

May is PeaceBuilders Month in Bourne

BOURNE COURIER

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BOURNE, MA —

The selectmen and the school committee in Bourne have proclaimed May **PeaceBuilders** Month and will be taking the **PeaceBuilders** Pledge at each meeting in May, led by children from the Bourne elementary schools.

Bourne students will be attending workshops and other events throughout the month.

PeaceBuilders is the violence prevention and character education youth program approved for the federally funded Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act.

Bourne residents can support this initiative by posting and saying the **PeaceBuilders** Pledge with your organization and/or co-workers on a daily basis, as Bourne elementary students have recently begun doing. You can also show your support by sponsoring and/or funding **PeaceBuilders** workshops, children's events, and implementation tools and materials for our schools.

You can read the pledge and learn more about **PeaceBuilders** Month by visiting bourne.k12.ma.us online.

Several workshops are open to the public: A presentation by Barnstable County Assistant District Attorney Jennifer McNulty on the legal ramifications of Cyberbullying on Wednesday, May 12 at the Bourne Middle School; Computer Monitoring Skills Training for Parents by Barbara Lavoine, Bourne School Director of Technology, on Wednesday, May 17 at the middle school; a presentation by renowned cyberbullying expert Dr. Elizabeth Englander from the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center at Bridgewater State College on Tuesday, May 25 at the middle school; and a community book club discussion on Jodi Picoult's book "19 Minutes" at the Jonathan Bourne Library on Monday, May 17.

Bullying is repeated and deliberate harassment directed by one in a position of power toward one or more. It can involve physical threats or behaviors, including assault, or indirect and subtle forms of aggression, including rumor spreading. Cyberbullying is the intentional and repeated harm inflicted through the use of computers, cell phones and other electronic devices. Harassment is defined as unsolicited words or actions intended to annoy, alarm, or abuse another individual.

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