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DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL SERVICES  
Township of Union Public Schools  
M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M

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TO: Greg Tatum  
C: Julia Vicidomini, Diane Cappiello  
FROM: Joseph Seugling   
RE: Board Agenda  
DATE: 2017-04-03

The committee recommends and I so move that the board approve the following:

- Project Unify Field Day proposal
- Respect Week Campaign

Attached please find documents describing each item.

**Diana Schraer**

**Burnet Middle School**

**Project Unify Grant - Field Day Proposal**

Every year schools in our district work closely with Project Unify & The Special Olympics Foundation. For the fourth consecutive year the Board of Education has approved our Project Unify Grant allowing us to continue to make strides with our inclusion sports programs and activities. Grants have been provided to Burnet Middle School, Union High School, Kawameeh Middle School and Jefferson School. Foundational programs have been in progress or are just beginning in these schools and our goal, ultimately, is to include a Project Unify or Special Olympics program or activity in every school in Union Township.

The grant allows the school district to promote inclusion of disabled and non-disabled students through physical education, peer activities, and unified sports. In addition, the grant provides monies necessary for schools to plan and implement programs where students work together to compete and play. The long term goal is for districts to create a lifelong plan in which they can implement teams, practices and coaches that support these Unified Events.

Initially, Project Unify started with Burnet Middle and during our second year, we expanded our resources, participants, programs, and schools to include Union High School and Jefferson. This year Kawameeh has received grant monies building our district's Project Unify numbers.

Many people in our community share a common love for Play Unified Special Olympics. This year we will be taking the grant one step further. We hope to include disabled vets of NJ, parents of attending students, and the Union Township Police Department. As we continue to build our community of parents and students in our schools, we hope to spread the word of inclusion and acceptance throughout the town.

**Respect Week Campaign –**

**May 12<sup>th</sup> – UHS / KMS/ Burnet / Jefferson – Assembly**

This assembly will be used to kick off our Disabilities Awareness Campaign. This assembly will provide guest speakers and information to all students throughout these schools. The purpose is to show the importance of accepting others. It will be used to kick off our spirit week in which we hope to spread awareness and bring the student population closer together.

Spirit Week – May 15<sup>th</sup> – May 19<sup>th</sup>

Disabilities Awareness Week

“Attitudes are the Real Disability”

Have you ever questioned whether or not you should open the door for someone ahead of you who is in a wheelchair? Or have you felt uncomfortable sitting next to someone with an apparent physical disability? These experiences are very common and ones that many of us have worked through. The need for people to be educated about people living with disabilities is ever growing in our society. At some point in all of our lives, we will be confronted with a situation where we will have to serve the needs of someone who has a disability. Sadly, stereotypes and prejudice impact the way in which we interact with and serve others who have disabilities. Discrimination and negative attitudes towards people with disabilities come from a general lack of information and misunderstanding about who these people are. More information must be provided focusing on the best practices for serving their unique needs as individuals.

In an effort to educate more people in our school district, Burnet Middle School is hosting their first ever Disabilities Awareness Week. We hope to promote awareness to our student population to help educate them about appropriate attitudes and interactions needed when serving people with disabilities.



## Disabilities Awareness Week



May 15<sup>th</sup> – May 19<sup>th</sup>

### **Teachers:**

### **Disabilities Awareness Week – Week of Respect**

Disabilities Awareness Week is a time where people pay particular attention to children and adults with learning disabilities. During this month, we ask each of you to teach your homeroom something new about learning disabilities. You could, for example, show a small YouTube clip or share an interesting article. You could talk about personal experiences etc. We ask that all teachers and students participate in our Spirit Week to promote awareness and acceptance of all disabilities.

Please read the following to your homeroom on Friday May 12<sup>th</sup>.

Next Week Will Be Our Disabilities Awareness Week – Please participate to show your support!!!.

Monday May 15<sup>th</sup> – Pajama Day / Sweat Pants Day (BMS) – So We Can All Step Out Of Our Comfort Zone

## Disabilities Awareness Week



May 15<sup>th</sup> – May 19<sup>th</sup>

### Teachers:

Please read the following to your homeroom on Tuesday - May 16<sup>th</sup>.

### Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>

- *Theme of the day: Teamwork!*
  - Wear your favorite sports jersey to show you're a *TEAM* player
  - Lion's loot will be distributed today for students who wear something team inspired and who are team players throughout the day
  - Team player examples: Be cooperative, not competitive, listen to your peers, be respectful to everyone, follow directions, and much more!

