

# GROVER CLEVELAND HERALD

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"I PROMISE TO ABIDE BY AND UPHOLD THE NO PLACE FOR HATE RESOLUTION OF RESPECT. FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, I COMMIT TO MAKING MY SCHOOL NO PLACE FOR HATE."

# FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL

Dear Students and Staff,



Hate is a singular word with what is on the surface a very simple meaning. In Spanish and Italian it is translated as “odio,” the Polish say “nienawisć,” while the Albanians use the word, “urrej.” The Chinese say, “hen,” when written phonetically in English, and in the Philippines, “galit.” No matter what language it is translated into, the word remains just as vile, yet no less powerful. We have read about its influence throughout the course of human history in the form of wars and acts of genocide. We may even have witnessed it ourselves more close to home with individuals or groups of people fighting over the things that seem to make us different. Every day we are confronted with a variety of obstacles that we must overcome, if we are to progress further in life, and hate should never be one of them.

Here at Grover Cleveland High School we strive to rise above hate, to accept any and all who walk through our doors. Indeed, our school represents many different countries, all bound together by a single motto: “Unity in Diversity.” We see this each and every day in our hallways, as students from one culture mingle with that of another, in our classrooms with teachers that teach tolerance and compassion, and especially during our Winter Festival, an annual event which celebrates the rich diversity that our school has always come to represent.

In the end, every school endeavors to blot out the plague that is hate. After all, education is a vehicle that provides opportunities for everyone to look beyond their own biases, and see what ultimately binds us all—humanity. Each and every one of us is capable of hate. It is only through education and a deep understanding of our fellow man that we may fight the ignorance that fuels its longevity.

Sincerely,

Dominick Scarola

Principal



## Some Facts About the ADL

- ADL stands for Anti-Defamation League
- Established in 1913 after Leo Frank, a Jewish factory worker was lynched in Georgia.
- Fights bigotry and discrimination against all races creeds and religions.



### Grover Cleveland Herald

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*The Grover Cleveland Herald* is composed of stories about the students and activities of Grover Cleveland H. S. We ask students their opinions about current issues and hope to provide a forum of communication for school.

# Grover's Roving Reporter Grover's Roving Reporter



By: Ashley James & Anthony Perez, Jr.

## Beware of gangs

By: Amanda



**Q. How do you feel about bullying?**

**William:** *It's manipulative, and it lowers self-esteem.*

**Q. How do you feel about bullying?**

**Sheila:** *"I think they're cowards and immature people that need love."*



**Q. How do you feel about bullying?**

**Oladis:** *"It's very unfair and uncool to look down upon innocent kids."*



**Q. What could be done to prevent bullying?**

**Grace and Audris:** *"We don't think it can ever be prevented if kids aren't educated to accept other people for who they are."*



Gangs are a growing problem in today's society. At school and in our neighborhoods bullying and gangs are a danger. To protect ourselves, it is useful to have knowledge about gangs so we can make the best decisions. What is a gang? Why do people join gangs? What are the drawbacks of joining a gang? These are questions that need to be answered.

A gang is a group of people that identify with each other on the basis of ethnicity, culture, social class, and religion. They also share a culture of dress, slang, tattoos, graffiti, and nicknames. They also share a common purpose. Some street gangs commit crimes. They fight among themselves for turf and raise money sometimes by selling illegal drugs. They come into conflict with law enforcement.

If gangs are bad, then why do people join them? The reason is because people who join gangs are looking for something that is missing in their lives. People join gangs because they feel unwanted at home, feel lonely, feel a need to express anger and frustration in their daily lives especially if they are jobless and have lost hope. They may also feel a need to join a group with dress codes and traditions, rules that are upheld by an authority figure.

What are the consequences of joining a gang? The major consequence is a criminal record and jail time. Gang members are many times more likely to commit a serious crime. In addition, gang members risk injury from fighting, and infections from tattoo needles and drug syringes. They become targets of other gangs, and their families are also in danger. They miss out on education and have difficulty getting a job. Employers don't want to hire people who dress and act like they belong to a gang.

