

Staten Island elementary school students stand up against bullying | In Class column

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Hat Not Hate 2019 at PS 16



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IN CLASS: This feature is part of an ongoing education column highlighting the various activities that engage school communities.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. —To mark National Bullying Prevention Month, students from PS 16 in Tompkinsville joined the national campaign #HatNotHate during the campaign's first in-person assembly since the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The national campaign encourages people to make, wear, and post handmade blue hats to raise awareness and stand up against bullying.



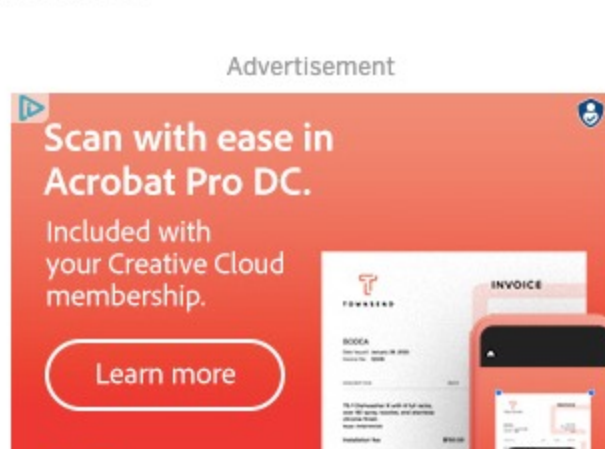
Shira Blumenthal, the founder of #HatNotHate, visited with more than 400 students during the assembly. The campaign donated hundreds of the organization's signature knit blue hats to the students while Blumenthal broadcasted her popular Facebook Live show, [The Shi Show](#).



Shira Blumenthal, Founder of #HatNotHate and Brand Ambassador of Lion Brand Yarn Company, marks National Bullying Awareness Month with students of P.S. 16 in Staten Island on October 04, 2021 in Staten Island, New York. (Photo by Monica Schipper/Getty Images for #HatNotHate/Lion Brand) Getty Images for #HatNotHate/Lion Brand

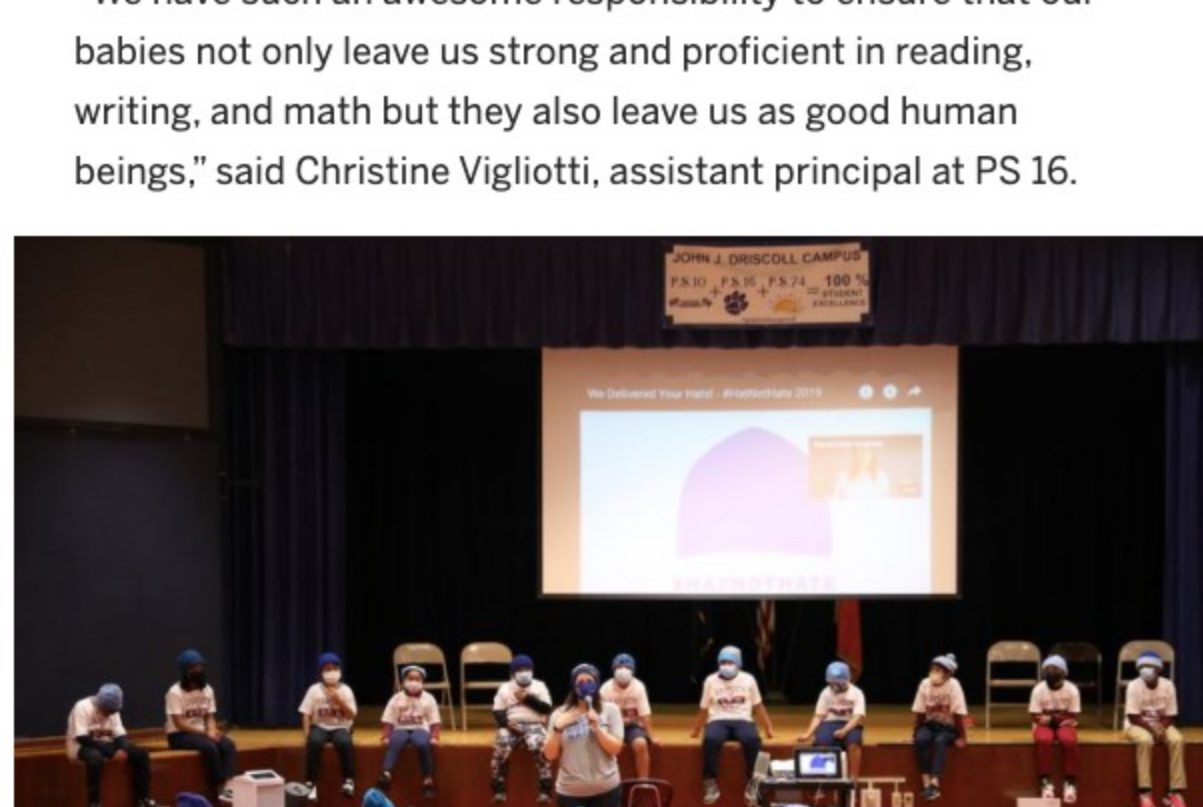
"Every student, teacher, employee of this school received a hat today and holy smokes, all the dreams. It was pretty cool seeing everyone in their blue hat," said Blumenthal after the visit.

