

Durban Avenue students and staff joined Hopatcong Borough Schools in celebrating Start with Hello Week September 21-25, 2020 both in school and virtually. Start with Hello is an initiative of Sandy Hook Promise, a national nonprofit organization. Start with Hello week focuses on teaching students how to reach out to and include those who may be socially isolated, as well as how to create a culture of inclusion and connectedness within their school. School counselors kicked off the week by visiting classrooms and encouraging students to say hello to staff and peers. Mrs. Schuffenhauer talked with the kindergarten and first grade classes about greeting peers and staff members and smiling at others, because even with a mask on, a smile can be seen in a person's eyes. Students wore green to support Sandy Hook Promise and Hopatcong Pride! They performed Random Acts of Kindness throughout the week and read stories about accepting differences, including Wonder and Kindness is Cooler, Mrs. Ruler. Students also celebrated their great character on Character Day and showed support of Pediatric Cancer Awareness by wearing gold! Staff and students at Durban Avenue were excited to begin the year with a spirit week focused on kindness, reinforcing the Durban Avenue theme of Filling Buckets.



