

# News Release

## Springhurst Elementary School Recognized by Anti-Defamation League as a 2013-2014 “No Place For Hate” School

*ADL Presents Award to Springhurst on Behalf of School's Anti-Bullying Initiatives*

**Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., May 29, 2014**— Springhurst Elementary School has been selected by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) as a **2013-2014 “No Place for Hate” School** in recognition of its efforts to develop a school-wide environment of dignity and respect. This award will be announced with a banner presentation to the staff and students immediately following the fourth grade anti-bullying musical performance of ***ALL THE SAME***, which begins at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 29th.

As a member of the Dignity Act's Task Force and Professional Development committee, ADL New York recognized up to 100 schools throughout New York State and northern New Jersey for the 2013-2014 school year through its No Place For Hate® program. This award reaffirms Springhurst's anti-bully initiatives, which includes the production of *ALL THE SAME*. The show features five original songs composed by Springhurst music teacher and Harmonaires' Choral Director George Swietlicki, (book & lyrics by DF parent Laurence Holzman and Felicia Needleman) and tells the story of a young boy who manages to put an end to bullying in his school in a rather unexpected way. Last year's video promo of the musical went viral and the show is back by popular demand.

No Place For Hate is designed to enhance a culture of respect and to create a safe, bully-free learning environment for students at all grade levels. In compliance with the Dignity Act, No Place For Hate offers schools the opportunity to be recognized for their staff development and student training related to bullying, harassment and discrimination.

“When Superintendent Lisa Brady forwarded the No Place for Hate initiative to me it seemed like a perfect fit for Springhurst, as we have been working to develop a school-wide environment of dignity and respect for many years,” said Springhurst Assistant Principal Lisa Doty. Some of these efforts include:

- Exploring the ideals of "The Responsive Classroom," including "Morning Meeting" (which began over ten years ago)
- Developing a PBIS team of staff members to design and implement a school-wide PBIS approach to expected school behaviors (Springhurst ROCKS)
- Participating annually in national "Stomp Out Bullying" Day including anti-bullying discussions and students wearing blue shirts
- Students pledging to treat others with respect and kindness
- School-wide read aloud of Kathryn Otoshi's "One" with follow-up discussion and activities,
- Second graders re-enacting the book "One" at their spring musical performance
- School-wide "Building Bridges - Celebrating Differences" -- a disability awareness program designed to foster a school-wide community with an emphasis on acceptance, compassion, understanding, and inclusion

- Fourth grade anti-bullying musical performance of *ALL THE SAME*
- Student Government efforts to curtail bullying, including 'EveryONE Counts' t-shirts
- Classroom lessons to increase student's anti-bullying and conflict resolution strategies
- Grade-wide literacy units addressing bullying

As part of these activities, last June Mr. Swietlicki took his show on-the-road and Springhurst Elementary School joined forces with Concord Road Elementary School in Ardsley in the war against bullying. Dobbs Ferry 4th graders performed *ALL THE SAME* for Concord Road Elementary School students in a first-time collaborative anti-bullying event. Click on the link below to view the promo video of *ALL THE SAME* (produced and directed by DF parent Ed Nammour).

“Every one of these anti-bullying initiatives is an important step in combatting bullying and creating a safe and positive environment for students to learn and thrive,” said Springhurst Principal Julia Drake. “We are so honored to be named a ‘No Place For Hate’ school and I want to thank the Anti-Defamation League for their recognition and support.”

According to the ADL’s website, the Anti-Defamation League is the nation’s premier civil rights/human relations agency. The organization was founded in 1913 to fight anti-Semitism and all forms of bigotry, defend democratic ideals and protect civil rights for all.

Link to promo video of *ALL THE SAME* <https://vimeo.com/67126263>

**For more information, please contact:**

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