



# Rockaway Township School Climate & Culture

Presented by the Rockaway Township Administrative Team

*“As administrators and teachers, we have the opportunity to foster positive changes to the everyday experience in our schools. Investing time in improving school culture is worth the effort!”*

# School Climate and Culture as a District

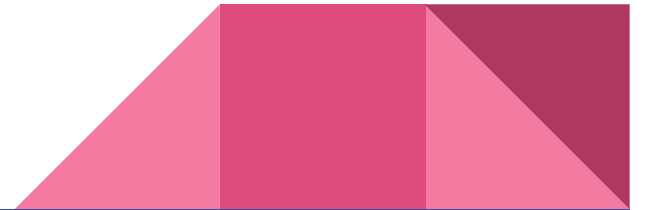
Each school is unique and has developed its own culture centered around one common goal, “Doing what is best for children!” Listed below are some of the district level initiatives and/or support:

- ★ Guidance Department : Support, Counseling, Lunch Bunch, Peer Mediation/Conflict Resolution, Social skills Instruction, Character Education, Project Happiness
- ★ **Responsive Classroom/Morning Meetings**
- ★ Don't Press Send Assemblies:
- ★ Screenagers: Sponsored by the RTEA and RTEF
- ★ Week of Respect - October 2-6
- ★ Violence Awareness Week - October 16-20
- ★ **A dedicated school goal on school climate**
- ★ Harlem Wizards Basketball Game: Sponsored by the RTEF



# School Climate and Culture as a District

- ★ Focus on Executive Functioning Skills
- ★ Service Opportunities for Students
- ★ **Veterans Day Assemblies**
- ★ Thanksgiving collections for school families in need
- ★ Backpacks full of supplies for students in need
- ★ Community Connections 100th day collection
- ★ Cancer Awareness Focus
- ★ After school Clubs that promote positive self image
- ★ **Community Food Pantry collections**





# School Climate and Culture at BW

We follow the principles of *The Responsive Classroom*, an approach that emphasizes the **social, emotional** and **academic growth** in a safe and caring environment.

- ★ **Principal's Message**
- ★ Daily **Morning Meetings** in each homeroom that consists of a greeting, message, activity and a share
- ★ Creation of **Hopes & Dreams**
- ★ Establishment of schoolwide expectations/ rules
- ★ Our theme/motto is **Respect** - We respect ourselves, We respect others and We respect our school
- ★ Schoolwide gatherings & celebrations
- ★ Participation in **Week of Respect, Violence Awareness Week, The Great Kindness Challenge** & Various PTA sponsored Spirit Days
- ★ **Safety Patrol**
- ★ Monthly Character Lessons & Social Skills Groups
- ★ **Kindness Lane**
- ★ Don't Press Send
- ★ The Birchwood School's **Olympic Reading Challenge - Read for the Gold!**
- ★ The Birchwood teachers participate in PLCs related to school and district goals.
- ★ Our fourth grade students and a group of teachers are participating in mindful practices to increase focus and concentration based on the book, **Everyday SEL in Elementary Schools, Integrating Social-Emotional Learning and Mindfulness Into Your Classroom** by Carla Tantillo Philibert.



## School Climate and Culture at CAD

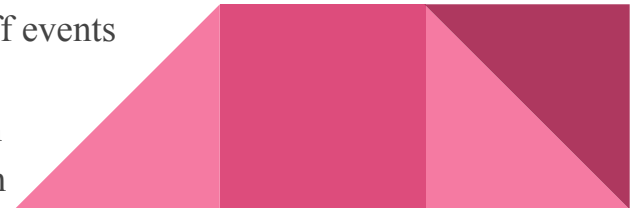
- ★ “Caught Being Good!”
- ★ ***We Are Family Assembly***
- ★ Welcome Back Picnic
- ★ Respect Others Be Outstanding Together
- ★ ROBOT Grant from MSUNER
- ★ Secret Agent Bunny and Spot
- ★ ***Seeds of Service Projects***
- ★ Jets Upstander of the Week
- ★ Family Fun Nights
- ★ Frosty Friends
- ★ Monarch Butterfly Project
- ★ Pretzels for American Red Cross
- ★ Socktober Collection
- ★ ***Fifth Grade Activity Nights with Parents***
- ★ Blazin Performer
- ★ ***Jackels Family Night***
- ★ Student Government
- ★ Kindness Week
- ★ Recycling Club
- ★ Library Read Box
- ★ ***DARE Dinner***