**Teamwork Quotes:** "The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a dime." - **Babe Ruth**

### Home Room:

**Hearing impairments** include everything from not being able to hear certain sounds to being totally deaf. In most cases, a hearing loss doesn't simply mean that sounds are not loud enough. It usually means that sounds are garbled or unclear. A hearing aid may make speech louder, but usually will not make speech clearer.

### Activity 1 - Not being able to hear

**You need:** a pair of ear plugs for each student, a computer with sound, I-pod, fan or anything else that can make "white noise".

### What to do:

Show students how to put in the earplugs .

Put on the "white noise". If using a TV, put it on a station with no reception and turn up the volume — loud enough to be distracting. If using a radio, set it between stations so you only hear static. If using a fan, turn it up on high. Read a long newspaper article or book passage. Read rapidly, using a soft voice, mumbling monotone, running words together and pausing in odd places. Ask students 5 questions about the content of what you read. Continue talking quickly in a soft, mumbling voice. Remove ear plugs, turn off white noise and discuss (in a normal voice) how not being able to hear clearly felt.

**Reminder:** Wednesday May 17<sup>th</sup> - Crazy Hair Day/Mismatch! – It is Ok to Look Different!!!!

## Disabilities Awareness Week



May 15<sup>th</sup> – May 19<sup>th</sup>

### Teachers:

Please read the following to your homeroom on Monday - May 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Theme of the Day – Pajama Day / Sweat Pant Day (BMS)

- Lets all Step Out Of Our Comfort Zone and Learn about Students With Different Disabilities.
- Wear your pajama gear to show your support for Students and Adults with Disabilities.
- Let's Be Comfortable with being Uncomfortable –as we spread awareness of disabilities this week.
- Please hand out Lion's Loot to those who participate.

### Home Room:

**Communication disorders** are disabilities that keep a person from being able to speak or make their speech understood. This can be caused by many different disabilities or injuries. Some people with difficulty speaking may use sign language, gestures or small pictures they carry with them.

### Activity 1 - Different words

If you have students in your class who speak a different language, have them stand in front of the class and say one sentence in their language. Have the class try to guess what was said.

If you have more than one student who speaks the same foreign language, have them carry on a short conversation. Then have the class try to decide what was said. Discuss how it feels to not be able to understand something. How quickly did the class give up? What are some other ways they could have tried to communicate? How is this similar to people with disabilities that can talk but are hard to understand?

**Reminder:** Tuesday May 16<sup>th</sup> - Jersey Day! To Show We Are Working As A Team When Accepting Disabilitie

## Disabilities Awareness Week



May 15<sup>th</sup> – May 19<sup>th</sup>

### Teachers:

Please read the following to your homeroom on Wednesday May 17<sup>th</sup>.

### Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>

- *Theme of the day: Crazy Hair Day / Mismatch*
  - It is ok to look different!!!!
  - Students will receive lion's loot throughout the day for the craziest hair or mismatched outfits you see!!!!

**“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. “**

**Home Room:** There are a large variety of different **physical disabilities**, all of which can range from a mild problem to complete immobility. Many people will have more than one disability, such as not being able to use their legs or hands.

### Activity 1 - In a wheelchair (Chair)

Use a chair. Have each student take a turn sitting in the chair. Have them try different activities:

- Try Reaching for things on a book shelf
- Kicking a Ball
- Throwing a ball from a seated position
- Writing on the chalk board / smart board

Think about what it would be like :

- Going through the lunch line
- Getting a book off the top shelf in the library
- Playing a game in the gym or playground (soccer, basketball, chase, etc.)
- Going to the bathroom
- Going through an outside door
- Being in a group where everyone else is standing up

Discuss how being in the wheelchair felt. What would have made things better?

**Reminder: Thursday May 18<sup>th</sup> WEAR BLUE – AUTISM AWARENESS DAY!!!**



## Disabilities Awareness Week



May 15<sup>th</sup> – May 19<sup>th</sup>

### Teachers:

Please read the following to your homeroom on Thursday May 18<sup>th</sup> .

### Thursday – May 18<sup>th</sup>

*Theme of the day:* Wear Blue

- Hand out Lion's Loot to students who wear Blue ☺
- **Today is Autism Awareness Day – Talk to Student's About Autism and help spread awareness.**

**Autism** is a developmental disability that usually appears during the first three years of life. The cause is unknown. It affects how a person's brain works, but not all people with autism are affected the same way. When a person has autism, they may have problems:

- letting you know what they want;
- thinking;
- understanding what other people say or want;
- ignoring sounds;
- ignoring things or people that are moving;
- ignoring lights;
- being touched;
- understanding social rules;
- showing affection;
- controlling their feelings;
- knowing how to play with other kids; and
- dealing with changes.

