



## “OWL” News from the Office of Student Services

*Who struggles with explaining “bad behavior?” .... We all do, that’s who.....!*

The topic of how we, as educators, talk about student behavior that violates the rules has been coming up in my “circle” a great deal this year. Part of the reason certainly is due to the fact that Ashland is seeing an increasing need to help students learn behavior regulation strategies so they can keep “calm bodies” and choose appropriate behaviors when feeling upset, anxious, angry or “out of sorts” and overstimulated. At every level, our schools are working hard to help students learn valuable skills for calming their bodies, from “Zones of Regulation” to mindfulness to restorative justice and insight oriented counseling. But what do we do for the students who are witness to the dysregulated student? How do we talk to them? Obviously, there is a moral component that comes into play. Taking away the rights of others or violating their safety is wrong. But who is behind the violation is critically important to keep in mind. Dr. Ross Greene, noted author and psychologist, writes there is no such thing as a bad child, and the behaviors seen are really a best attempt to get legitimate needs met. Dr. Greene has written *The Explosive Child, Lost at School and Raising Human Beings*, to name a few and each is a “must read.” We understand that we must be extremely careful when talking about a child who has violated a code of conduct. We are mindful it is the behavior that is wrong, and that the student clearly needs support to build skills to handle themselves in a pro-social way. So it is helpful to give observing students ways they can support the student who is behaving inappropriately; including planned ignoring, saying out loud that it isn’t okay, or offering an alternative behavior (tell your friend “when I am angry I count to 10”). It is very challenging to correct a student who publicly violates a social norm or code of conduct rule. However, we do want to model what this correction might look like so children can see what an intervention might include. We might say, “We have all decided that respect is a core value in this school and classroom. When you hit someone, respect is not being shown. Is there another way you can get what you need?” We do not want to shame a student or make them feel negatively about themselves. However, we do want them to know that a rule or social norm has been broken or violated. Thus we try to take the student aside privately to talk with them.

### *Seeking English Language Learner Parents for an Advisory Board*

Please help the district be better at programming for students who are learning English! Ashland seeks to start a parent advisory board for support and advocacy for our English Language Learners. The group will be parent led and how often it meets and the mission and vision will be decided by those who choose to participate. However, it will be incredibly helpful for parents to give Student Services feedback about how to support students who are learning English and potentially learning new cultural norms which are different from their family background. If you are interested please contact me at [ksilva@ashland.k12.ma.us](mailto:ksilva@ashland.k12.ma.us)

# Ask Student Services

This is a new section in the Owl News....Parents contact ASHPAC with questions and maybe one of yours will be featured and answered here in the Owl Newsletter.

**Question:** As a parent of a student placed in an out of district school, how can my student stay connected to his peers in Ashland?

**Answer:** That is an excellent question and I am so happy it has been asked. We want all students living in Ashland to feel a part of their school community. When students are placed in a school outside of the public district, the district still has an obligation to support their participate in any school sponsored extracurricular activity. So if you child was placed at an out of district school because of educational need, and your child wants to participate in (for example) KNO, or senior activities, or sports, let us know and we will work with you to see what supports are needed to make this a reality and a success. It is the responsibility of the parent to keep up with the district activities and to alert my office or the out of district coordinator, Robin Wurtzel, about any interest in an extracurricular activity. You may find activities listed and described on each school's webpage, or through their e-mailing listserve. Once I receive information about a student's interest in participating in an activity, I figure out what makes the most sense for supporting that student. Usually it involves making sure extra personnel are assigned and available for supporting the student at the activity. Sometimes it is making sure an accommodation is available for the student such as visual supports. We strive to be creative but honor our foundational belief that all students should experience meaningful inclusion in their community.

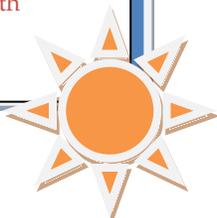


## "One More Award" Recipients



Congratulations to the  
following staff:

Bailey Wilkinson, Bethi  
Ledoux, Cassia Ashman,  
Chris Avery, Christian  
Robinson, Crystal Lupinski,  
Dan Powers, Erin Drake, Jodi  
Carmignani, Jonathan Parker,  
Josh Wiczer, Julie O'Coin,  
Katie Emberley, Lorraine  
McLaughlin, Mary Pederson,  
MaryLou DeStefano, Portia  
Pisello, Sharon Remsen,  
Megan Smith



## ASHPAC news...



We sincerely hope your family's school year is off to a great start. There are so many activities happening at this time! Please reach out to our members (all parent volunteers) if you have questions or just need a friendly ear! We can be contacted through our website ([www.ashpac.org](http://www.ashpac.org)) and by email.

**Kristine Kaveney**, Co-Chair: [kriskaveney@yahoo.com](mailto:kriskaveney@yahoo.com)

**Jill Fulhan**, Co-Chair, Secretary, Communications: [jill.fulhan@verizon.net](mailto:jill.fulhan@verizon.net)

**Elizabeth Souppa**, Vice-Chair: [esouppa.ashpac@gmail.com](mailto:esouppa.ashpac@gmail.com)

**Diana Davis**, Vice-Chair: [diana.davis.ashpac@gmail.com](mailto:diana.davis.ashpac@gmail.com)

**Anna Bukina**, Treasurer, Web site Coordinator: [a.v.bukina@aol.com](mailto:a.v.bukina@aol.com)

We welcome feedback to help us provide programming that supports your needs and answers your questions. Our workshops and meetings are free and open to everyone!

### ASHPAC Upcoming Calendar of Events

October 30, 2019	Mindess Parent Coffee (Cafeteria, 9-10) with Student Services
<b>October 30, 2019</b>	<b>ASHPAC Workshop</b> , Basic Rights: Transition Planning for students 14-22. Presented by Leslie Leslie, Federation for Children with Special Needs.
November 5, 2019	AMS Parent Coffee (Activity Room, 9-10) with Student Services
November 6, 2019	ASHPAC Monthly Board Meeting (AMS Activity room, 7-9)
November 19, 2019	ASHPAC Workshop: Social Emotional Learning in the Ashland Public Schools, presented by Jen Cutler, Director of Counseling and Social Emotional Learning