

Miller Place Union Free School District

7 Memorial Drive, Miller Place, New York 11764-2036

Telephone: (631) 474-2700

Fax:(631) 474-0686

Board of Education

Johanna Testa, President

Noelle Dunlop, Trustee

Keith Frank, Trustee

Lisa Reitan, Trustee

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Marianne F. Cartisano

Deputy Superintendent

Seth A. Lipshie

Assistant Superintendent

Susan G. Craddock

Executive Director for

Educational Services

Sandra A. Wojnowski

Re: Health Lessons – Personal Safety

Dear Parents and Guardians:

In August 2019, the New York State Governor signed Erin’s Law, mandating the teaching of child sexual abuse and exploitation prevention to students in grades K-8 in all public schools. Erin’s Law is named for Erin Merryn, a sexual abuse survivor, author, and advocate. Erin’s Law is intended to help children, teachers, and parents in New York State (NYS) schools identify warning signs of sexual abuse, and to provide awareness, assistance, referral, or resources for children and families who are victims of child sexual abuse or exploitation. The NYS Education Department (NYSED) Erin’s Law website can be found at <http://www.nysed.gov/curriculum-instruction/erins-law>.

This year for students in the Laddie A. Decker Sound Beach School the prevention-oriented lessons will include age-appropriate instruction on defining the wide range of behaviors and experiences related to understanding that their body is theirs, unsafe touches, safe and unsafe secrets, personal boundaries, online safety, and finding a safe adult if confronted with a potentially unhealthy or unsafe situation. Student Behavior Counselors will be providing the instruction, throughout the months of April and May. The New York State Mandate does not allow for parents to opt their children out of the lessons presented.

It is important to help students identify trusted adults at home, in the community, and at school. Having these open discussions will provide the students with strategies and appropriate language to discuss these sensitive matters. Please talk to your child at home about who they should go to if there is an emergency situation, and they need help from an adult. The NYSED has developed a resource grid to serve as a guide when discussing these topics with your child, as well as to gain a better understanding of Erin’s Law and how it is intended to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation. The guide can be found at <http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/curriculum-instruction/erins-law-family-resources.pdf>.

Thank you for your assistance and support in educating our children regarding the important topic of Personal Safety. If you have any questions about the Erin’s Law lessons, please contact your child’s principal.

Sincerely,

Susan G. Craddock