Autism is a "spectrum disorder." That means that not everyone with autism has all the problems. One person may have three of the problems listed while another person has only one. Some people with autism struggle to learn. Other people with autism are very smart and can do complicated math when they are 3 years old. Some people with autism have trouble being touched while others like to hug.

Many people with autism like to do things in the same order all the time and have things arranged the same way. This helps them stay calm.

Other people with autism have a very hard time ignoring noises, especially if they are upset or in a new situation. They may try to calm themselves by rocking, moaning, talking loudly or even screaming. The moaning, talking or screaming helps them drown out the other noises so they can calm down. They may also try to go under a desk or in a small, dark place where they feel safer.

**Friday – May 19<sup>th</sup> – Wear Maroon or Respect Week Shirt To Show Spirit & Pride of Accepting Others With Disabilities**

## Disabilities Awareness Week



May 15<sup>th</sup> – May 19<sup>th</sup>

### Teachers:

Please read the following to your homeroom on Friday May 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Home Room - Vision impairments** include things like being near-sighted or far-sighted that are correctable with glasses. It can also mean more serious problems like blindness or problems that are only helped a little by glasses.

### Activity 1- Blindness

#### Home Room - You need:

A good blindfold.

A room with several occupied chairs and one or more vacant chairs. Put odd obstacles on the way to the chair, and/or face the chair in an unexpected direction. Leave the door halfway open.

#### What to do

Explain that you will need 2 students - a “guide” and a “blind person.” You will be re-arranging the room. The guide’s job is to help the blind person come into the room and go to the chair without running into anything. They can tell them how to do it and can also touch them to help guide their way.

Make sure the blindfold is on and foolproof. Send the 2 volunteers into the hall and re-arrange the room. The vacant chair should not be too easy to get to.

**Hint:** Most “guides” grab the blind person and push them around. This usually results in the “blind” person running into things. “Guides” usually don’t describe the path, and say “look out” instead of “stop” at major obstacles. When the chair is reached, “guides” usually spin the “blind” person around and push them into the seat, then leaves without explanation.

Thank you for your support in Disabilities Awareness Week!!!

## Announcements:

### Friday May 12<sup>th</sup>

In an effort to educate more people in our district, Burnet Middle School is hosting their annual Disabilities Awareness Week. We hope to promote awareness this week to our student population to help educate them about appropriate attitudes and interactions needed when serving people with disabilities.

- Also, Save 200 lions' loot and see Mrs. Pielech in Room 210 to participate in our Field Day on Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. First Come / First Serve – We have a limited amount of Spots
    - Tomorrow will be our first day of Disabilities Awareness Week – Participate by wearing Pajamas/Sweat Pants (BMS). Let's all step out of our comfort zone to learn about students with different disabilities.
    - Wear your Camo Gear and blend in with your classmates to show your support for Students and Adults with Disabilities.
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### Monday May 15<sup>th</sup>

*"Hard things are put in our way, not to stop us, but to call out our courage and strength."*  
*Unknown*

- Welcome to the Week of Respect! Today is Pajama Day/Sweat Pant Day (BMS)! We should be seeing lots of students excited to learn about support disabilities awareness week.

### Monday PM:

- Tomorrow is Teamwork day – wear your favorite team inspired shirt or jersey to show you're a team player. As a team we will work together to support students and adults with disabilities.
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## Tuesday May 16<sup>th</sup>

Quote: "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." **Helen Keller**

- Today is Teamwork Day! Hand out lions loot to students who are wearing jerseys or team inspired shirts

## Tuesday PM:

- Tomorrow is Crazy Hair Day/ mismatch!! It is ok to be different!!!!
- Interested in our Field Day? See Mrs. Pielech in Room 210 with 200 Lion's Loot ☺

## Wednesday May 17<sup>th</sup>

Quote - *"If we are to achieve a richer culture, we must weave one in which each diverse human gift will find a fitting place."* Margaret Meade

- Today is Crazy Hair Day/Mismatch!!!!!! It is ok to be different! We should accept everyone!

## Wednesday PM:

- Tomorrow is Wear Blue Day! National Autism Awareness Day

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## Thursday May 18<sup>th</sup>

Quote *"Know me for my abilities, not my disability."* Robert M. Hensel

- Today is Autism Awareness Day! Hand out loot for students dressed in Blue!
- Today is the LAST day to sign up for Field Day!!!! You need 200 lions loot.

