



# Cotrone's Character Corner

A Monthly Newsletter from School Counselor, Connie Cotrone

## MARCH 2024



## Character Education

The character theme of the month for March focused on being Open-Minded. Being open-minded is a quality that benefits us all in many ways.

Students learned that when we are open-minded we are willing to try new things and learn from new experiences. Being open-minded also allows us to learn from others' opinions, experiences, cultures, interests and perspectives. When we open ourselves up to different ways of thinking we grow in many ways. Our character tree highlighted different ways for students to practice being open-minded. Students were encouraged to write ways they were open-minded this month. Some wonderful examples they shared were:

"I tried a new instrument this year."

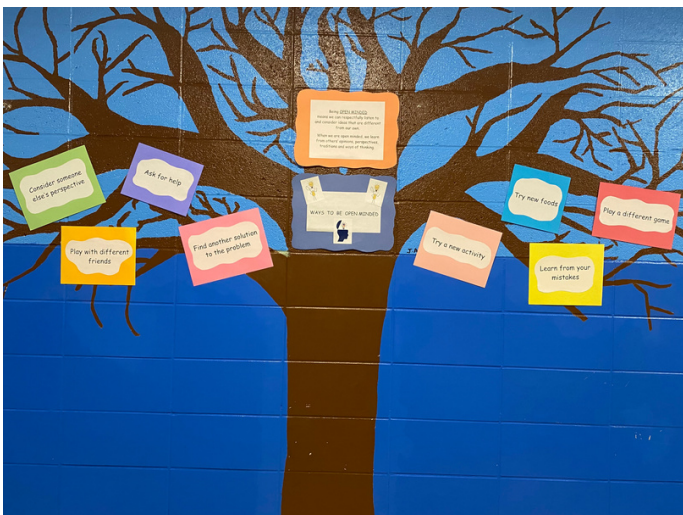
"I tried out for a dance competition team."

"I asked for help when I was confused."

"I tried a new food and liked it."

"I listened to an idea that was very different than mine."

"I joined a new club this year."



## STAR Students

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

### March STARS.

Frankie Fanelli  
Chris Ippolito  
Jack Gedris  
Gabriella Smith  
Elizabeth Diaco  
Kate Greco  
Luigi Manganiello  
Amir Celaj  
Pelagia Ferst  
Fiona Berisha  
Scarlett Garibaldi  
Nicky Parrotta  
Matthew Zeolla

Sofia Orlando  
Rocky Zerbo  
Isabelle Lopez  
Carly Sundberg  
Leo Zaccagnino  
Ryan Velez  
Leah Irizarry  
Emma Cuzon  
Gjia Krasnici  
Frederick Olsz  
Charlie Celaj  
Michael Djingaj  
Ali Sollazzo  
Shaban Celaj

Michael Lichtenthal  
David Vulcano  
Cillian Fallon-Sabel  
Julian Kamberi  
Tyler Finan  
Nate Benanti  
Georgi Hristoskov  
Ronin Lichtenstein  
Andrew Schoppmann  
Aidan Fallon-Sabel  
Cassidy Norman  
Jack Nugent  
Rebecca Dipiero



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 March. We are so proud of you!





# Making a connection...

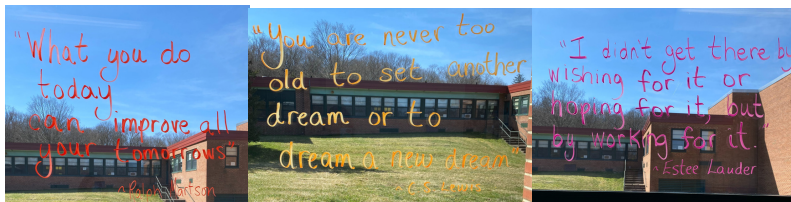


How to reinforce character education at school and home



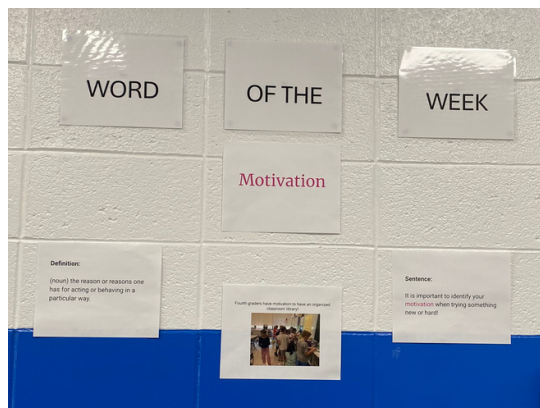
## Inspirational Quotes

Following their biography unit, 5th grade students in Mrs. Armisto's class researched motivational quotes that changed their mindset. Students each chose inspirational quotes and learned about the famous people behind the messages. Students learned that keeping an open mind and looking at things with a positive lens helps them feel motivated to achieve their goals.



## Words of the Week

New at Columbus this year are "Words of the Week." Students learn the meaning of a new word and how to apply it in various contexts. Motivation was one of the March Words of the Week and tied in well with our theme of being open-minded. We love finding new ways for our students to expand their vocabulary!



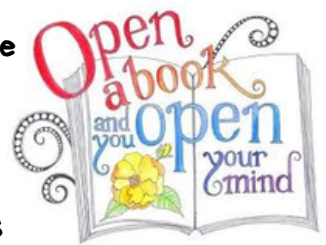
## What are we reading?



During the month of March, 3rd and 4th graders read *Jabari Jumps* by Gaia Cornwall, during their library special. The book tells the story of a boy who overcomes his fear of the high dive and opens his mind to trying new things. Students then discussed things they were once close-minded to (a certain sport, a type of food, a book) but once they tried it, they were glad that they did.

## NY Boulders Home Run Reading Challenge

The New York Boulders, in conjunction with NY529, have formed a partnership to promote literacy in area schools. Reading is a wonderful way to open minds and challenge yourself to set a goal. Many classes at Columbus participated in this challenge. Congratulations to all our students that met their goal and explored new books of interest.



## What can I do at home?

Please click on the image below to learn ways to instill open-mindedness in your children. The article suggests ways to practice being open-minded and finding teachable moments in everyday conversation.

