

**NORTH COLONIE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
91 FIDDLERS LANE  
LATHAM, NY 12110**

**RACHEL'S CHALLENGE**

**Rachel's Challenge** is a program that inspires, instructs, and enables students to bring positive change to their school atmosphere. The program is modeled on the acts of kindness and compassion, coupled with the writings of the diaries of Rachel Scott, the first student killed in one of the most horrific school shootings at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999. She lived a short life, but she left a legacy of strong character and kindness that continues to touch millions. A one-hour multi-media presentation, a facilitator who has a personal connection to the life of Rachel Scott, and powerful video/audio footage of Rachel's life and the Columbine tragedy, combine to present an amazing message and a simple, but profound challenge to treat others with kindness and compassion, as a step to changing one's world. Viewers of the program leave with the five challenges of Rachel Scott: try to eliminate prejudice by looking for the best in others, be aware of the influences around you, dare to dream by setting goals for yourself, realize that the little things you do or say can mean so much, and start a chain reaction with family and friends.

Two years ago, Shaker High School presented **Rachel's Challenge**, the inspirational program that touched the lives of Shaker High School students, faculty, staff, parents, and community residents. An offshoot of the program, the Friends of Rachel, is a group of students who try to keep alive the message of kindness within the school community. During this past year, the group created placemats with inspirational messages/puzzles for cafeteria tables, held days of appreciation for food service workers and custodians, created chains of hands and footprints of students and adults featuring individual goals, and painted a motivational quote on the staircase outside the auditorium.

On Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Shaker High School will again present **Rachel's Challenge** in three sessions during the day for students, faculty and staff, an afternoon training session for adults and students to sustain the momentum created by the assembly, and a powerful evening session at 7:00 PM for parents and community residents.

We invite you to join us at 7:00 PM to share in **Rachel's Challenge** and the message it leaves each of us.

July 2010