## Thursday PM:

- Tomorrow is Spirit & Pride Day – Wear Maroon to Show Acceptance of Everyone with Disabilities

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**Friday AM – May 19<sup>th</sup>**

*Quote:*

*Hold my hand and walk with me.*

*We must break the back of social inequity;*

*We must empower every individual with a disability*

*To live with dignity in an inclusive society.*

*William E. Lightbourne*

- Today is Spirit & Pride Day – We Wear Maroon or Respect Week T shirt to Show Acceptance of Everyone with Disabilities
- ALL STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN FIELD DAY REPORT TO THE DOWNSTAIRS GYM AT 8:30am !!!!

**Photo Release**

Burnet Middle School

Permission to Use Photograph

- I grant the right to Special Olympics Play Unified and its representatives and employees to take photographs of my child and their property. I authorize the Township of Union and Special Olympics Project Unify the right to copyright, use and publish the same in print and/or electronically.

I agree that the Township of Union may use such photographs of my child with or without my name and for any purpose, including for example; such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertising, and Web content.

I have read and understand the above:

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

**Field Day – May 19<sup>th</sup> – (Rain Date May 22<sup>nd</sup>)**

Date: May 19<sup>th</sup>

Time- 9:15-1:30

Location: UHS Track & Field

**Guest Speakers/Guests:**

Special Olympics Athlete

Disabled Veterans

Rich Seubert (possible additional NYG players)

Project Unify – Susan Colleballo

**Donations:**

Special Olympics is donating T-shirts and a Banner for each School for the event.

Jersey Mikes – Donating Subs / Snacks

Union Police Department – DJ / Food / Water / Medal Donations

Shop Rite – Gift Card

Costco- Gift Card

Road Rules Driving School – Gift Card

**Student Involvement:**

Pielech -17 Special Ed - 30 Gen Ed (Special Olympic Club Members)

Meixner - 3 Special Ed - 200 (Key Club Members)

Pascucci - 12 Special Ed

Formica – 8 Special Ed – 22 Gen Ed (Leadership Club Members)

Tennan – 5 Spec Ed 20 Club Memebers

Royal – 7 Spec Ed -

ROTC – 25 Students

Teacher / Union Police / Disabled Vets / Guest / Parents = 50-100

Total – about 385 - 485

**Field Day – May 19<sup>th</sup> – (Rain Date May 22nd)**

Date: May 19<sup>th</sup>

Time- 9:15-1:30

Location: UHS Track & Field

**FIELD DAY SCHEDULE**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
<b>9:20 – 9:40</b>	<b>SET UP TEAMS IN BLEACHERS &amp; TEACHERS AND STUDENTS AT EVENTS</b>
<b>9:40-10:00</b>	<b>SPEAKERS</b>
<b>10:00 –10:10</b>	<b>EVENT 1</b>
<b>10:13-10:23</b>	<b>EVENT 2</b>
<b>10:26-10:36</b>	<b>EVENT 3</b>
<b>10:39-10:49</b>	<b>EVENT 4</b>
<b>10:52-11:02</b>	<b>EVENT 5</b>
<b>11:05-11:15</b>	<b>EVENT 6</b>
<b>11:18-11:28</b>	<b>EVENT 7</b>
<b>11:31-11:41</b>	<b>EVENT 8</b>
<b>11:44-11:54</b>	<b>EVENT 9</b>
<b>11:57-12:07</b>	<b>EVENT 10</b>
<b>12:15-12:50</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL SPEAKER / CLOSING CEREMONY</b>
<b>12:50 –</b>	<b>LUNCH &amp; KEY CLUB ACTIVITIES</b>
<b>1:00 –1:40</b>	<b>TUG OF WAR / ACTIVITIES</b>



OPENING CEREMONY

ATHLETES IN STANDS BY TEAMS (10 TEAMS  
OF 15)

ROTC PRESENT FLAGS

PLEDGE

NATIONAL ANTHEM

SPECIAL OLYMPIC GUEST SPEAKER

MS. FIO & START OF GAMES

## EVENTS / SCORING CHART / LOCATIONS

EVENT	SCORING	LOCATION
SPOON RACE	TIMED	TRACK BY BLEACHERS
POTATO SACK	TIMED	GOAL LINE
BUCKET STACK	TIMED	10 YARD LINE
WATER BALLOON	NO SCORE – FOR FUN	40 YARD LINE
BEAN BAG TOSS	POINTS – (5 THROWS EACH) = 50 THROWS	40 YARD LINE
WATER FILL	TIMED	10 YARD LINE
FOOTBALL THROW	POINTS – (3 THROWS EACH) = 30 THROWS	END ZONE
RELAY RACE	TIMED	TRACK BY FAR BLEACHERS
EVENT LONG JUMP	PERSONAL BEST (SPECIAL PRIZE)	LONG JUMP AREA
PARACHUTE	TIMED	SOFTBALL FIELD

