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Rachel's Challenge

Each day 160,000 students do not go to school because they are bullied, teased and harassed. By turning the story of a tragic death at Columbine High School into a mission for change, Rachel's Challenge is helping create safer learning environments and making a world-wide impact. On Monday, October 28th, St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School will be partnering with the Waterloo Region Suicide Prevention Council as well as the Cambridge Sunrise Rotary Club, and other community partners to bring Rachel's Challenge to our Community. It is intended to start a chain reaction of kindness within our community.

Rachel's Challenge exists to equip and inspire individuals to replace acts of violence, bullying and negativity with acts of respect, kindness and compassion. The program is based on the writings and life of 17 year-old Rachel Scott who was the first victim of the Columbine school shootings in 1999. Rachel left a legacy of reaching out to those who were different, who were picked on by others, or who were new at her school. Shortly before her death she wrote,



"I have this theory that if one person can go out of their way to show compassion, then it will start a chain reaction of the same. People will never know how far a little kindness can go."

Rachel's Challenge was started by Rachel's dad and stepmom, Darrell and Sandy Scott when they realized that the writings and drawings Rachel left not only had an impact on her friends and classmates, but also resonated with students around the world. Although Rachel was a typical teenager who wrote about her "ups and downs," she had a passion and conviction that she would someday change the world. The Scott family knew her story and passion had to be told to inspire others to make their world a better place. Our speaker will be Rachel's uncle, Larry Scott.

More than 19 million people have been touched by Rachel's message, and they continue the legacy of making a difference in their communities. Each year at least 2 million more people experience Rachel's Challenge and have the opportunity to accept the challenges modeled after Rachel's life and writings.

Parents are encouraged to join us to hear Rachel's Challenge on Monday October 28 at 6:30 in the St. Benedict CSS Cafeteria

Please be aware that the presentation is suggested for mature students in grade 7 or higher due to the context from Rachel's life.

For more information visit Rachel's Challenge website at <u>www.rachelschallenge.org</u>