## School Climate and Culture at DBO

- ★ Our School Theme was designed using elements of *Positive Behavior Support in Schools* (PBSIS) and *Social, Emotional Learning* (SEL) - “Bee the rainbow”
  - Year-long grade level character focus
  - Grade color
  - Student presentations at monthly assemblies highlighting their character focus
  - Rainbow rocks
  - Caught Being Good
  - Bee Bucks
  - Office conduct referrals
  - Service projects (Jeans for Troops, cup of joe for a joe)

- ★ American Red Cross - Pillowcase project, to prepare students for an emergency situation.
- ★ Student Government and Philanthropic efforts
- ★ Communication - Constant Twitter/Website updates allowing a ‘window into the classroom’
- ★ Inter-grade reading buddies
- ★ Staff Professional Development on Risk Assessment Protocols
- ★ St. Hubert’s presentation and partnership
- ★ Artsonia - online art gallery of student work
- ★ Library - read box/book exchange
- ★ Monthly Staff events
- ★ Clubs
- ★ PJ Collection
- ★ Buddy Bench

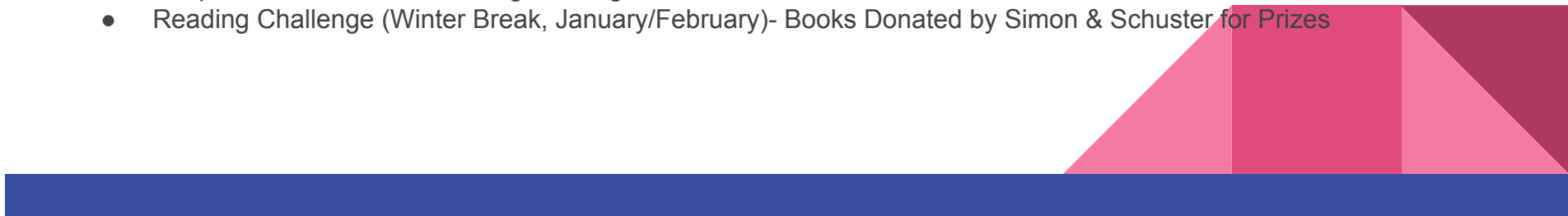




# School Climate and Culture at KDM



- “Kindness Does Matter”- Kindness Rocks
- Positive Office Referrals
- Cafeteria Reward System
- Week of Respect- “Think Win, Win”- Spirit Week
- Red Ribbon Week- “Sharpening the Saw”- Spirit Week
- Great Kindness Challenge- 1,100 Acts of Kindness Recorded
- Veterans Day Ceremony/Flag- Honored Local Veterans
- Therapy Dogs- K/1
- School Safety Monitors- 5th Grade Leadership
- Pay-for-Play Clubs
- Service Learning Projects- Each Grade (Rockaway Township Fire Department Donation, Homeless Shelter Donation, Animal Shelter Donation, Veterans in Need Donation)
- Classroom Lessons-Guidance Counselor
- Responsive Classroom-Morning Meetings
- Reading Challenge (Winter Break, January/February)- Books Donated by Simon & Schuster for Prizes



