

GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Greenwich, CT

Contact:
Kim Eves, Director of Communications
Kim_eves@greenwich.k12.ct.us
203-625-7415
@EvesGPSCOMM

For Immediate Release:

GPS CELEBRATES *BE SAFE DAY*
Friday, December 12, 2014

Greenwich, CT - Thursday, December 11, 2014 – BE SAFE DAY is one of many events organized by the Greenwich Public Schools this year as a way to promote a safe school climate by fostering social-emotional skills in our students and reinforcing the district's norms: *Be Here, Be Safe, Be Honest, Care for Self and Others, Let Go and Move On*. Using lesson plans developed by mental health professionals and teachers, schools across the District will participate in BE SAFE DAY, highlighting the District's norm.

WHO: On December 12th, a majority of students in the Greenwich Public Schools will celebrate BE SAFE DAY

WHAT: BE SAFE DAY is a common initiative across grade levels to promote safety. Students will take this opportunity to show their appreciation for individuals in the schools and the community who help keep us safe. This year's BE SAFE DAY is an extension of our 2013 event that focused on celebrating members in the community who keep us safe (police, fire department and GEMS). Additionally, teachers will focus on increasing awareness about food allergies (e.g. peanut allergy) and brainstorm ways students can keep their friends stay safe.

Students will identify ways they can show appreciation for people in their school and community who are keeping people safe. Each grade level will be assigned a designated group (e.g. 5th grade – nurses; 2nd grade – bus drivers). A few ways to show gratitude: students will create binders, letters, videos, posters, etc. and offer them as a sign of appreciation to their assigned group. Assemblies are also another option. Teachers will discuss the importance of expressing gratitude and thanking people in our community/schools who keep us safe. All media specialists in the district are assisting teachers by providing them with books and materials about safety, food allergies and the members in the community who keep us safe.

WHERE Greenwich Public Schools classrooms

WHEN: Friday, December 12, 2014

WHY: The BE SAFE DAY event is meaningful initiative in two ways: First, it promotes appreciation, care and empathy among our students. Second, it creates an opportunity for fostering social-emotional learning and reinforcing the district norms.

HOW: Mental health professionals and teachers from many of the schools coordinated the event with the teachers, administrators and students in their respective schools. Lesson plans were disseminated structured around the theme BE SAFE, encouraging teachers to implement them in their own creative ways. In addition, all teachers, staff and students in the GPS and at Havemeyer are encouraged to wear **GREEN** on December 12th to express their participation in the event.

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