

Cotrone's Character Corner

A Monthly Newsletter from School Counselor, Connie Cotrone

SEPTEMBER 2023

Character Education

Welcome back to another exciting year at Columbus Elementary!

One pillar of our district wide strategic plan is the culture of care and wellness. The goal of this pillar is to design and implement a systemic framework that fosters problem solving and addresses emotional wellness by developing the competencies of self awareness, self management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision making in students, faculty and staff. These competencies are embedded in our daily communication and instruction on a continuum beginning in Kindergarten. The objective of this pillar is to provide a framework for students to develop the qualities we have identified in our Portrait of a Learner, while providing an emotionally supportive foundation for them to thrive.

Character education lessons this year will focus on developing competencies identified in the graphic below.

STAR Students

We are continuing with our STARS program this year, which emphasizes the importance of making choices that are responsible, respectful and safe. Assemblies took place on September 28th & 29th to remind students about STAR behavior expectations. Staff members will be looking for STAR behavior each week. When students are found to be demonstrating STAR behavior in the classroom, during lunch, in the hallway and/or at recess they may earn STAR tickets. When students earn a star ticket, they will receive a STAR reward. In addition, students will also have their names announced over the PA, placed in Mr. Cunzio's newsletter and displayed on our STARS Wall of Fame. STARS are given on an individual basis for students to take pride in their personal accomplishments.

STAR STUDENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

Ella Amy, Tess Costello, Owen Miles, Alexandra Paljusevic, Gwendolyn Trezza, Niyati Pathak, Dylan Pungello, Hailey Aufiero, Myles Cianci, Bethany Lucia-Cotter, Kendall Rivera, Savannah Totino, Matthew Ballerini, Sofia Fuschetto, Isabelle Morrison, Alyssa Hernandez, Grace Zhang, Pamela Gornati, Lilliana Dell'Orto, Charlotte Donoghue, Anthony Arcieri, Jolie Itri, Michael Djinaj, Shaban Celaj, Peter Brophy, Sarah Kacaj, Alyssa Carter, Matthew Rabadi, Lorelei Coppolecchia, Amelia Ross, Maria Piazza, Jaylee Ramos, Hunter Roy, Kayla Cosenza, Luigi Manganiello, Emma Chevalier, Sophia Moraco, Ronan Faughnan

Care & Wellness

Ability to recognize own feelings and needs. Identifying strengths, weaknesses and learning to advocate.

Learning how to regulate emotions and having the ability to stop and think before acting.

Being able to follow directions, making good choices and recognizing the consequences of choices we make.

Being aware of others emotions, empathy and perspective taking.

The ability to get along with others, play cooperatively, manage conflicts.





Making a connection...

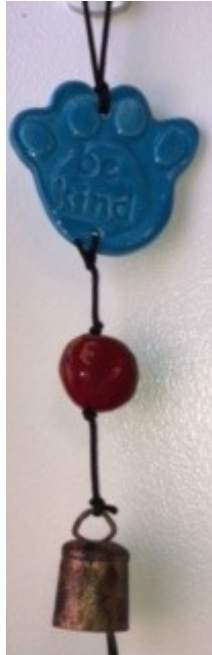
How to reinforce STARS throughout school and home



Ben's Bells

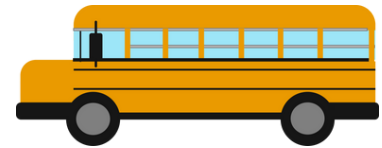
"Kindness causes a chain reaction!"

Research has shown that an act of kindness can alter someone's mood in such a way that they would stop to help someone else, ultimately causing a chain reaction. Ben's Bells is a program we use to promote the practice of intentional kindness. We encourage students to look for kind acts among each other and nominate their peers. Each month a student from every grade level and a faculty member is chosen to receive a Ben's Bell. Nomination forms are available on a bulletin board outside of the gym.



Bus Safety

On September 28th, our Physical Education teachers ran bus safety drills. Students were taught expected STAR behaviors on the bus and learned how to be responsible, respectful and safe when riding to and from school.



What are we reading?

In library special with Mrs. Finno, 3rd grade classes read "What if Everybody Did That?" by Ellen Javernick. This book gives various scenarios of poor choices and classes reflected on how they would negatively impact others and better choices that could be made. Behaviors aligned with our STAR student expectations.

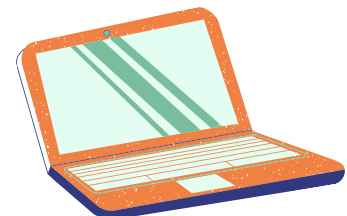
Specials are a special time for self discovery!

Each specials class provides an inspirational outlet for students to explore various interest areas. To celebrate International Dot Day, Mrs. Chambers' art classes read The Dot, by Peter H. Reynolds this month, which teaches children about self-awareness and self-discovery. Students' corresponding artwork beautifully decorates our lobby for all to admire.



What can I do at home?

You can review the STAR behavior posters with your children to reinforce expected behaviors at school.



Click on the computer for link to all STARS posters.