



BUNKER HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

372 PITMAN DOWNER ROAD
SEWELL, NJ 08080

856.881.7007
Fax 856.881.5414

"Bulldog...It's more than our mascot; it's our character"

*Michael J. D'Ostilio
Principal*

*Gregory Muscelli, Ed.D.
Assistant Principal*

October 25, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians of 8th Grade Bulldogs:

Today during 7th period, our 8th graders had the fortune to hear two individuals from the office of the New Jersey Attorney General and the NJCARES (Coordinator of Addiction Responses and Enforcement Strategies) come to the school to speak about the meaning of Red Ribbon Week. These two individuals, Richard (Richie) and Michelle gave an overview of what Red Ribbon week is and the history behind it.

Michelle works for the New Jersey State Police as an analyst, while Richard works for the CDC Foundation assigned to the NJ Office of the Attorney General. Michelle and Richard both have experience dealing with loved ones who have addiction and facing addiction on their own. Today, they talk to the students about how drugs are addictive and can tear families and lives apart. They are both addiction counselors from the state and gave a compelling talk.

Richie discussed his past as a recovering addict and how being an addict compromised his ability to be present for his family and take care of his loved ones. Michelle discussed her story with her son who faced addiction and passed away and how that impacts her young grandson. Michelle then gave a brief presentation on Red Ribbon Week and how it's more than just dressing up but it's a commitment to avoid drugs and the violence that comes along with it.

Here is what the students are reviewing throughout this week in their study halls: [Red Ribbon Week Lesson Link](#).

Michelle reiterated that Red Ribbon Week started in 1985 in honor/remembrance of Enrique "Kiki" Camarena who was a DEA agent captured by a drug cartel he was trying to bring to justice. Kiki was killed by the cartel and Red Ribbon Week is in honor of his memory.

Both Michelle and Richie shared moving experiences which were not only emotional for them but also clearly impacted some of our students in an emotional way. Please know we are here to support your children and also NJCARES is as well. If you find your child needs support from us based on this message or you would like more information from NJCARES, please email me or Mrs. Vernon (mdostilio@wtps.org or jvernon@wtps.org) so we can properly support your child.

Thank you for entrusting your children with us. If you would like to know more about the assembly and its contents, please email me those questions as well or simply call.

Have a wonderful rest of the week, Bulldog Families.

Sincerely,



Mike D'Ostrifio