**October is Bullying Prevention Month**

October is National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month. It’s a time when anti-bullying activities take place in schools and communities throughout the country. The Grinnell Community School District has planned some activities to promote Bullying Prevention Month and our Olweus Anti-Bullying Program.

STOMP Out Bullying™, the leading national anti-bullying and cyberbullying organization for kids and teens, created Blue Shirt Day® World Day of Bullying Prevention™. Always observed on the first Monday of every October, this year, October 1st, they ask students, schools, parents and businesses to GO BLUE on that day by wearing a blue shirt. Use your voice and send a message that this is the day that bullying prevention is heard around the world. Change the Culture!

**Since October 1st is a professional development day for the Grinnell Schools, we will observe GO BLUE on Wednesday, October 3rd. Please wear blue to promote bullying prevention.**

**What is the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program?**

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| With over thirty-five years of research and successful implementation all over the world, OBPP is a whole-school program that has been proven to prevent or reduce bullying throughout a school setting.  **All students and adults participate**  The *Olweus Bullying Prevention Program* is designed for students in elementary, middle, and junior high schools (students ages five to fifteen years old). Research has shown that OBPP is also effective in high schools, with some program adaptation. All students participate in most aspects of the program, while students identified as bullying others, or as targets of bullying, receive additional individualized interventions.  **Program Goals**  The *Olweus Bullying Prevention Program* is designed to improve peer relations and make schools safer, more positive places for students to learn and develop. Goals of the program include:   * reducing existing bullying problems among students * preventing the development of new bullying problems * achieving better peer relations at school   **Outcomes of the Program**  Statistics show how successful implementation of the *Olweus Bullying Prevention Program* can reduce school bullying. Outcomes have included:   * Fifty percent or more reductions in student reports of being bullied and bullying others. Peer and teacher ratings of bullying problems have yielded similar results. * Significant reductions in student reports of general antisocial behavior such as school bullying, vandalism, school violence, fighting, theft, and truancy. * Significant improvements in the classroom social climate as reflected in students' reports of improved order and discipline, more positive social relationships, and more positive attitudes toward school, work, and school. * Greater support for students who are bullied, and stronger, more effective interventions for students who bully. |