

# Penn Beach Elementary steps up to end bullying



Isabella Griffin, the founder of the nationally recognized "Be a Buddy, Not a Bully" program, gives out "Stand Up, Step In" bracelets at Penn Beach Elementary School in Pennsville. (COURTESY PHOTO)



By Staff | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

on November 05, 2015 at 9:45 AM

Last school year Penn Beach Elementary School fifth grade teachers, Lindsay Mulford and Cara Engler, read a *Scholastic News* article featuring Isabella Griffin, the founder of the nationally recognized "Be a Buddy, Not a Bully" program. Moved by Isabella's positive message, the students corresponded with her throughout the school year in hopes of bringing her program to their school.

On Oct. 23 Penn Beach Elementary School had a special assembly where the fourth and fifth grade students met a special guest — Isabella Griffin. During her visit, all Penn Beach students took the "Be a Buddy Pledge" which states:

- I will be respectful to myself and others.
- I will be a friend to those who are being bullied.
- I will stand up and step in, and I will be a buddy, not a bully.



Pictured, from left, Lindsay Mulford, Isabella Griffin (guest speaker), and Cara Engler (Mulford and Engler are Penn Beach teachers). The teachers were instrumental in bringing Griffin to the school to present her program to the students.

*(COURTESY PHOTO)*

Students engaged in various activities throughout the assembly and Isabella visited each classroom and gave students Stand Up, Step In bracelets.

Penn Beach Elementary School will be participating in the "Stand Up! Step In!" program, which will allow the school to show their commitment to a positive school climate.

The program motivates kids of all ages to find within themselves, confidence, compassion and 20 seconds of courage. With these 3 C's, Isabella believes that anyone can stand up and step in.

Penn Beach is looking forward to completing kindness challenges each month to promote a positive school environment.