



**Department of
Education**

Dennis M. Walcott, Chancellor

October 2013

Dear Parents and Families,

I am pleased to announce an important new resource for you and your child that will help us work together to keep our schools free from discrimination, harassment, intimidation and/or bullying, including cyberbullying.

In tandem with the beginning of National Bullying Prevention Month, on October 1, the New York City Department of Education launched a new online Respect For All library, which provides valuable resources about bullying, cyberbullying, and respect for diversity for you and your children.

The library offers a wealth of resources including:

- bullying prevention and intervention tips
- internet guidelines for families
- information for parents and families on how to help your child feel connected to school
- information on protecting your child from cyberbullying
- a parent guide to preventing and responding to prejudice
- information on what to do if your child exhibits bullying behaviors
- guidance on how to report concerns to your child's school

I encourage you to explore this website at <http://schools.nyc.gov/RulesPolicies/RespectforAll> and to download a copy of the Respect For All brochure.

Our partnership with you is imperative as we must work together to ensure that important issues like these are addressed at school and reinforced at home. To that end, I am pleased to invite you to participate in our third annual **Parents as Partners Week** which begins this Saturday, October 5. Seven events across five boroughs will offer opportunities for parents to learn more about their children's education and changes in our schools, including the new Common Core Standards. Building upon our bullying prevention and awareness efforts, we will feature a screening of the acclaimed documentary *Bully* on Tuesday, October 8. In addition, on Thursday, October 10, I will be addressing parents and families at a celebratory Parents as Partners Week event. Please register for any of these events by visiting the Parents and Families page on our website at <http://schools.nyc.gov/ParentsFamilies> or by calling 212-374-4118.

Teaching children to respect others is a shared responsibility. As schools across the country engage children in activities related to National Bullying Prevention Month, I urge you to use the resources in the Respect For All library and to engage your children and family in meaningful discussions about bullying and respect at home.

If you have questions or concerns regarding bullying, or if your child witnesses such behavior, please contact your school's principal, assistant principal, parent coordinator, or a Respect For All Liaison. If you need additional assistance, please email RespectForAll@schools.nyc.gov. **Any student who believes that he or she has been the victim of bullying should report the incident to the school's Respect For All Liaison or to any other school staff member immediately.**

Thank you for your continued support of your child's education. Please be assured that we are committed to ensuring that your child learns in a safe and supportive environment.

Sincerely,

Dennis M. Walcott