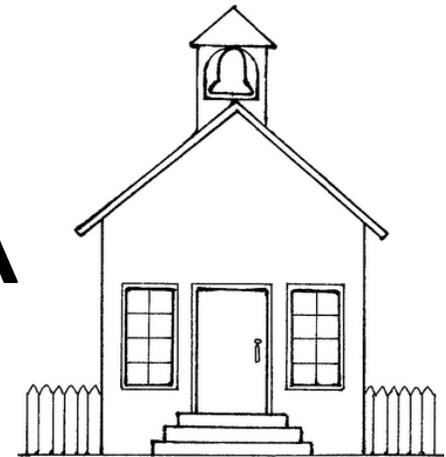


Fairfield's  
One Town, One PTA  
Calendar 2017



# One Town, One PTA

## 2017 Calendar

- The “OTOP” calendar that follows is ambitious. It exists as a separate set of programs and events from our already very busy PTA calendar.
- Timing-wise, it’s a “working” calendar and while some dates are set, other timing is tentative.
- These events will not happen without PTA volunteers seeing them through.
- Do you see something that fits something you’ve been wanting to see or say at our high schools? Here’s your chance to make it happen.

# One Town, One PTA

## 2017 Calendar\*

### January 2017

- Creating Lasting Family Communications (starts Jan. 31)
- School Climate Parent Advisor Recruitment (ongoing)
- Feedback: One Town, One PTA members meet with Headmasters

### February 2017

- Senior Center Valentine's Day Luncheon, Warde & Ludlowe culinary & music kids cook & play for town seniors in a great outreach event! 2/14/17, 11:45 am – 12:45 pm, Mona Terrace (need parents to show at 12:30 PM to help with clean up.)
- FLHS & FWHS Diversity Club Talent Show (tentative Feb. 16) (need help with refreshments, handing out programs, etc.)
- Black History Month Event, Featured Speaker

### March 2017

- Anti-Defamation League presentation
- FWHS & FLHS PTAs Movie Night: To Kill A Mockingbird (need parents to organize and help on the night of)

### April 2017

- Anti-Defamation League presentation
- FWHS & FLHS PTAs Movie Night: To Kill A Mockingbird (need parents to organize and help on the night of)

### May 2017

- Alumni Come Back: What I Wish I Knew About Diversity – former Fairfield student return to tell us of how they wish they knew about diversity, character (needs volunteers)
- COMPLETE draft calendar of events for the Sept. to Dec. 2017 period

### June 2017

- Images of Empathy Festival: student art, music, essays, slam poetry, food (this needs a champion, not to mention volunteers)

*\*This is a working calendar and timing is tentative. These events will not happen without PTA volunteers.*

# One Town, One PTA Background

# What Was Our Starting Point?

This past fall, the Fairfield Warde & Ludlowe PTAs voiced their very strong commitment to cultivating a high school community that:

- Encourages, honors, respects and embraces the rainbow of diversity in Fairfield, CT,
- Celebrates the broad range of human differences among us,
- While also embracing the commonalities we share such that each and every member of our community feels included and supported.

# How to Deliver on This Mission?

- Start with the simple question, *How do we get our high schools more connected and aware of what we have in common?*
  - ✓ Answer: through successful collaborations that lead to an understanding of the experiences & perspectives of our cross-town peers
- We needed a theme to tie things together and Empathy emerged as a great organizing sensibility for this. *Empathy fuels connection.*
- It was decided to make Empathy the focus of our One Town, One PTA 2017 Calendar.

# What Is Empathy?

## Empathy Is:

- The ability to take the perspective of another person and recognize their perspective as their truth.
- Staying away from judging.
- Feeling “with” people.
- A skill that can be learned and practiced.
- Something that can improve leadership ability and facilitate effective communication.
- A positive response to incidents that can lead to students feeling excluded.

*EMPATHY IS A CHOICE*

Our high school PTAs will give high school parents & students opportunities throughout 2017 to learn & practice **Empathy**.

# One Town, One PTA Commitment

- The PTAs of Ludlowe & Warde propose that 2017 be a year of unity, **Empathy** and collaboration for the high school community of Fairfield, Connecticut.
- We are committed to helping our high schools achieve greater connection, something our PTAs are uniquely qualified to do.
- This year, we will focus on the theme of **Empathy** and make it a part of everything we host and sponsor in 2017.
- With each event, our high schools will become more unified, with a better understanding of the ideas and perspectives that make up our amazing town.
- Aside from academics, what do we want Fairfield children to finish high school knowing?
  - ✓ Do they know how to practice **Empathy**, how to consider multiple perspectives, and respect experiences that differ from their own?
  - ✓ As families, can we elevate **Empathy** as a value and impart it to our kids as they leave Fairfield for a world possibly more complex than what they know here?