Students and staff also participated in an open dialogue about the importance of ending bullying. More than 500 hats were donated to the school.

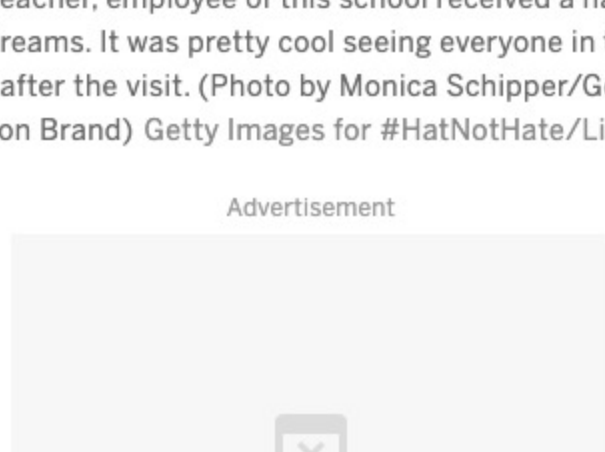


You can watch Blumenthal's visit in the video above.

"We have such an awesome responsibility to ensure that our babies not only leave us strong and proficient in reading, writing, and math but they also leave us as good human beings," said Christine Vigliotti, assistant principal at PS 16.



"Every student, teacher, employee of this school received a hat today and holy smokes, all the dreams. It was pretty cool seeing everyone in their blue hat," said Blumenthal after the visit. (Photo by Monica Schipper/Getty Images for #HatNotHate/Lion Brand) Getty Images for #HatNotHate/Lion Brand



