

 Counseling Corner November 1, 2018

Dear Parents/ Guardians of Bay Head School,

As the new School Counselor, I am pleased that I have had the opportunity to meet and/or speak with many of you during the first few months of school. I will be available during conferences so please stop by to say hello. In the meantime, I want to provide a general overview of our plans for the next few months.

As I mentioned in my last correspondence, I have been holding informal group lunches where I have invited students to eat lunch in my room. The interest level and positive feedback has been so high regarding these lunches that I had to create a schedule in order to offer the opportunity to all 4th-8th grade students. These lunches are organized by grade level and are strictly voluntary. Our conversations have allowed the students to connect in an inclusive environment and many have been surprised by how much they have in common with their peers. These sessions are meant to generate rapport within the student population and promote positive school relationships.

In addition, I have visited all of the classrooms to offer lessons on promoting kindness and joined the school nurse during Red Ribbon Week to discuss drug prevention. I will continue to provide classroom lessons focusing on respect and character education following New Jersey’s Core Curriculum Standards. Furthermore, I am continuing with my plan to meet with middle school students individually to discuss academic and social goals in order to generate the relationship necessary to enable them to reach out if they are in need of support in the future.

Additionally, we believe that peer leadership and community support is of the utmost importance. As such, we will once again begin the Positive Partner Program and I will also be adding a Peer Leaders program as positive role models help create a supportive, respectful and welcoming school environment. Peer leadership programs enhance the skills needed to positively influence the school and the community. We will have a community service assembly in November for middle school students to introduce a non-profit organization that is dedicated to showing compassion and humanitarianism towards those in need. After the assembly, we will begin to promote peer leadership as older students will go to the elementary school classrooms to explain the program and later collect donated items.

Please know that a home to school connection is critical and that my role is to support and advocate for your child. Thank you to all of those parents that have already been in contact with me and I am overwhelmed by the positive feedback I have received. Feel free to contact me if you have any concerns or if there is anything I should know to better assist your child with being successful in school.

Respectfully,

Jana Phelps Frank Camardo

*School Counselor, Bay Head School School Principal*