

MYLCNOTES

October 14, 2011

From the left: Jessica Vitale, Miyuki Blois and Katie Henkel of MYLC participate in our Bullying Shirt Project at Stamford High School.

October 14, 2011



Who Are the Bullies in Your School?

Raising awareness of intensely personal issues

“People looked at my shirt and then looked me up and down,” said Miyuki Blois of the Mayor’s Youth Leadership Council (MYLC). “It was almost as if they were still passing judgment.”

That comment was fairly typical of the reactions to MYLC’s Bullying Shirt Project at Stamford High. “People

took a big risk wearing the shirts,” said Liz Coughlan, a member of MYLC who suggested the project. “We knew some people were going to give them a hard time.”

The project, which was borrowed from an episode of Glee, is one in a series that MYLC will implement during the 2011-2012 school year to

raise awareness of bullying. And we’re not talking about student on student bullying only. Yes, that is the only form of bullying included in Connecticut’s revised bullying law (PA 11-232), but members of MYLC want the Stamford school district to address other forms of bullying - student on adult, adult on adult and adult on student.



Photo left: Lauren Loffredo, Emma Waters, Keyri Aquino and Patricia Villanueva of MYLC participate in an interview with The Advocate as part of MYLC's Bullying Shirt Day.

In the photo below, a close up of the bullying shirts on Keyri and Patricia.



“We really like what we’ve read about school climate and the whole-school approach to safety,” said Liz. That’s why the members of MYLC were encouraged to read what Mike Meyer had to say about the school district’s policy on bullying.

“ ‘School climate is all-encompassing,’ said Meyer, the Stamford Schools’ Director of Student Support Services. He said (Stamford’s revised bullying policy) will cover instances where teachers bully students, administrators harass teachers, and parents harass teachers and

administrators.” *(Anthony Buzzeo, Stamford’s Bully Policy to Include Teachers, Daily Stamford, August 3, 2011)*

Next up on the bullying front is the *Post It Notes Project* at Stamford High. On October 21 members of MYLC will write inspiring words and phrases on post-it notes and place them on bathroom mirrors around the school. Other members will hold signs during passing time apologizing for bullying people in middle school.