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## BULLYING STOPS HERE MONTH @ BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES



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### ***Bullying Stops Here Month @ Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries***

*Libraries receive national recognition for month-long community awareness campaign*

The 3rd annual "Bullying Stops Here" communitywide initiative kicked off at the downtown Central Library today with Erie County Executive Mark C. Poloncarz, Congressman Brian Higgins, and Buffalo Public Schools Associate Superintendent Will Keresztes. Other attendees included Erie County Legislator Peter J. Savage; Kimberly Trent, representing the City of Buffalo's Commission on Citizens' Rights and Community Relations; a dozen local human service agency partners; students from Bennett Park Montessori School, singer Kevin McCarthy, young entrepreneur Daniel Gibbs; and the Library System's new owl mascot "Reada Book."

"This is a special year for our anti-bullying campaign," said Library System Director Mary Jean Jakubowski. "A few weeks ago, our "Bullying Stops Here" program was featured in the September issue of the national magazine *American Libraries*! I am proud to report the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library System is recognized as a leading example of libraries that are helping kids stand up to bullying."

"Bullying is hurtful and has negative consequences that can last a lifetime," said Erie County Executive Mark C. Poloncarz. "We need to stand up as a community to stop bullying by treating others with kindness and compassion and by stepping in when we see someone else being bullied."

The anti-bullying campaign features a centralized calendar of upcoming themed events taking place across Erie County. Click here for the calendar: <http://tinyurl.com/lq5gz7t>. All Libraries also have large banners, which folks can sign throughout the month of October as a way of pledging their support in the stand against bullying.

#### Partner Organizations

Erie County

Buffalo & Erie County Public Libraries

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo

Buffalo Public Schools

Character Council of WNY

Erie County Commission Against Family Violence

Gay & Lesbian Youth Services

International Institute of Buffalo

Journey's End Refugee Services

National Federation of Just Communities of WNY

New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

Parent Network of WNY

People Inc.

P-Flag Buffalo Niagara

Self Advocacy Association of NYS

UB Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention

WNY Peace Center

WNY United

Western Region PTA

The Library also announced the winner of the “name the owl mascot” contest. Patricia Kurzanski, of Lancaster suggested the name “Reada”. Selected from more than 450 entries, Mrs. Kurzanski was on hand to meet the mascot and receive her prize package. For more information: call 716-858-8900, visit any Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, the website at [www.BuffaloLib.org](http://www.BuffaloLib.org), or the Library's [Facebook](#) page.

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**Tags:**

[anti-bullying](#)

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