is a highly important initiative and one that will have positive and lasting results among our student population.

At this October 20 parent session, we will also provide information on other important topics such as bicycle safety, which is always an area of concern for us, and how to curtail such pesky problems as pediculosis (head lice) among children.

Please join us on Thursday, October 20 from 7-8pm in the Knollwood APR for this informative session!

Sincerely,

Kathi Cronin

Kathi Cronin

Superintendent

Mission Statement

The mission of the Fair Haven School District, a small caring community that values education, is to provide students with a broad academic foundation, to nurture their talents and abilities, and to inspire them to become life-long learners. All students will achieve the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards at all grade levels.