



Cotrone's Character Corner

A Monthly Newsletter from School Counselor, Connie Cotrone

NOVEMBER 2023



Character Education

The theme of the month for November is "Reflective." November is a time of year when we reflect on the things and people who matter most in our lives. Classrooms were full of discussions about what it means to be grateful and what we are grateful for. Building wide activities centered around reflecting on ways we can show kindness to others and what we are grateful for in our lives.



STAR Students

Students at Columbus have spent September and October practicing responsible, respectful & safe behaviors. For the month of November, staff specifically focused on rewarding STAR behavior that was above and beyond what students are expected to do. Names of all November recipients were announced each week and STARS have been placed in the cafeteria celebrating their accomplishments. Please see a comprehensive list of all our November STARS.

Benjamin Molina

Kaylin Lalaj

Matthew Zeolla

Giuliana Ruttenber

Sophia Olsen

Logan Karol

Jack Blanchard

Ian Rivera

John Grasso

Jackson Paquette

Carly Sundberg

Leah Irizarry

Myles Cianci

Ella Amy

Michael Paterno

Elle DiPaolo

Lenny Carpenito

Amelia Roughan

Alex Avellino

Jaclyn Micela

John Montaldo

Pelagia Ferst

Alexandra Paljusevic

Kate Greco

Avery Fiasconaro

Kayla Hernandez

Gavin Tejada

Charlie Pisano

Rocky Zerbo

Christopher Gerring

Vinny Fanelli

Frankie Fanelli

Aria Stakaj

Christopher Ippolito

Nina Michaelidis

Justin Tomanelli

Massimo Pannone

Leo Zaccagnino

Gabriella Bolin

Grayson Burczyk

Ryan Liller

Sofia Orlando

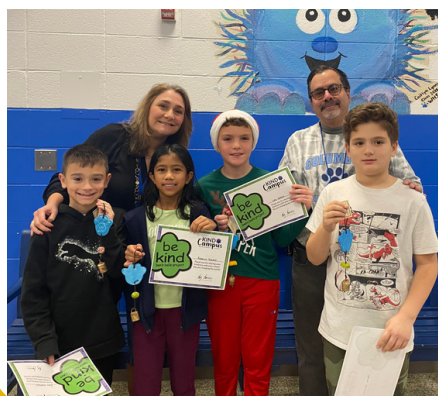
Gianmatteo Cheron

Frank Taylor

Ben's Bells

"Kindness is contagious!"

Ben's Bells is a program we use to promote the practice of intentional kindness. Each month students and staff nominate people who have shown genuine acts of kindness. Congratulations to following recipients for the month of November.



Dr. Bernadette Kuntz



Thanksgiving Feast

On Friday, 11/17, we celebrated a Thanksgiving Feast with our third grade students. This was the perfect day for children and their families to reflect on what they are grateful for. Children ate a Thanksgiving feast in the cafeteria with their class and returned to their classrooms to have dessert with their classmates and families. It was a wonderful way to celebrate a season of thanks!





Making a connection...



How to reinforce character education at school and home



THANK YOU

Veteran's Day Assembly



On November 9th, students reflected on sacrifices made for our country as they celebrated our eighth Annual Take a Vet to School Day. Students showed gratitude, respect and appreciation for Veterans during the many educational and engaging activities that took place during this special event. Mrs. Christine Galbo, together with a committee of teachers, helped organize an incredibly beautiful and poignant celebration honoring the men and women who served our country. Students spent time with veterans in their classrooms and learned about many different jobs performed in the military. Staff and students showed their gratitude by making Veterans thank you cards, adorning the school with flags and patriotic artwork and the Honor Band played songs that represented each branch of service. All classes participated in Penny Wars and collectively raised \$2834.38, which was donated to the VA Food Pantry in Montrose, NY. Additionally, a very special recognition took place to honor a female Veteran, who is 104 years old! This event is a true example of how expressing gratitude truly impacts others.



World Kindness Day

World Kindness Day was Monday, November 13th. World Kindness Day is an international holiday to celebrate kindness around the world. It is a day when we can reflect on how showing kindness to others brings people together and makes our world a better place. To celebrate this day, every student at Columbus contributed to a school wide kindness chain. Each chain link had students reflect on ways to show kindness at home, school and within their community. The chain is displayed in the cafeteria and is a visual representation of how kindness causes a chain reaction. A very special thank you to Mrs. Galbo and Mrs. Valvano's Student Council students who helped organize this effort and Mrs. Finno who had students do their chain links during library time.



What can I do at home?

Reflecting on mistakes we make is a great way to make better choices in the future. The following books can help children reflect and grow.

"Choices are my Superpower: A Kid's Book About Making Choices and Understanding Consequences"
By: Alicia Ortego

101 Things Every Kid Needs To Know: Important Skills That Prepare Kids for Life!
By: Jamie Thorne

What's Your Choice?
By: Bryan Smith

Practicing gratitude is a way to be reflective.
*Please click the jar for a family activity.

