

ZACHARY J. LONGYEAR
Principal

Skowhegan Area Middle School

KELLY CROOM
MATTHEW BIGELOW
School Counseling Office

DOUGLAS E. MCEWEN
Assistant Principal

DEBBIE LANCASTER
School Nurse

Dear Parent or Guardian,

In MSAD 54, we believe school should be a place where everyone feels safe, welcome, and respected for who they are. It was with this in mind that we sent home a letter last year about Bias-Based Harassment, specifically addressing behavior that targets (directly or indirectly) individuals based on their race and skin color, national origin and ancestry, religion, disabilities, gender and sexual orientation. This fall, staff at the middle school and high school participated in a civil rights training and have begun work with Somerset Public Health and the Gorman Foundation to become a Trauma Informed Campus. This work will equip the staff with resources to recognize and respond to students with traumatic stress.

It is with this theme in mind that we have elected to host Rachel's Challenge presentations for our Skowhegan Area High School and Middle School students. On September 16 and 17, 2019, students will be attending an assembly about Rachel Scott. Rachel was the first victim of the Columbine High School tragedy in 1999. Through promoting Rachel Scott's message and legacy of challenging everyone to treat others with kindness and compassion, this program connects to our work of creating trauma informed classrooms and our dedication to the belief that schools should be a place where everyone feels safe, welcome, and respected for who they are. These presentations will take place in the high school auditorium.

Skowhegan Area Middle School students will attend the presentation on Monday September 16th. Skowhegan Area High School students will attend the presentation on Tuesday September 17th. The content of each presentation will vary depending upon the grade level. As an extension of the presentation, there will be a Friends of Rachel training for up to 100 students and 10 staff members at the high school with the Rachel's Challenge staff. This will occur for middle school students on the afternoon of Monday, September 16th, and for high school students on the afternoon of Tuesday, September 17th. We invite you to attend a community viewing of the presentation on Tuesday, September 17th at 6:30 in the high school auditorium. To learn more about the incredible young woman Rachel Scott was or the Rachel's Challenge program, we recommend going to www.rachelschallenge.org.

We are excited to offer this opportunity to our students and our community. Our vision is to inspire students to treat others with kindness, compassion, and respect within our school community so everyone is safe, welcome, and respected for who they are.

If you'd like more information about the presentation or its content, or would like to discuss any aspect of this program, do not hesitate to reach out to the administration at Skowhegan Area High School (474-5511) or Skowhegan Area Middle School (474-3339).

Sincerely,



Zachary Longyear
Principal

Skowhegan Area Middle School

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Attitude² + Behavior² = Commitment²