

In November of this past year, Central Middle School 8th graders began working collaboratively with Video on the Go to produce Public Service Announcements for the local television program. Thus far, three videos have been created and aired on the program.

Central is also looking into different ways to utilize these PSAs within the building, including the Peer Buddies program and the Student Advisor Program. Students first created PSAs as end of unit celebrations for their social issues book talk groups. The first three PSAs were about discrimination against students with disabilities, the harmful impact of exclusion on students, and discrimination between students. As students became more impassioned about the projects, Video-on-the-Go Producer and Director Brian Satch, who was invited to watch the student-produced PSAs, offered students an additional real-world experience. Satch offered interested students the opportunity to reshoot their PSAs for Video-on-the-Go, a television program that reaches approximately 350,000 local homes. Through this joint project between Central Middle School and Video on the Go, which occurred beyond classroom time, students learned about the intricacies of producing professional PSAs, and they were ultimately able to see their public service messages shared with the local community. Eighth grader Priyanka Sunkara remarked of the opportunity, "filming the PSA in a studio was such an exciting and amazing experience!"

Eighth grade student Jennifer Nguyen reflected that beyond being a fun experience, "[creating and producing the PSAs] allowed us to express ourselves and bring awareness to important social issues."

With three PSAs now airing, there is a growing student-led desire to be more involved in collaborative, creative efforts with Video on the Go. Accordingly, educators and "Write Away Club" advisors, Buccino, Maier and Rego, decided the club would support students' efforts by giving students time to plan, collaborate, and ultimately create more PSAs through the club. Buccino explained "students are filled with so much enthusiasm about spreading these messages of compassionate, healthful ways to live that it is simultaneously exciting, humbling and inspiring to witness." So far, students who have taken up the challenge to add to the communal good through PSAs include Srija Boddu, Vihaan Patel, Ameya Santhosh, Ronak Patel, Maggie Letsch, Sean Grewal, Priyanka Sunkara, Sai Pudukollu, Ishan Gajjar, Sapana Dhakal, Raul Gonzalez, Jennifer Nguyen, Sofia McBride, and Krish Gondhi. Sixth grade teacher and "Write Away Club" advisor Erin Maier shared her enthusiasm, explaining that "now we have students trying to incorporate music and other arts into well-crafted pieces that will then be aired. It is gratifying and moving to witness as an educator." The current student PSAs can be viewed at: <https://www.facebook.com/ParsippanyVOTG/>

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Below is the link to all photos taken by reporter Frank Cahill. He plans to incorporate the photos which best fit the layout. All students involved have media releases signed:

<https://onedrive.live.com/?authkey=%21ANhiLe%2DkPrVqt6E&id=3B6F854DFC74B448%21115838&cid=3B6F854DFC74B448>

