

Leadership Lessons in LCC's Junior School

By Dana Kobernick, LCC Communications Manager

Miriam D'Amico '24 recognizes why seeing and understanding the perspectives of others is an important life skill. As a member of Junior School Pride, a student leadership group that organizes a variety of activities and events for the Junior School, she knows the value of participating on a team where her peers may have divergent opinions and different points of view.

"Leadership positions prepare students for the future because we learn how to handle many situations," she says. "We need to have important qualities, such as respect for others and an ability to collaborate with anyone. In life, you may have to work with people whose opinions are different from yours."

Student Council, another Junior School group, also provides valuable learning opportunities in leadership. Through this forum, elected homeroom representatives discuss the suggestions and concerns of their fellow classmates, and determine what action needs to be taken.



JUNIOR SCHOOL PRIDE MEETING

Béatrice Beauger '25, a grade 5 class representative, tries to look at issues from all angles. Some student suggestions, she acknowledges, may not be realistic or financially viable. While these will be discussed at student council meetings, a decision can be made not to pursue them. Other proposals, however, may be retained for further exploration.

"We thought that a special play area was needed in the schoolyard for the grade 3 students, because we were afraid that they would get hurt or frustrated playing with the grade 4s," she says. "We decided to send a letter to Ms. Wearing and we are waiting for her response."

The process allows for greater mutual understanding. When a Junior School sleepover was requested and ultimately denied, for example, students were able to appreciate the reasoning behind the decision because it was shared with them.

Béatrice's classmate Matthew Turner '25, also a grade 5 class representative, agrees that it is important to take into account other people's perspectives. "It helps you to become

a better person in the future and have more empathy," he says.

Both Junior School Pride and Student Council, as described by Junior School Director Alison Wearing, help the students build relationships with peers, learn to collaborate, and serve as positive role models. "The goal is for these students to recognize the power of their voice and their ability to effect change," she says. "At the same time, they realize that they are representing an entire group and not just those who share their personal perspectives, so they have to learn what it really means to listen to others," she says.

Miriam's experience perfectly reflects these goals. Showing tremendous insight, she applies her leadership experience to a more global context. "In today's society, people seem to have trouble accepting the ideas of others," she says. "It's important to respect other points of view and opinions." ■



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