

## News Release

### Dobbs Ferry High School Student Heads to Washington To Participate in Congressional Black Caucus Panel On Bullying

**Dobbs Ferry, N.Y, September 12, 2013**— Tenth grader Elena Brown has served as a Teen Ambassador for the national STOMP Out Bullying™ organization for the past two years and has been instrumental in bringing Blue Shirt Day™ World Day of Bullying Prevention to Dobbs Ferry High School. In recognition of her commitment and activism on this national issue, she has been invited to participate in a panel discussion on bullying at the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. on September 19<sup>th</sup>. The conference is a preamble to National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month in October.

Brown, who is representing the STOMP Out Bullying™ organization, will be joining Washington D.C. Public Schools Chancellor Kaya Henderson (who served on the task force that created Washington D.C.'s Youth bullying Prevention Act of 2012) and consultant/speaker/author Robert Jackson, author of the book *No More Excuses: Put a Stop to Bullying* in a discussion entitled "Speak Up, Stand Up- United Against Bullying." The moderator for the event, which also includes a Q & A, is scheduled to be DJ EZStreet from WKYS-FM in the national's capitol.

In addition to spearheading Blue Shirt Day™ World Day of Bullying Prevention activities at school (it's always observed on the first Monday in October), Brown recently appeared in Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to combat bullying, for FOX Sports Supports, which also features various sports celebrities. The PSAs are airing nationally on the network, as well as the STOMP Out Bullying™ website.

Brown explains that she always understood that bullying was wrong, but did not always realize all the ways that someone could be bullied. "Bullying is not just getting picked on physically, although it can be. I have learned that bullying can be subtle—such as isolating someone or making them feel left out. But the impact it has is not subtle—it can be devastating," she said. "I want to help others understand that bullying comes in all forms, but always at a high price." In 2012, Brown was honored with a Community Service Award from the Dobbs Ferry PTSA for her anti-bullying work.

Most recently, bullying was the main topic of the District's annual Superintendent's Conference Day, held right before the opening of school. All Dobbs Ferry faculty and staff viewed the 2011 film "BULLY." BULLY is the first feature documentary to show how we've all been affected by bullying, whether we've been victims, perpetrators or stood silent witness. After the screening, everyone broke into small discussion groups to address the emotional issues that were presented in the film, as well as review the important requirements for school staff as part of the New York

State Dignity for All Students Act (DASA). These conversations were facilitated by members of the District's DASA teams, counselors and other staff who have been involved in this professional development. You can find an excellent synopsis of the New York Dignity for All Students Act at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/dignityact>

According to Ross Ellis, Founder and CEO of STOMP Out Bullying™ (which created Blue Shirt Day™ World Day of Bullying Prevention) it is critical to educate students about the harmful effects of bullying and cyberbullying. "As students prepare to return to school, the one thing many are not looking forward to is being bullied. That is the reality for many victims at school, on playgrounds and online. In fact, some 13 million kids will be bullied this year in the United States." Ellis's organization is asking kids and adults alike to make Monday, October 7th, the day that bullying prevention is heard around the world by wearing a Blue Shirt in solidarity with STOMP Out Bullying™.

Recent Statistics Show:

- 1 out of 4 kids are Bullied
- 9 out of 10 LGBT students experience harassment at school
- Depending on their ages, up to 43% of kids and teens report being digitally harassed
- 8% of kids stay home from school each day due to the fear of being bullied

To learn more about helping your child or teen handle bullying or if your child is a bully, visit [www.stompoutbullying.org](http://www.stompoutbullying.org).

**For more information, please contact:**

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