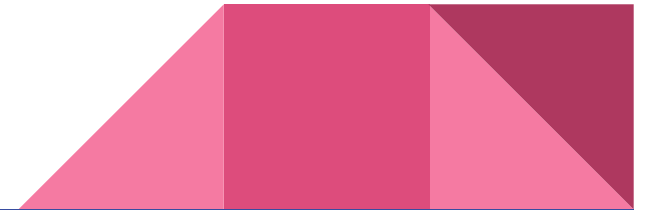




# School Climate and Culture at SB



- ★ **Positive Behavior Support in Schools (PBSIS)** is a nationally recognized, evidence based approach to building a positive school climate through a continuum of supports for students that promotes positive social behaviors
- ★ Guided by 4 overarching principles: Be Kind, Be Fair, Be Respectful, Be Your Best
- ★ Annual kick-off event (September)
- ★ Multi-tiered Recognition System
- ★ Dolphin Dollar Economy
- ★ Volunteer Projects (i.e. Cup of Joe for a Joe, Annual Soup Kitchen Drive)
- ★ Stony Brook Hall of Fame
- ★ Bi-monthly PBSIS team meetings
- ★ Monthly cohort activities for each grade level  
Student Dolphin Teams:
  - 1st Grade - Cheer & Pledge*
  - 2nd Grade - Missions*
  - 3rd Grade - Patrol, Gossip Busters*
  - 4th Grade - Student Council*
  - 5th Grade - Team Buddies*
- ★ Benchmarks of Quality (Self-assessment)
- ★ Instructional Events & Booster Events: Schoolwide, grade-level, and classroom team-building activities to reinforce expectations and celebrate our students
- ★ Pet Therapy
- ★ Ongoing Guidance Lessons & Support
- ★ Buddy Bench



# School Climate and Culture at CMS

Reinforced the Copeland Way for Both  
Parents and Students

Character + Motivation = Success

Expectations for all stakeholders



# School Climate and Culture at CMS

## **Student Presentations**

- Gian Paul Gonzalez (Positive Choice, Character, and Leadership)
- High School SAC counselors with Mr. Gonnella (Cyber-Safety/Anti-Bullying message)
- Family Night with Dr. Thomas Kersting (Social Media Awareness/Positive Choice)
- Camfel Productions (Positive Choice, Character, and Anti-bullying)
- YahYa Bakkar (Leadership Development, Mental Health, Motivation, and Inspiration)
- Colin O'Brien (Substance Abuse Prevention)
- Morris County K-9 Unit (Substance Abuse Prevention)
- Ben Cohen (Mental Health)
- Jack Elsmore (Substance Abuse/Mental Health)



## **Created and Implemented student led club called P.A.C.C. (Positive Actions Creating Change).**

Students designed lessons centered on anti-bullying and positive choice to presented in all homerooms a minimum of twice per month:

- Kindness Chain created by students and on display at CMS.
- "I Can" statements/posted in each homeroom.
- Positive Quotes posted on main TV
- Personal Goal setting activity
- Growth Mindset cooperative activity
- Digital Footprint video/activity
- Five Finger Friendship Challenge
- PACC students announce positivity quote over PA each Friday
- Round Table Discussion on Burger King Anti-Bullying PSA.



# School Climate and Culture at CMS

## **Assembled a Student Homework Committee consisting of students Grades 6-8.**

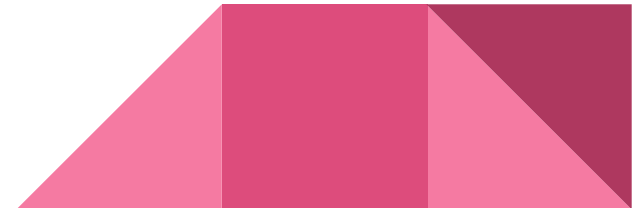
- Explore topics such as quantity vs. quality of homework
- Made recommendation for homework blackout dates during common assessments
- Will work with teacher Grading Committee to revamp honor roll criteria and grading categories

### Other events/topics include:

- Genius Hour
- Student Volleyball Tournament
- Cross Country Team
- Google Parent Night

## **CMS partnered with Johnson and Johnson to bring the first ever Wellness Fair to students. Stations include:**

- Everyone Can Make a Difference
- Understanding Empathy and Compassion. Treating Others with Love and Respect
- Experience Calming the Mind and Creating a Happy Place
- Understanding what Stress Feels Like and Managing It
- Understanding You Are Perfect Just The Way You Are
- Having Gratitude and Reflecting on What We Are Grateful For
- Understanding the Qualities of a Leader and Power of a Team



# The Administrators Goal

*“To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment.”*

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

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Thank You!