



Department of  
Education  
Chancellor Richard A. Carranza

# Joseph B. Cavallaro

Intermediate School 281

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Respect for All Program is a NYC initiative that was established in order to help schools combat bullying and harassment. The goal of the program is to create within schools a community of inclusion, where everyone feels safe, valued and respected. Schools are working toward becoming places that are free of harassment and discrimination, where all students are safe, regardless of their race or perceived race, color, religion, disability, gender, weight, or other demographics.

Each year, the city highlights this notion during Respect for All Week, which will take place during the week of February 11<sup>th</sup>. Respect for All Week is a city wide campaign that promotes respect for diversity by giving students the opportunity to better understand the differences amongst individuals, and demonstrate acts of respect and kindness for one another. While we respect and value each other and our differences all year long, this week is meant to highlight and symbolize these values.

At I.S. 281, we are proud to announce that we will be hosting a number of events, in order to embody the spirit of this special week. The list of events in which students have the opportunity to participate is on the reverse side of this page. In addition to the daily events of that week, in the week prior, students will be encouraged to complete our "Hearts of Cavallaro" activity, in which they write about a moment where they acted selflessly, by doing something to help someone else. These hearts will be posted throughout the first floor hallway, to exemplify the caring nature and benevolence of the Cavallaro community.

Parents who have any questions about the Respect for All Program can contact the school's RfA Liaison, Ms. Lanigan, at ext. 3242. In addition, "Parent Guide to Bullying and Cyber Bullying" can be found in the main office, as well as other parent guides to help you address the needs of your children. Thank you for your continued support as we guide our students, your children, toward academic and personal success.

Sincerely,

Maria Bender, Principal

## Calendar of Events :

### **February 11<sup>th</sup>: "Pay It Forward Day"**

Respect for All Week Kick-Off will start with encouraging all students and staff to "Pay it Forward" by performing acts of kindness throughout the building. They can do something as simple as helping a classmate struggling with a task, or paying for the lunch or snack of the person standing in line behind them.

### **February 12<sup>th</sup>: "International Day"**

Students are encouraged to dress in the traditional attire of their culture or the colors of their country's flag. That evening we will have our Family Fun Night for the month of February, "P.J.'s, Popcorn and a Movie." Families are welcome to enjoy the evening in the auditorium together watching a fun winter classic from 6:00 – 8:00...Popcorn will be provided by the NIA ☺

### **February 13<sup>th</sup>: "Buddy Day"**

Students will be asked to focus on the positive relationships that are formed when they stay true to their unique selves, stand up for what's right and respect others for who they are. During lunch, students will be encouraged to introduce themselves to someone new...meet a new friend.

### **February 14<sup>th</sup>: "Wear Pink and Red Day"**

It is no coincidence that these colors are the colors of Valentine's Day. These are the traditional colors symbolizing love and compassion.

### **February 15<sup>th</sup>: "Cultural Food Day"**

Respect for All Week will end with giving our kids the chance to showcase the variety of cultures in our community. Students will be encouraged to bring in a food of their culture to share during their lunch periods.