

Student Support Services-Mercer

Issue 1.3

Trenton Family Festival!

On Saturday, September 23rd, our team attended the Trenton Family Festival sponsored by First Lady of New Jersey, Tammy Murphy. While a blustery and rainy day, the festival was bustling with excited guests eager to learn about all Jersey has to offer its residents. Our team of Prevention Consultants mingled with colleagues from across the county and provided information on NJ4S to students and families. Through generous donations, the team was able to offer a variety of school bags to students. Disney Princess-themed bags, Spider-man, and Minecraft proved to be most popular.

Spotlight on Tier 1 Services

Thursday, October 26th starts a new bi-weekly program at [Trenton Public Library](#) on Brad Meltzer's *Ordinary People Change the World* series. Students, and their caregivers, in grades Pre-K – 3rd, are invited to spend their afternoon, **from 4-5pm**, learning more about courageous everyday heroes who changed the world. Our team of Prevention Consultants will start the series reading the stories of Helen Keller, Frida Kahlo, Rosa Parks, and Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor in honor of Spanish Heritage Month and National Bullying Prevention Month.



October is National Bullying Prevention Month

In 2006, the [Pacer Center](#) created [National Bullying Prevention Month](#) in response to the growing bullying epidemic. The initial campaign was developed to raise awareness about bullying and emphasize how it “can leave devastating and often long-term effects such as a loss of self-esteem, increased anxiety, and depression for those involved.” For more information on the history of the Bullying Prevention movement, go to <https://www.pacer.org/bullying/nbpm/history.asp>.

To make a referral for these services on behalf of a community organization or school, please contact our office at (609) 394-5157, and for further information on services provided through the NJ4S- Mercer hub, contact Hub Director, Michael Lovaglio at ext. 2149 or via email at MLovaglio@cctrenton.org.

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Resource Recommendation



<https://www.stompoutbullying.org/press/marvel-entertainment-and-stomp-out-bullying-team-up>

Though nearly a decade old, the October 2014 collaboration between Stomp Out Bullying and Marvel Comics still holds up. The variant comic book covers showcasing Marvel superheroes intervening in acts of bullying range from humorous to hysterical. Hulk's expression when consoling a boy as his peers stand to the side pointing and laughing at him, in Hulk #7, is priceless! More so, it reminds readers that power, whether earned or bestowed, is responsibility; and the capacity to empathize often shapes how one wields their power.

[**"Bullies mocked his shoes. His friend, 12, got him a new pair with his own allowance"**](#)

Empathy is king in a November 2022 article in *The Washington Post*. Sydney Page reports on a Buffalo, NY 7th grader who used his allowance to buy his best friend a pair of \$135.00 Nike Dunks.

[**"Is Workplace Bullying a Genuine Phenomenon?"**](#)

"Bullying doesn't refer to just any type of social cruelty, however; it's specifically when an individual or group repeatedly and deliberately attacks a less powerful person," explains Elizabeth Englander in this June 2023 *Atlantic* article.

[**"Not all unkindness is bullying. Here's why we need to teach kids to differentiate"**](#)

In this 2018 Perspective for *The Washington Post*, Braden Bell defines bullying and explains the differences, often subtle between unkind, often hurtful actions, and bullying. In addition, Bell maintains the theme that a capacity to empathize is the most effective combatant, and often solution to, bullying.

Have a Resource Recommendation? Send Michael an email at MLovaglio@cctrenton.org