## MATERIALS NEEDED

- POTATO SACK (4)
- BUCKET WITH FILL LINE
- SPONGES
- WATER BALLOONS
- CORN HOLE (2)
- BEAN BAGS (4)
- BATON
- SOCCER BALLS
- FOOTBALLS
- HULA HOOP
- CONES
- HARD BOILED EGGS (3DOZEN)
- SPOONS (5)
- STOP WATCHES / CELL PHONES (7)
- FLAGS & STICKS FOR EACH GROUP #

\*SPEAKER SYSTEM

## Donation Letter

Project Unify Burnet Middle School

1000 Caldwell Ave

Union, NJ 07083

Dear Friend,

We are once again planning our annual Special Olympics Play Unified Field Day to be held on May 19, 2017 at Union High School. Special Olympics Unified Strategy for Schools (formerly Project UNIFY) is an education and sports based strategy powered by an engaged youth community that increases athletic and leadership opportunities for students with and without intellectual disabilities, while creating communities of acceptance for all.

Students of all abilities have the power to positively impact their school communities by promoting social inclusion. Student leaders in Play Unified Inclusive Clubs sponsor Respect Weeks, R-word Campaigns, Disability Awareness Fairs, as well as act as ambassadors for inclusion and advocates for students with disabilities in their schools

The Play Unified Field Day attracts more attendees each year, but we depend on the added support of our friends in the business community who supply us with donations. Would you be willing to donate either a gift certificate, food, water or snacks from your business?

Play Unified's ability to continue to operate is due in large part to the generous support of individual donors who believe in our mission, as well as gifts from businesses and corporations. Feel free to give us a call at 201-693-3888 number with any questions or concerns. We thank you in advance for your support!

Best Regards,

Diana Pielech

Special Olympics Play Unified Coordinator

To Whom It May Concern,

We would like to invite you to Union Township's annual Play Unified Field Day. Thanks to the Board of Education approving our Play Unified Grant, we have been able to make huge strides with our inclusion sports activities. Since the approval of the Grant, we have been working very closely with Play Unified & The Special Olympics Foundation. On May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Township of Union will be hosting their annual Play Unified Field Day. This will celebrate our five day Respect Week to promote disability awareness throughout the district.

The field day will be held at the Union High School Track. A combination of special education and general education students will come together to compete in track and field events to show that Union Township is Unified Partners in Sports. Special guest speakers such as Special Olympic Athletes, Disabled Vets, Union Police Department, Former NY Giants players and Special Olympic Play Unified committee members will be present to support this event. This year we will be expanding our invitations to the parents of all students involved. Beverages, lunch and snack donations have been made to support this special event.

The field day will begin at 9:30am and should last until about 1:30pm. We look forward to seeing you there and hope you can share this very special day with us. Thanks for your support throughout the year.

Sincerely,

**The Play Unified Team**

Mrs. Pielech, , Ms. Damiano, Ms. Melchionna, Ms. Meixner, Ms. Flissler, Mrs. Fiodiolino, Mr. Pielech, Ms. Tennan and Ms. Formica

**Permission Slip:**



Dear Parents or Guardian,

On Friday May 19<sup>th</sup> 2017, we will be hosting a Special Olympics' Play Unified Field Day at UHS. We will be leaving Burnet at 9:15 and taking the bus to Union High School. At UHS, students will be participating in teams to compete in Field Day events. Guest Speakers from the New York Giants, Special Olympic Athletes, Disabled Vets, The Township of Union Police Department and Play Unified Foundation will be speaking at this event. Lunch will be donated by local community businesses. Water and Gatorade will also be provided for the students throughout the day.

This trip is free, everything is being provided by the Special Olympics' Play Unified Grant, local businesses & Union Police Department. This Special Olympics' Field Day is a part of a Disabilities Awareness Spirit Week and will end the week with this huge celebration. Students have been working hard on creating these events and I look forward to seeing the final results. Please send slip in by May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017. If I do not receive the slip by this date students will be not attending on this trip.

**\*\* We would like to invite family members who wish to attend this special event & show support towards our Unified Program. Please RSVP with the # of people attending. \*\***

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Family Members Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions, please contact me at [dpielech@twpunionschools.org](mailto:dpielech@twpunionschools.org)

Thank You. Mrs. Pielech & The Play Unified Team