



**Marshall Elementary School**  
**5135 Wexford Run Road**  
**Wexford, PA 15090**  
**Phone: 724-935-4044**



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Dear MES Community,

I wanted to take this opportunity to share some of the wonderful things that are occurring at MES related to our work in creating a “Bully Proof” school. The entire staff has been trained in the Olweus Bully Prevention Training Program. Throughout this school year, we have implemented many new activities and programs designed to educate the entire school about the importance of creating a safe and caring environment for all of our students. Many great things have been occurring and I wanted to provide you with some details that may assist you in talking with your children.

***Class Meetings*** – Class meetings are held once a week in each homeroom. These sessions provide an opportunity for the classroom teacher to present mini-lessons on how to employ specific bully prevention skills or to use a story or picture to spur conversation about different bully scenarios. This is also a time for the class to discuss any situations that they are facing as an individual or as a group.

***Filling our Buckets*** – A school-wide positive behavior system was implemented at the beginning of the 2011-12 school year. This idea was introduced in all classrooms last fall that everyone should be a “bucket-filler not a bucket dipper.” All students heard and discussed *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?* by Carol McCloud. Homerooms can earn drops in their class bucket by working as a team to do great work or by receiving a compliment from any adult in the building. The MES “Wall of Fame” outside of the cafeteria displays all of the buckets that each classroom has filled since the start of this school year.

***Bully Prevention Door Decoration Contests*** – All classrooms will be decorating their classroom door focusing on the theme of “Bully Prevention” and creating a “Bully Proof School.” Doors will be judged on the night of the Curriculum/Art Show on Thursday, April 19, 2012 with one top award prize in each of three categories (primary classroom, intermediate classroom, and special/support classroom).

**4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Bully Prevention Leadership Team** – Representatives from each of the homerooms in fourth and fifth grade were selected to be part of a Bully Prevention Leadership Team. The group meets during recess with Mrs. Michael, Ms. Zaccari, and Mrs. Zallow. The group has worked on several activities and projects. Their latest project was writing, producing, and acting in a video depicting various scenarios where a child could be bullied. The production contains several scenarios which will be used in all classrooms at MES to encourage conversation and educate students on how to deal with situations should they arise in their daily lives in the halls and classrooms of MES.

**Celebrating a Bully Proof School and Celebrating Diversity Week** – This year we are celebrating the entire week of April 30<sup>th</sup> by embracing the diversity within all of us and celebrating the hard work that the entire MES population has accomplished this year in creating a *Bully Proof School*. Classrooms will be participating in various activities that week focusing on recognizing and celebrating the diversity that is in all of us. Students will learn to appreciate everyone's differences and celebrate and learn from each other.

**Sharing the Story with Parents** – Parents play a crucial role in our program's success. We want to share our successes, learn more about your concerns, and provide resources and strategies for you as parents. At the next Parent Faculty Association [PFA] meeting on May 11, 2012 at 9:15 AM in the LGI, the fourth and fifth grade Bully Prevention Leadership Team will present examples of some of the great work they have produced this year. In addition, clinical psychologist and counselor, Dr. Anna Marie Breaux, will provide insights into bullying behavior and ways to talk with your children about bullying.

**Parent Portal and Anti-Bullying Resources** – Marshall Elementary School's website now features a link for parents and students that provides answers to commonly asked questions about bullying, resources, and suggested approaches for talking to MES faculty and administration about bullying situations. On the MES website, select "Especially for Parents" and then select "Olweus Bullying Prevention Program."

These are just a few examples of some of the great things that are occurring this year at MES to raise everyone's awareness of our responsibility for creating and maintaining a *Bully Free School*. I encourage you to talk to your children about their school day. Discuss how they are feeling about school and what they would do if they encountered someone who tried to bully them. These are great conversations that help prepare children for most situations should they encounter a bully issue. It is also a great way for parents to learn more about their children and how they are feeling about their educational experience.

Sincerely,

James M. Bradley, Ed.D.  
Principal

