

Students get excited about positive behavior



Lauren Knight/Daily Times

"Mr. Deep Positivity" visits Hopkins Hill Elementary School on Wednesday afternoon to motivate students to demonstrate respectful, responsible and safe behavior.

Inspirational rapper, "Mr. Deep Positivity," motivates the kids to demonstrate respect, responsibility and safety

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COVENTRY—On Wednesday afternoon, Sept. 14, elementary students at Hopkins Hill participated in a lively assembly as inspirational rapper "Mr. Deep Positivity" sang about staying in school and demonstrating positive behaviors.

James McBride, "Mr. Deep Positivity," has worked with multiple schools, after-school programs and with the Positive Behavior Intervention and Sup-

port programs (PBIS), according to Principal Tracey Whitehead. She stated that he has attended many family nights at Hopkins Hill, as well as other assemblies and activities.

"He has a positive, inspirational message that supports staying in school and being successful," said Whitehead. She stated that Mr. Deep Positivity has a show on cable and he did an episode on staying in school.

"The kids here have a connection with him," she said.

The assembly on Wednesday afternoon was the kick-off to

beginning the PBIS program at Hopkins Hill. According to Whitehead, all of the elementary schools in Coventry participate in the PBIS program to provide incentive to students for positive actions.

"It's not a punitive system. It's about encouraging the positive behaviors," Whitehead said.

The positive behaviors, called Husky Habits at the school, are categorized by three characteristics: respect, responsibility and safety. When a student

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Students learn positive behavior from Mr. Deep Positivity

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demonstrates a Husky Habit, they are awarded with a Paw Buck.

Husky Habits are expectations that apply to behaviors in the buses, hallways, cafeterias, classrooms and outside.

"It encourages parents, teachers and students to work together to maintain a safe learning environment," White explained.

As the student demonstrates the good behaviors, they are acknowledged. According to Whitehead, after 25 Paw Bucks, the student receives a red bracelet that says "Respectful" on it. For 50 Paw Bucks, a student will be awarded a white bracelet that says "Responsible."

Students can also receive T-shirts, pins and school store

coupons. Whitehead stated that every week, a raffle is drawn during each grade level lunch period for coupons to the school store.

"One day a week, Wonderful Wednesdays, we make sure we acknowledge the kids who have earned [Paw Bucks] at different levels," said Whitehead.

Parents are very supportive of the program, according to Whitehead. Due to the good feedback, the school will soon implement a home school piece where the students can use their Paw Bucks at home.

On Wednesday, Mr. Deep Positivity talked to the students about their Husky Habits. He encouraged kids to sing along with his motivational songs about demonstrating the positive behaviors to everyone at school.

At the end, Mr. Deep Positiv-

ity introduced a song to the third, fourth and fifth grade students as they prepare for their upcoming New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) testing.

"It's a way to rally the kids but [in a] different way," said Whitehead. "He validates the school-wide belief in positive behavior and demonstrating them."

The PBIS program will continue throughout the school year to encourage students' ongoing positive habits.