



# Character Corner

A Monthly Newsletter from School Counselor, Connie Cotrone

## FEBRUARY 2024



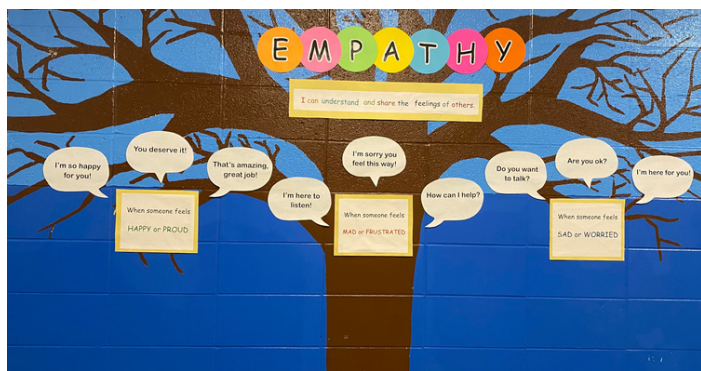
### STAR Students

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

Joey Ballerini	Sophia Moraco
Massimo Pannone	William Duff
Peter Brophy	Arden Malone
Jack Blanchard	Brennan Foster
Mateus Sukaj	Mikey Liosi
Ryan Davi	Hunter Roy
Riley Finan	Emma Wavomba
Adriana Pippo	Eleni Sama
Adriana McNulty	Milania Mancini
Josephine Marchese	Lilian Critelli
Amir Celaj	Giuliana Ruttenber
Logan Petrellese	Caleb Sze
Lea Schrank	Thomas Diana
Matthew Murphy	Zoey Camaj
Amelia Roughan	Connor O'Donovan
Bianca Sprague	Cate Cuffari
Isabelle Lopez	Andrew Chacko
Benjamin Molina	Katelyn Lavelle

### Character Education

The February theme of the month based on our Portrait of a Learner is **EMPATHY**. Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of others as if they were your own. Our character education lesson this month taught students ways to show empathy and highlighted how understanding different perspectives helps us be empathetic. Our activity helped students "put themselves in others' shoes." Students were able to identify how they believe others would be feeling and how they can show compassion and empathy in these situations.



### 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 February.



### Rare Disease Day

Rare Disease Day was celebrated on February 29th. Student Council encouraged staff and students to wear stripes on this day to support this cause. This collective movement shows empathy and support for others who are living with rare diseases.





# Making a connection...

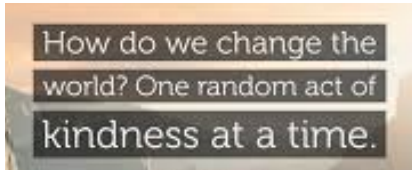


How to reinforce character education at school and home

## RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS MONTH

February was the perfect opportunity for students to practice our monthly theme of empathy, as well as compassion, by doing random acts of kindness to brighten someone's day. Mr. Cunzio sent home a calendar with a random act of kindness students could do every day of the month.

Click on the image below to see the calendar.



A special shoutout goes to 3rd grader **Logan Karl** for his Random Act of Kindness. He started selling bracelets he made to raise money for Maria Fareri Children's Hospital. He has already sold over eighty bracelets! Go Logan for changing the world with your kindness, Columbus so proud of you!

## Words to Show Empathy

Our character education lesson this month taught different ways to show empathy to others. Students were also given examples of how they can show empathy with their words. Here are some examples:

"Are you okay?"

"Do you need help?"

"You look sad, do you want to talk?"

"I will be your friend!"

"It will be okay, I can help."

"I understand!"

"I'm sorry you're having a bad day."

"That must have hurt your feelings."

## What are we reading?



During the month of February, in MS. Finno's library class, 3rd grade students learned about the Caldecott Award, which is an award given out every year by the American Library Association. The award honors the best illustrations in a picture book. They read this year's winner, *Big* by Vashti Harrison. The book is about a child's journey to self-love and shows how our words can hurt and how having empathy for others can help heal.

## What can I do at home?

Click on the image below for additional Random Acts of Kindness children can do.

