



Character Corner

A Monthly Newsletter from School Counselor, Connie Cotrona



JANUARY 2024

Happy New Year

STAR Students

Students at Columbus are continuing to show behaviors that are responsible, respectful & safe.

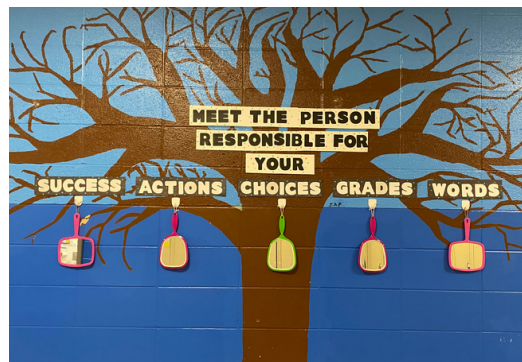
For the month of January, staff continued to focus on rewarding STAR behavior that was above and beyond what students are expected to do.

Names of all January recipients were announced each week and STARS have been placed in the cafeteria celebrating their accomplishments. Please see a comprehensive list of all our January STARS.

Frank Taylor	Dafina Brika	Savannah Totino
Nicoletta Tenore	Kristian Palushaj	Elizabeth Diaco
Amir Celaj	Brian Clifford	Sienna Brown
Ellie Ewen	William Swirsky	Sofia Fasano
Anthony Arcieri	Ethan Molina	Mason Celaj
Giuliana Piccininni	Sienna Summa	Alexis Bangali
Anna Fitzpatrick	Emma Utschig	Emma Battista
Madison Longergan	Gjia Krasnici	Joey Ferretti
Isadora Coppolecchia	Ali Sollazzo	Ella Quin
Richie DeSimone	Michael Lichtenthal	Kelcie Tsang
Mikhail Yazdani	Isabella DiNardi	Ella Amy
Alyssa Hernandez	Jaclyn Micela	Kaylee Lagana
Scarlett Garibaldi	Kayla Hernandez	Amelia Roughan
Chase Farrell	Logan Karol	Valentina Gutta
Alexa Lohay	Peyton Zoda	Michael Paterno
Massimo Pannone	Michael Djinaj	Adriana McNulty
Giuliana Ruttenber	Frederick Olsz	Drew Olshan
Luke Arcadipane	Ella Cumaj	Noah Spruck
Tino Gentile	Jason Ewen	Nicky Parrotta
	Brennan Foster	

Character Education

The theme of the month for January is "Responsible." Children are continuously learning how to make responsible choices as students, friends, siblings, etc. The focus for this month was on being accountable and looking to ourselves; how we are responsible for our own actions.



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 the following recipients for the month of January.





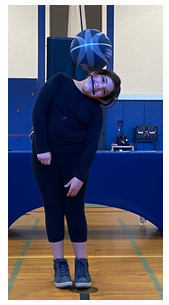
Making a connection...



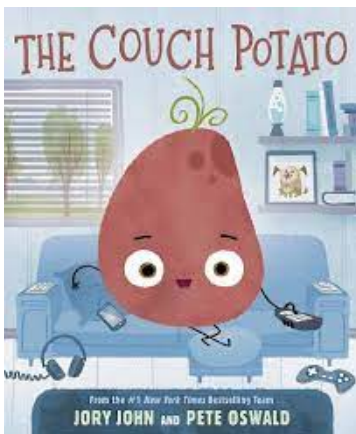
How to reinforce character education at school and home

CHARACTER EDUCATION ASSEMBLY

A special thank you to the PTA and the Cultural Arts Committee for funding a character education assembly that emphasized our school's mission to be responsible, respectful and safe. Speaker Corey Jones, the owner of numerous basketball shooting records and a National Championship title in both high school and college, entertained our students with basketball tricks and his personal stories, while delivering the powerful message about making good choices. Students learned how they are responsible for their choices and how their decisions define who they are. Whether it is their choice to always give their best effort, to be kind, to be a leader, learn from their mistakes or to never give up - their choices reflect who they are and impact those around them. His assembly was enjoyable, engaging and very impactful.



What are we reading?



During the month of January, 5th grade students learned about how they could be more responsible with their media choices during their library special. They read "The Couch Potato" by Jory John, about a potato who learns how to balance screen time and playtime. Students then tracked their media usage over the week and reflected on how they could each make healthier choices.

What can I do at home?

Teaching responsibility at home is both helpful to parents and children. It gives children a sense of accomplishment and helps them practice self-management skills. Please click on the image below for some free chore/responsibility charts to use at home.

