

CLARK MILLS

School Counselor ~ Patty Cavanagh

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In January 2002, New Jersey passed a law designating the third week of October each year as “*School Violence Awareness Week, aka Safe Schools Week.*” During the week of October 21-25 we have many school-wide activities planned for the students in Clark Mills that promote the wellness and safety of our students and staff.

The week’s message will promote handling conflicts in a safe, positive, and productive manner. During the week, your child will receive mini-lessons on social and emotional wellness, conflict resolution, Halloween safety, and we will practice safety drills and procedures. Students in Clark Mills will also have the opportunity to thank staff members for the ways in which they are kept safe. In addition, the students will create personalized, signed expressions of respect, caring, and gratitude to United States troops, veterans, and service families. The personalized and signed cards will reflect genuine support, respect, caring, and appreciation of our military heroes during the winter holiday season.

DRESS for Safe Schools:

Monday- “#ChooseKind” Wear a “KIND” shirt

Tuesday- “Be a SuperHero and Resolve Conflicts” Wear *Super Hero* gear

Wednesday- “Stand together against bullying, and unite for kindness, acceptance, and inclusion” Wear **Orange** for **Unity Day**.

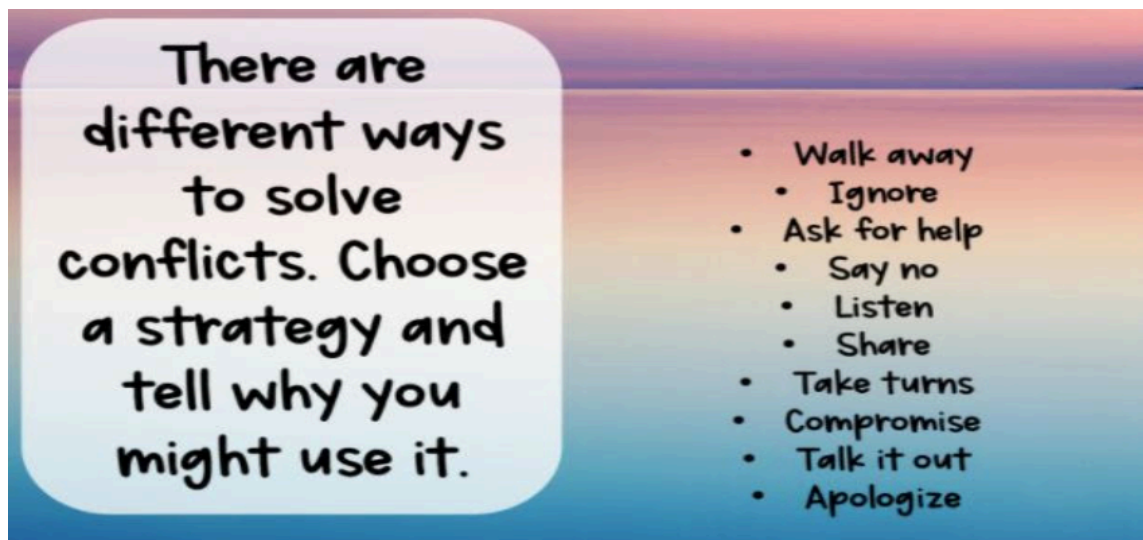
Thursday- “Meet in the middle ~ Compromise” Wear Grey

Friday- “#SchoolSpiritDay” Be Like Spike and Wear Green

Please take the opportunity to view my virtual classroom. It will also be posted during the week in my google classroom. You will find additional information and activities that your child(ren) can choose to participate in, along with a contest.

[CM Final Safe Schools Classroom 2024](#)

The week's message will promote practicing healthy conflict resolution. Conflict resolution is a way to solve disagreements in a healthy way. We must first identify how we feel and then make sure we are calm. This will allow any individual to communicate his/her side of the story and both parties can come up with solutions to resolve the disagreement. Here are some helpful ideas on the many different ways to solve a conflict.



What you can do to help at home to keep your child safe and happy:

1. Talk with your child(ren) and validate their feelings. Ask your child: "Tell me three great things about your day." "Is there anything you would have liked to have been different?" Let their questions/answers guide what and how much information to provide and emphasize the positive things that children/families/schools can do to stay safe. Some children prefer writing, playing music, or doing an art project as

- an outlet. Young children may need concrete activities (such as drawing, looking at picture books, or imaginative play) to help them identify and express their feelings.
2. Be aware of signs the child might be in distress (e.g., changes in behavior, anxiety, sleep problems, acting out, problems at school or with academic work).
 3. Be conscious of media exposure and what you say about an event in front of your child.
 4. Also be mindful of television viewing (be aware if the television is on in common areas) as this can expose students to frightening images, which only increase anxiety.

By working together we will create a respectful, positive climate and culture where all learners can succeed. This will aid us all in the prevention of harassment, intimidation and bullying (HIB).



And remember...for the month of **SOCKTOBER**, Clark Mills School will be collecting “Brand New” socks for people in need. The socks will be distributed to different organizations that support people in our community, as well as, surrounding communities. Thank you so much for your donations thus far and we look forward to sharing “**SOCKTOBER**” with our community. So please feel free to donate a pair of brand new socks for either a child, man, and/or woman.

Please join Clark Mills in celebrating **Safe Schools Week** and thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Patty Cavanagh
School Counselor and Anti-Bullying Specialist