How can we avoid joining a gang? It comes down to satisfying the needs that make a gang look attractive in the first place. Find ways to achieve by joining clubs in school. Make friends with people who don't belong to gangs. If you have feelings of hopelessness, speak to your parents, your counselor or a teacher at school.

In the end, what looks attractive about gangs isn't very attractive at all. Life is about making the right choices. Make your choices count.



# In Memory of Sofia Olivo

## 1992 - 2009

*"I love my life, and I love my haters."* —Sofia Olivo  
According to her pastor at her funeral, this was Sofia's favorite saying.



*"I remember Sofia was a wonderful person with lots of joy and happiness in her smile. She was quiet and shy but very outspoken when she needed to be. She was so cool and sweet. Sofia, you're gone but you will never be forgotten. We miss you. You're now millions of miles away but yet just one beat away from our hearts"*—Justine Serrano

*"Sofia Olivo was a real quiet person for those who didn't know her and those who did. She was hilarious. I'm both shocked and sad she's not with us. She will be deeply missed."* —Brandyn Padgett

*"Rest in peace, Sofia. We will always love you girl. You were one of the best friends anybody could have. You will always be missed but never forgotten."*— Love, Gisette

*"Sofia was a very special person who provided joy and happiness to her family and friends. As her government teacher, I will miss her dearly. I will never forget how nice Sofia was to everyone around her. Even though Sofia was soft spoken in class you could tell all her classmates liked her very much. I will miss her smile and warmth she brought to our class. I only wish more people had the chance to meet Sofia and see in person just how special she was. You will be missed."*—A. Pappas

# Hate ends where reason begins

By: Pallavi Kaushik

In today's world, people are occupied by their fears, worries and the obvious stresses of life. They have no time to stop and think about change because of all the time that is wasted away with thoughts about themselves. This is probably the reason why the human race has taken so long to adopt a universal thought of freedom or understanding for other races that are part of the human family.

A profound author named Zora Neale Hurston explored this topic by presenting us with the extraordinary journey of an African-American woman named Janie Starks who encounters racism, hatred, sexism, and society's foretold norms. Zora Neale's novel, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, gives us her open emotions on the human behavior towards human race's easy acceptance of hate and tough ideals on love, care and understanding, all of which are standards created by humans. It is a given that there will always be hatred present where love is present, but it should never become the major focus in our lives. Why not accept what's given out of care instead of dwelling on what's given out of spite? To further develop and explain my belief that there is no place for hate, I will explore the topic of *hate* with reference to Zora Neale's novel, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

### Story Line

Firstly, the reader will need a little background information on the story line of *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. It begins with the woman, whom is the center of gossip, returning from a funeral. Welcome to Janie Starks, an African-American beauty who has dealt with spite in her life to the fullest. Janie's story starts off with her being in a scandal of the century for loving a man, Teacake, who is younger than herself. Slowly, Janie's friend, Phoebe, helps us to decipher Janie's mysterious past through flashbacks. Janie was raised by her grandmother, Nanny, after her own

mother, Leafy, a drunkard and rape victim, left home after giving birth to Janie. Interestingly, Nanny had been raped by her former master, and Leafy was born as a fair-skinned child, which proved the whole matter. Nanny hadn't lived a pleasant life either, and when she looked back at her life, she expected to end up with someone who could provide protection, support, guidance, and strength. However, when her daughter is raped she notices the cruelties of the world and promises herself that Janie's life would never be like that. Nanny says it herself, "Put me down easy Janie. A'hm a cracked plate." Unfortunately, when Janie grows up, she has a headstrong idea of love as union of the two hearts in marriage, not as financial protection, name, and strength. Therefore, when is was married off to Logan Killicks, the local hero with 60 acre fields, she is unhappy and unsure, yet she does it for Nanny's soul's sake. Soon after, however, Nanny dies and Janie grows weary of her relationship with Logan. One day Janie encounters a tall, rich, educated and charismatic man named Joe Starks. She begins an affair with this man and, after a fight with Logan, is soon convinced that she should leave with Starks in search of her dream.

