

Cotrone's Character Corner

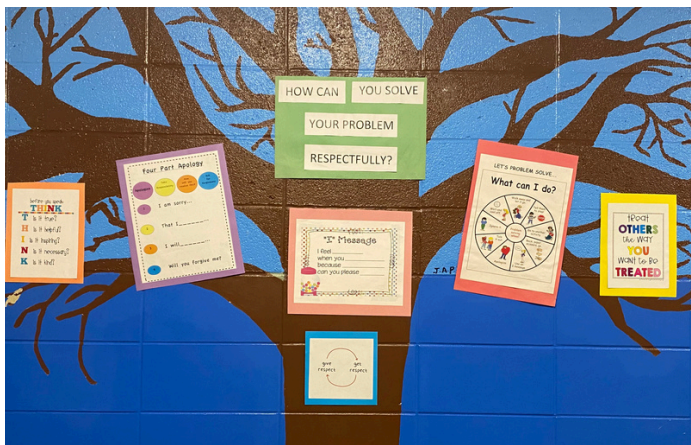
A Monthly Newsletter from School Counselor, Connie Cotrone

APRIL 2024



Character Education

The theme of the month for April is Problem Solving, one of the qualities of a learner we strive to instill in our students. Problem Solving skills are needed beyond the classroom and impact our ability to have successful relationships and work well with others. Our character education tree provided many resources for students to use when navigating social conflicts. A visual reminder of our wheel of Choice was available for students to reference throughout the day. This wheel provides students with a variety of options to solve a problem and students have learned that if one way doesn't work, they can try another. Offering several solutions is a great way for students to become independent problem solvers. An example of a genuine apology was provided for students, as well as an "I" message, which helps students communicate their feelings, as opposed to placing blame on others. Kindness Week took place this month and provided many opportunities for students to practice these important relationship skills.



STAR Students

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

Rocky Zerbo	Nicholas Ziegler	Amir Celaj
Dylan Pungello	Joey Ferretti	Amelia Roughan
Bryan Drogan	Matthew Madden	Carlie Cangialosi
Ava Della Vecchia	Matthew Rabadi	Brielle Reitano
Thomas Weadock	Sophia Olsen	Jack Pena
Savannah Totino	Sofia Fuschetto	Ryan Criscitelli
Josephine Marchese	Rebecca Vincent	Liam MacSweeney
Brooke DelBalzo	Frank Taylor	David Gordillo
Aoife McKeon	Viviana Rodolico	Lily Eisenman
Richie DeSimone	Alyssa Carter	Masami Okamoto
Gjia Krasnici	Zoe Camaj	Sienna Summa
Daniel Stancarone	Michael Scanapiece	John Grasso
Dylan Mir	Xavier Morrobel	John Montaldo
Mikey Liosi	Frederick Olsz	

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 April.





Making a connection...



How to reinforce character education at school and home



KINDNESS WEEK

Our Annual Kindness Week took place this month. The purpose of this week is to practice intentional kindness but also to develop qualities we want students to embody throughout their lives such as respect, empathy, collaboration and open-mindedness. Activities throughout the week helped to spread kindness and encouraged class bonding. Since the theme of the month for April is Problem Solving, one classroom activity centered around kind and respectful ways to solve problems. Students were given kindness dilemmas and had to use a Wheel of Choice, which presented various solutions to solving conflicts. Students were encouraged to find ways to solve realistic dilemmas they often deal with in social settings. Other class activities included, but were not limited to, compliment circles, reading stories about kindness and empathy and writing kindness/gratitude letters to someone special. Building wide activities that took place during Kindness Week included a "Spread Kindness Around Like Confetti" board, where kids wrote acts of kindness they have shown recently, a Kindness Challenge, which gave students a kind task to do every day when they entered school and Kindness Tear-offs with inspirational messages that students could give to each other or keep for themselves.

Kindness
Matters

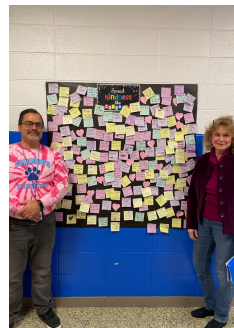
Kindness in Action!



Mrs. Turco's
Compliment Circle

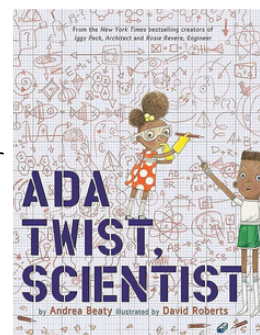
Mrs. Morris' Kindness Craft

Students & teachers filling our kindness board with kind acts they've done.



What are we reading?

During the month of April, in Ms. Finno's library class, 3rd grade students started a unit on research. Each class read, *Ada Twist, Scientist*, by Andrea Beaty. In the story, Ada learns the value of thinking her way through solving problems. Students then discussed how the key to being an effective researcher is to focus on good questions and like Ada, continue to stay curious.



What can I do at home?

This is the Wheel of Choice used during Kindness Week and often used in character education lessons. Please feel free to use this as a resource at home when helping your children navigate social challenges they are experiencing. This is a great tool to help children become independent problem solvers!