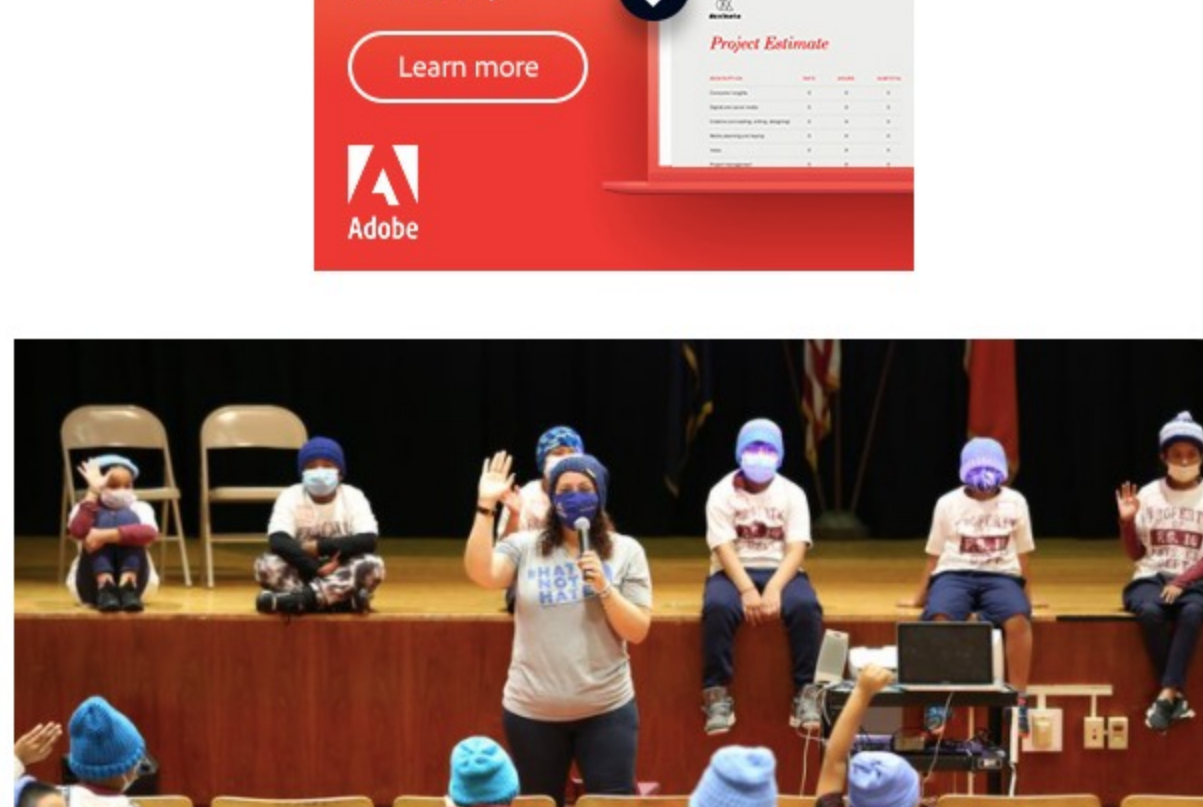
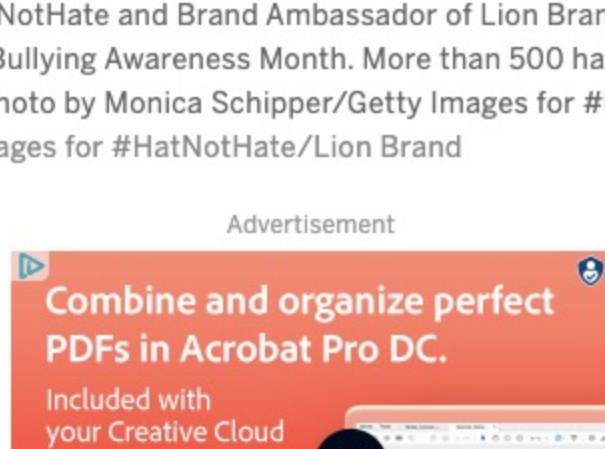
Blumenthal's passion for anti-bullying stems from her own experience of being bullied in her youth. In 2018, she conceived #HatNotHate to get the knitting community to knit and crochet blue hats and donate them to the cause. Blue represents awareness and solidarity, and is the color to wear in support of bullying prevention.

More than 65,000 handmade blue hats in the past year have been collected for the campaign to promote solidarity against bullying. Craft activists from 13 countries and all 50 states donated 32,000 of them during the height of the pandemic.

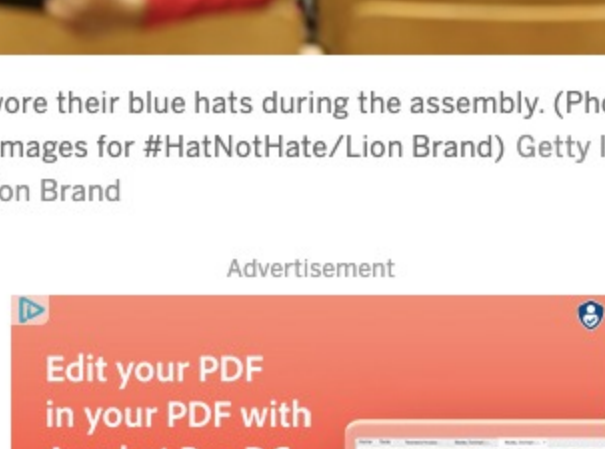
The organization has also partnered with the "It Gets Better Project" for two years running.