### Some History

Historically, hate surfaces when a predominant group or race, in this case, the Europeans, searches for lands to conquer in order to enrich their poor homelands. The invaders use the technique of divide and conquer to separate united nations of different colors. [The Spanish Conquistadors in Latin America, the Portuguese in Brazil and Macau, the French in Haiti and Canada, the British in North America, South Africa, India, and China, are examples, ed.] In the United States, the issue of freedom from slavery began during the Civil War when President Abraham Lincoln signed the *Emancipation Proclamation* in 1863. This freed slaves only in states that were in rebellion. Though it angered the states in rebellion, from the point of view of the freedom issue, the proclamation fell short and was incomplete and unproductive. By December 1865, with the Civil War over, the United States Congress ratified the Thirteenth Amendment to the US Constitution abolishing slavery. This piece of history is important in order to understand Zora Neale's novel.

### The Historical Reality

In *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Zora



cont. on p. 6

THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD

THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD

Hate ends where reason begins, cont. from p. 5

Neale discusses Nanny's experience after the slaves are freed. Even though there was a *Thirteenth Amendment*, in the story, they were never relieved of the term "slave," nor were they protected. They were just left with no standing, no property, no purpose, and were left to return only to the life they had before—if it could be called a "life." Nanny barely escapes her old master's residence with her baby child when she then hears of the freedom they had won. Despite the freedom though, she must return to a master and live in the Florida estate holder's outhouse.

**Drawing Conclusions**

In this novel, Zora Neale reveals how the African Americans are never truly released from the prison-hell they are stuck in. Many people say that racism just exists, and that there's nothing you can do to eradicate it. As a simile, that's like a rock sunflower crying over why it can't face the sun. The solution seems simple, but it requires something that the flower and people can't easily provide: effort. Racism is an idea put into our heads; it's not a tradition, or a prayer, or a superstition. It's a learned habit, a bad, disgusting, and despicable habit. It's a habit that requires great effort to fix because human beings must try hard with all their might to break down the walls of differences in their minds and try to open their thoughts to the idea that all of us are the descendants of the same power, force or whatever beginning individuals believe in. We all have the same thing in common. Let there be differences in thought, educated reason, opinion, the things that make us individuals, but let's not base our opinions on the derogatory beliefs of another person's color or ethnicity. Also, let's not underestimate others and disrespect their personal rights. Let's not rape or abuse someone who is powerless and under our control just because of the fact we have more money or enough social standing to avoid trouble. And, let's not commit these crimes just because society may accept them, and even if they're unacceptable to our minds let our conscience prevent us from committing heinous acts out of peer pressure. Let us continue to fight what others proclaim is a disease without a cure. Let us break down the barrier of ignorance and hatred and help the flower face the sun.

**Our Mission**

Zora Neale's message in *Their Eyes Were Watching God* is that we ourselves have been choking our own society by not practicing social justice. Great leaders such as Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi have successfully repeated the same message of social justice, peace, and love over and over. Those who hear the message make the effort to change and pass it on to their generation. The children's movement and educational movement are making the difference. We can grow a new garden together. We can grow many flowers that can face the sun.

# Cyber-bullies

By: Ashley James

Cyber-bullying has been going on for years but has recently made non-stop headlines because of several incidents that occurred over the past few years. Cyber-bullying is any harassment that occurs via the Internet. Vicious forum posts, name calling in chat rooms, posting fake profiles on web sites, and mean or cruel email messages are all ways of cyber-bullying.

There are several reasons why people are cyber-bullying others. For instance, it gives them the feeling of vengeance while remaining anonymous. It lets out their anger, jealousy and remorse to others, not exactly realizing how damaging their hurtful words and actions are. Some people do it for their own entertainment out of boredom.

For years people have been called names through chat rooms and threatened through e-mails and instant messages. It hasn't been much of a hazard until a young, 15 year old girl named Phoebe Prince committed suicide after several girls continuously tormented and harassed her via text messages and Facebook. She had recently moved to the U.S from Ireland and attended a high school in Massachusetts (South Hadley High School). She had been taunted and bullied for several months by two separate groups of students at South Hadley High School, reportedly because of disputes with other girls over her brief relationship with a senior high school football player. Her aunt had allegedly warned school officials in August 2009, prior to Phoebe's enrollment at the school, to watch after her, as she was "susceptible" to bullying and had been bullied in Ireland.

