

GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Greenwich, CT

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For Immediate Release:

GPS CELEBRATES *BE HERE – LOG OFF AND LISTEN IN*

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Greenwich, CT - Tuesday, September 29, 2015 – *BE HERE – LOG OFF AND LISTEN IN* is one of many Social Emotional Learning – *Dare 2 Care* - activities 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. The 2015-2016 school year marks the third year of events celebrating the District 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 these Social Emotional Learning activities. This year, the program will expand into the community with the support of a grant from the Greenwich Alliance for Education.

The GPS Social Emotional Learning events and activities
invite the entire community to *Dare 2 Care*.



www.greenwickschools.org/SELevents

WHO: On September 30, a majority of students in the Greenwich Public Schools will celebrate *BE HERE – LOG OFF AND LISTEN IN*

WHAT: *BE HERE – LOG OFF AND LISTEN IN* is a common initiative across grade levels to promote meaningful conversations and good listening skills. Good listening skills help students learn how to pay closer attention, to improve learning and interact in more meaningful ways with others and the world around us.

Students will:

- Learn how to become better listeners and learners;
- Learn how to pay attention to others, understand how they feel and show compassion;
- Discuss why it is important to pay attention every day at school and in life; and
- Learn how to communicate more effectively.

Students, families, and members of the community are encouraged to practice good listening skills at home, and will be challenged to log off social media for one day, on September 30, and have meaningful conversations instead.

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WHERE Greenwich Public Schools classrooms and throughout the community. In addition, Kindergarten/Pre-K students have created egg carton bees to pass out in the community when people are caught “beeing here”, that is, by not talking on their phones and having a conversation instead.

Look for Greenwich Police Department (GPD) Officers wearing *Dare 2 Care* and “LOG OFF AND LISTEN IN” t-shirts on September 30! The Greenwich Public Schools values the partnership and support of the GPD in helping us to create a Safe School Climate and for participating in the *Dare 2 Care* events.

WHEN: Wednesday, September 30, 2015

WHY: The BE HERE – LOG OFF AND LISTEN IN event is a meaningful initiative in two ways: First, it promotes effective listening and communication skills among students. Second, it creates an opportunity for fostering social-emotional learning, specifically the awareness of self and others, good listening skills, and paying attention; thereby 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 HERE – LOG OFF AND LISTEN IN, encouraging teachers to implement them in their own creative ways. In addition, all teachers, staff and students in the GPS and at the central office are encouraged to wear the color **YELLOW** on September 30, expressing their participation in the event.

About the Greenwich Alliance for Education (www.greenwichalliance.org)

The Greenwich Alliance for Education mobilizes community resources to provide opportunities and services that foster educational success for all Greenwich Public School students. We define “educational success” for students as the ability to pursue further education and/or to work to support oneself after graduation.



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