

September 25, 2017

Dear Parents,

All of our students (grades K-12) will be attending an assembly called, "Rachel's Challenge," on either October 2 (grades K-6) or October 3 (grades 7-12). Each session will be tailored to the appropriate audience (K-3, 4-6, 7/8, 9-12). Below is a brief background on the program. We would also like to invite the entire Ichabod Crane community to an evening presentation on **October 3 at 5:30 pm in the high school auditorium**. There is no charge for you to attend.

The idea for the Rachel's Challenge program started when Rachel Joy Scott was the first person killed in the Columbine High School shooting on April 20, 1999. But that was only the beginning of the story. After her death, many students that Rachel reached out to shared stories with the Scotts about the profound impact her simple acts of kindness had on their lives; even preventing one young man from taking his own life. They soon realized the transformational effect of Rachel's story and started the non-profit organization that is Rachel's Challenge today.

In the seventeen years since we lost twelve innocent lives, including Rachel, her legacy has touched 22 million people and is the foundation for creating programs that promote a positive climate in K-12 schools. Her vision to start a chain reaction of kindness and compassion is the basis for our mission: Making schools safer, more connected places where bullying and violence are replaced with kindness and respect; and where learning and teaching are awakened to their fullest. And it works!

**"I HAVE THIS THEORY THAT IF ONE PERSON CAN GO OUT OF THEIR WAY TO SHOW COMPASSION, THEN IT WILL START A CHAIN REACTION OF THE SAME. PEOPLE WILL NEVER KNOW HOW FAR A LITTLE KINDNESS CAN GO." ~ Rachel Scott**

It is our hope that a chain reaction of kindness will begin again here at Ichabod Crane and that this program will be a catalyst for more positive change for years to come.

We hope to see you on Tuesday, October 3, at 5:30 pm in the high school auditorium.

Sincerely,

Craig Shull

Tim Farley

Andrea Williams