On January 14, 2010, after an entire day of harassment and taunting, followed by a final incident in which a student threw a can at her from a passing car as she walked home from school, Phoebe committed suicide by hanging herself in the stairwell leading to the second floor of the family apartment. Her body was discovered by her 12-year-old sister. Following her death, many crude comments about her were posted on her Facebook memorial page.

Cyber-bullying definitely needs to be discouraged. Parents need to teach their children about responsibility and respect. Ms. Rosario, our school guidance counselor, says if anyone feels they have been bullied or cyber-bullied they should go to any adult in the school building—counselors teachers, and staff and report it. Anyone has open ears and time to help someone in need. "It's our job to help and keep a safe environment for our students, but the kids also need to stick up for each other."

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# Student Testimonials

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“I think that bullying should not be tolerated because every student should be able to come to school and feel safe. No student should ever be scared to come to school. School should be a place where kids feel welcome and safe to come into. Each student should feel like it is a warm place where they are able to learn and meet up with friends. If students are being bullied then they may not be working up to their full potential and may develop low self-esteem.” – S.L.

“I think bullying shouldn’t be tolerated because it can damage a person’s self-esteem. You never know the problems someone is going through at home and bullying can worsen the situation. Kids who are being bullied sometimes go through extremes to stop it. People need to take others’ feelings into account and stop bullying.”—T.Q.

“I think bullying should not be tolerated. Bullying is cruel actions to innocent souls. It makes the victim self-conscious about everything. Some even commit suicide. Bullies need to be taken care of. They are troubled youth and need to be shown a different way.”—E.N.

“I think that bullying should not be tolerated. It can happen in school, in public places, at home, and just about everywhere. Most instances of bullying happen to someone who is innocent and defenseless. Bullying can cause many things such as low self-esteem, physical abuse, mental and verbal abuse, suicide, or murder. Many times, people may not realize that bullying can have these serious consequences. It must be stopped!”—A.S.

“I think that bullying should not be tolerated. Bullying is never appropriate under any circumstances. It only violates.”—N.N.

“Bullying is an act of hurting another person either mentally or physically. Bullying is something I don’t support. Bullies are the biggest cowards; they pick on and hurt people that are weaker than they are. It feeds their egos and makes them feel better.

There should be zero tolerance for bullying because people suffer. Bullying should not be tolerated and people who support bullies and bullying should not be tolerated either.”—N.P.

“I think bullying should not be tolerated. I believe that the person being bullied may get angry and bottle up this anger. Eventually, these feelings of rage, injustice, sadness, and depression may just explode and cause dire consequences.”—N.

“Bullying should not be tolerated at all because we should all be equal and make peace with everybody.”—N.T.

“I think that bullying should not be tolerated because it can interfere with an individual’s life; it can cause depression or even suicide.”—A.S.

“Bullying can make you feel depressed and have low-self-esteem. That’s an unhealthy

# Student Testimonials

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way to be. Bullying may also cause people to want to kill themselves and no one should ever feel that way.” —A.F.

“I think bullying should not be tolerated because it causes distress. There have been many times when kids have hurt or killed themselves because they are being bullied. If it happens to you, either tell an adult or handle it the safest way possible.” —M.A.

“Everyone has the right to live in a safe environment and everyone has the responsibility to make our environment safe. Nobody should hurt others. It is just wrong!” —S.J.

“I think bullying should not be tolerated. It is senseless violence and unnecessary. It brings the self- esteem down in the kid being bullied and the one bullying probably needs therapy.” —F.Z.

“I don’t think bullying should be tolerated because way to often it gets out of hand. It leads to bigger problems for both the bully and the bullied.” —V.M.

“Bullying can only lead to bad outcome, especially in children. When kids are growing and starting to feel different they need confidence and if there is always someone bringing them down, that cannot be good for their self-esteem.” —Name Withheld

“I think that bullying should not be tolerated because no one should have the right to mistreat someone in any way!” —B.R.

“Sometimes people may just be fooling around and having fun. But, on the other hand, if this makes someone uncomfortable, and the aggressor becomes aware, that is simply crossing the line.” — S.O.