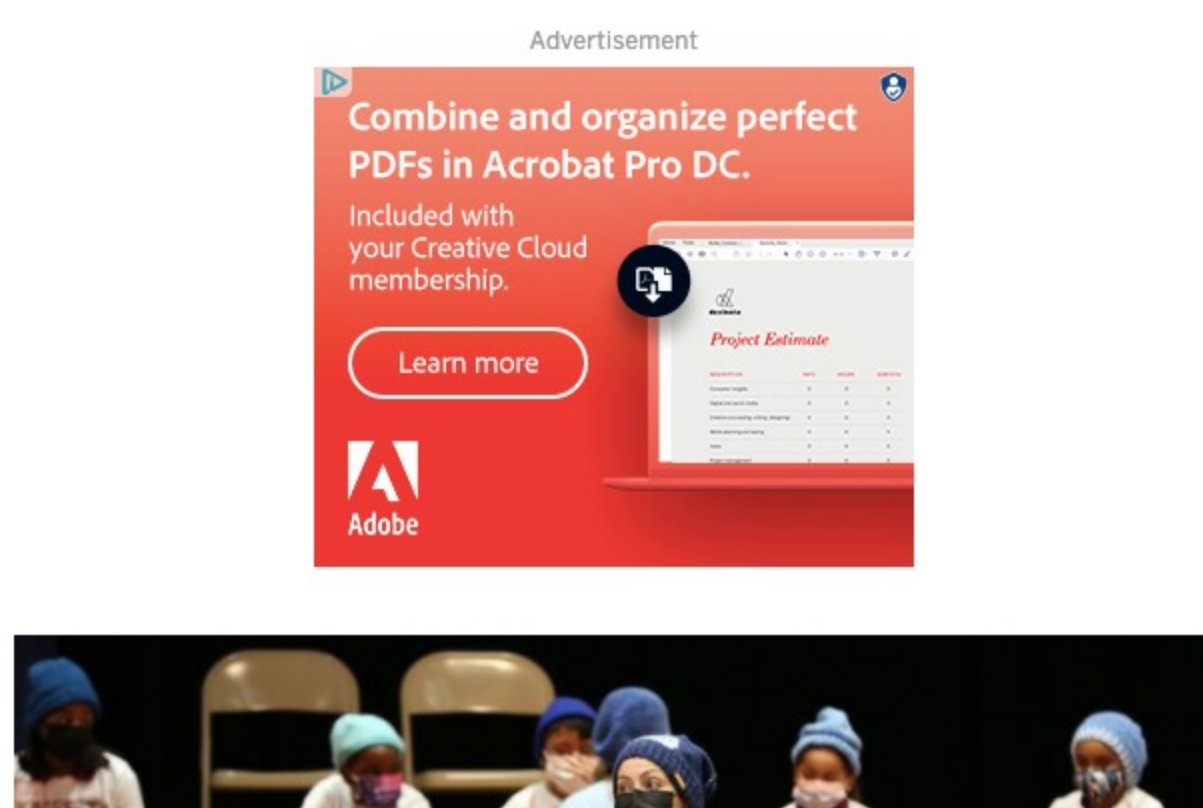
Assistant of PS 16, Chrissy Vigliotti (R) attends as Shira Blumenthal (L), Founder of #HatNotHate and Brand Ambassador of Lion Brand Yarn Company, marks National Bullying Awareness Month. More than 500 hats were given out at the school. (Photo by Monica Schipper/Getty Images for #HatNotHate/Lion Brand) Getty Images for #HatNotHate/Lion Brand



PS 16 students wore their blue hats during the assembly. (Photo by Monica Schipper/Getty Images for #HatNotHate/Lion Brand) Getty Images for #HatNotHate/Lion Brand



Shira Blumenthal and PS 16 students pose for a photo during the campaign visit. (Photo by Monica Schipper/Getty Images for #HatNotHate/Lion Brand) Getty Images for #HatNotHate/Lion Brand



Students learned about how to stand up against bullying. (Photo by Monica Schipper/Getty Images for #HatNotHate/Lion Brand) Getty Images for #HatNotHate/Lion Brand

