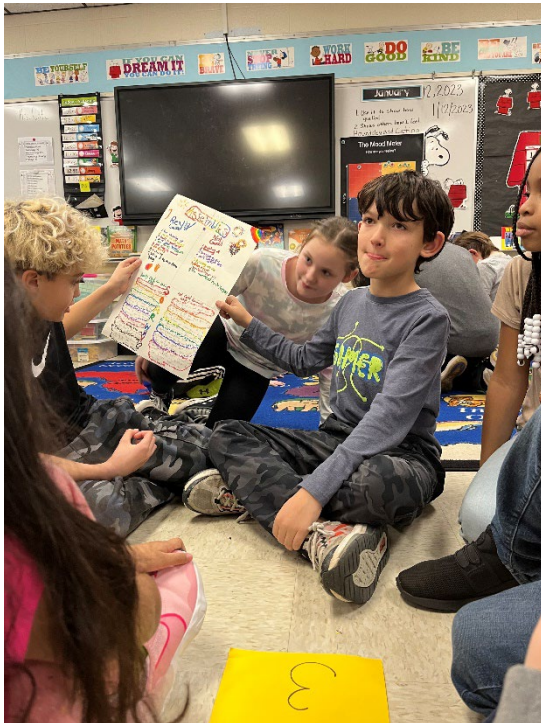


## Bringing the Grades Together at Mitchell For Peer Engagement

January 19, 2023 – Giving older students many opportunities to be good role models for their younger peers is one way Mitchell Elementary School creates a respectful and inclusive environment for all.



Mitchell third, fourth, and fifth graders recently created presentations for their younger peers on the proper behaviors expected of them in the classroom, the cafeteria, the hallways, the bus, and on the playground. SOAR is an easy acronym for the Mitchell Eagles about the proper behavior in school -- Self-control, On task, Act responsible, Respectful.

Fourth graders created informative posters and shared with their second-grade peers, third grade met with first grade, and kindergarten heard from their fifth grade buddies. This meeting of the grades helps the younger students learn from older role models but making and presenting these Mitchell SOAR expectation posters also helps to reinforce for the older students what it means to be good members of the school community.

“Students made the posters for their second-grade friends but in reality, this exercise reinforces the SOAR behavior for themselves,” said fourth grade teacher Liesl Skilton.

Tricia Cote said the visit made a difference for her second graders especially after coming back from a winter break. “It reinforced the SOAR expectations they

learned at the beginning of the year,” Cote said. “The second-grade students are excited to learn from the fourth graders.”

Fourth grader Sophie Guman said it’s helpful to learn from the older students in school and enjoyed sharing good behaviors with the second graders. “I like sharing mostly because it makes me feel like a good role model,” Guman said.

Fifth graders also meet with their kindergarten buddies several times during the year for peer learning, fun, and friendship. The fifth graders recently visited kindergarten classrooms to offer their advice. Fifth graders presented to their younger buddies about good behavior, kindness, self-control, respect in the classroom, at recess, in the cafeteria, the hallway, during a bathroom break, and on the bus. Kindergarteners were excited to have their fifth-grade buddies in their class and some even made a special drawing for the occasion.