**Tired of being a bully? *It’s never too late to change!***

Some may think that being tough and showing others how tough you are by pushing others around is a way to impress others and be successful, but is bullying really a good way to live? You may have at one time been a victim of bullying, or you may have even been a bully yourself. It’s really a bad way to live. To understand why it’s bad, you might be interested to know what psychology tells us about bullying and the consequences for victims.

First, three roles are played: the bully, the victim, and the combination, bully-victim.

Bullies have several negative character traits. They are aggressive, unfriendly, and domineering. They are physically stronger than their victims. They have negative attitudes towards peers and are unpopular, but not as unpopular as their victims. They are usually not

good students and are less popular than non-bullies.

The victims also have negative traits. Victims have low self-esteem. They are sensitive, cautious, and shy. They also tend to be withdrawn, depressed, worried, or fearful of new situations. Also, they tend to fear negative criticism from their peers.

Interestingly, some bullies are also victims. These bully-victims may bully others but even bigger bullies are bullying them as well. These bully-victims are more verbal and physically aggressive than ordinary bullies. They don’t do well in school, don’t have friends, and have low self-esteem. In addition, they also suffer from depression.

So, what’s attractive about being a bully? Take a look at yourself in the mirror. Take the oath not to hate. Speak to a counselor. Have friends and smile!

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# Tigers battle and never quit!

By: Bobby Rivera

As the Boy's Varsity Basketball team entered the post season and earned their first victory, they soon became hungry for more wins. The first round was full of tons of excitement, and our Tigers inspired the home crowd with an important win to advance to the second round. Things wouldn't get any easier though, as the Tigers would play Bedford Academy next, ranked the fourth best team in the "A" Division playoffs.

The Tigers had about a week to prepare to play against Bedford Academy, and they used every moment of practice to get themselves ready. They knew they'd be undersized, but our Tigers believed that if they played smart and tough basketball, they could compete against and defeat many of the teams in the "A" Division.



*Coach Irizarry and his team have staked out new Tiger Territory for next year's drive to the championship. Departing seniors have made their last jump shots and passed the ball to the new seniors and rising juniors. We congratulate the team for their tenacity and determination to be their very best.*

pointers on the offensive end. This effort brought them back in the game and left them only six points down heading into the fourth quarter.

When the fourth quarter began, the Panthers came out strong and were anxious to put the game away for good, but the Tigers did their best to hold off their offensive assault. The game again seesawed back and forth for about 5 minutes into the quarter. As it happened, the Tigers made some careless turnovers and missed important free throws down the stretch making it difficult for them to get back into the game. In the end, the Panthers won, led by their senior co-captains Brent Jones and Anthony Mason, Jr.. The Tiger's last game of the 2009-2010 Season had been played.

"It was a great year, full of excitement, teamwork, and many obstacles had been overcome. I'm extremely proud of my boys. The loss hurt us all, but at least we lost to the potential champions of the "A" Division, which eases up the pain a bit in my eyes. This group I had this year will never be forgotten and every one of them can say that they were a part of the best team I ever coached. I wish them nothing but the best both on and off the



When game day arrived and the game began at P.S. 3, the home court of the Bedford Academy Panthers, the Tigers had jumped out to a 6 to 0 lead. They felt as confident as ever. The game went up and down, and seesawed back and forth throughout, until the Panthers opened up a 14 point lead entering halftime. Our Tigers now had their backs against the wall.

After an inspirational speech at halftime by Head Coach Michael Irizarry, and two former Varsity Alumni, Joe Rodriguez and Brian Mero, the Tigers came out to the floor in the second half with a vengeance. The Tigers rallied back from the 14 point deficit by making key defensive plays down the stretch and, at one point, hitting 2 straight three

court," said Head Coach Michael Irizarry.

As for our Tigers, they will be losing their senior tri-captains Nicholas Davis, Bobby Rivera, and David Rodriguez, along with fellow seniors Ivan Almonte, Nabeel Ahmed, and Tim Anselimo. The tri-captains will now put the control of the team in the hands of fellow juniors Achraf Ardouni, Sakeem Bradley, and Lukas Rascius for next season. The 2010-2011 season should be interesting, and hopefully the Tigers learned from their mistakes and those lessons will help the team out next year. GO TIGERS!!!



