



THE WINDS
DECEMBER 3, 2025

IMPORTANT DATES

Dec. 3 Deephaven Leaders in Action, 2:45-3:45
Dec. 4 2026-27 Kindergarten Information Night, 6 p.m. (Virtual)
Dec. 4 PTA Mom's Night Out, 6 p.m.
Dec. 8-15 Tonka Coders and Makers Week
Dec. 9 Grade 5 Orchestra Concert, 6:30 p.m. (Groveland)
Dec. 17 Deephaven Leaders in Action, 2:45-3:45
Dec. 22-Jan. 2 **No School** - Winter Break
Jan. 5 **No School** - Professional Learning Day

[District Calendar](#)

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

There is no school on Dec 22-January 5 (Winter Break). School resumes Tuesday, January 6.

Deephaven Leaders in Action is having their annual Toys for Tots drive. It will begin Monday, December 8 and end Friday, December 12. If you are able to donate, please send a NEW unwrapped toy to your child's class by Friday, December 12. Student Leadership will collect the toys from each classroom daily. All of Deephaven's donations will be dropped off December 17. Thank you for your support again this year!

Communicate with the Principal - Have questions, concerns, or ideas? You may always meet with me in person, contact me by email at bryan.mcginley@minnetonkaschools.org, or contact me by phone at 952-401-6900. Alexis Beckman, Head Office Assistant, may be reached by calling our main line. She coordinates my schedule and will find a time that works for both of us to meet in person, talk by phone, or meet virtually. I appreciate our partnership, and I am always accessible to you.

School Safety is the most important part of running a school. For students to learn, they must feel safe and comfortable. Deephaven has many known and unknown safety features in place to protect our students and staff. In addition, we complete five lockdown drills, five fire drills, and one tornado drill each school year. In addition, we have a strong partnership with the Deephaven Police Department. You also play a role in keeping our school safe. Please contact me if you have any concerns about safety at Deephaven or information that would benefit us knowing to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

The holiday season brings excitement and celebration, and with your support we can keep students focused and ready to learn. Consistent routines, healthy meals, and calm moments at home make a big difference in how ready children feel to learn each day. Thank you for working with us to keep this season festive, balanced, and successful for all students!

Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Building Representative can be contacted at any time if you have questions or would like a connection within the building. Please reach out to Morgan Minich, morgroberts@gmail.com.

CHARACTER STRONG

December's theme is Empathy.

Empathy means understanding and connecting with the feelings of others.

Check out the attachment in this week's *Winds* for practical ideas you can use at home with your child.

SUPPORTING READING AT HOME

Encourage Comprehension

- **Discuss Stories:** Before reading, look at the book cover and predict what the story might be about. During reading, ask questions about the plot and characters. [After reading, summarize the story together.](#)
 - **Relate to Experiences:** [Connect the story to your child's own experiences to make it more relatable and memorable.](#)
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PTA PULSE

Book Fair success - This year's fair raised \$11,722 in Scholastic Dollars for our school, added \$800 worth of new books to the media center, supported student incentives, and helped refresh classroom libraries for every teacher.

Fall teacher grants - The PTA is honored to support our teachers with **\$17,775 in fall grants** this year. Look for full details in the next WAVES!

Parent Party Committee - join us! Want to help plan the most fun night of the year? Join the Parent Party Team! It's a great way to get involved, meet other parents, and help make this year's event unforgettable. We'll have our first meeting on December 16. Email Kelli Deeg president@deephavenpta.com to join the crew!

Deephaven Moms Night Out - Dec. 4 - 6-9 p.m. at Spasso's. Moms, Grandmas, and caretakers, stop by any time. There is no formal agenda - just visiting. Contact Megan D'Alessandro with questions: Dalessandromeg@gmail.com.

Readathon Committee - The readathon will happen again this year in February and we're starting to plan! Reach out to Kelli Deeg at president@deephavenpta.com or Lindsey Prall at readathon@deephavenpta.com to join in the fun.

DID YOU KNOW?

Registration is now open for the Minnetonka Theatre Elementary Musical production of Disney's *101 Dalmatians KIDS!* Celebrating our 15th year, this elementary musical program is specifically designed for Minnetonka Public School 4th and 5th grade students who are interested in trying out musical theatre. Information, including a detailed schedule and how to register, is available on the [Minnetonka Theatre website](#). Any questions, please contact Amy Jore at amy.jore@minnetonkaschools.org.

DEEPHAVEN

MONTHLY SEL NEWSLETTER

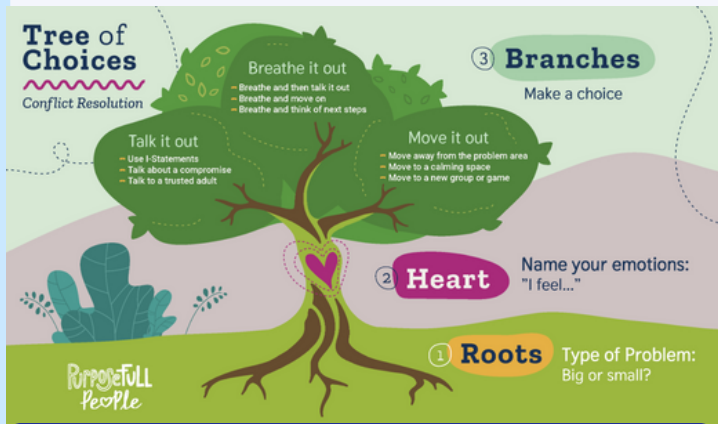


THEME: Empathy

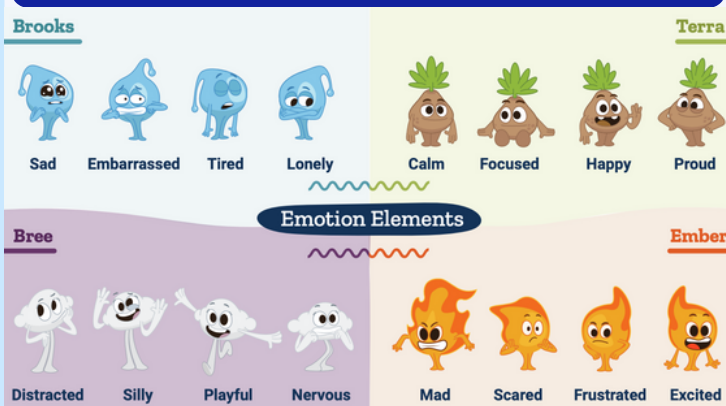
The shared definition of empathy is understanding and connecting to other people's feelings. Empathy is a practice that can help us grow strong in relationships and is a trait that helps us be kind. Looking at someone else's point of view is a way for us to understand others and supports conflict resolution. When a conflict arises, guide your child through the three steps outlined on the Tree of Choices graphic below. Begin with the size of the problem as the first step. Then you can reference the emotion chart to help with the second step of naming the emotion.

Take a moment as a family this month to answer this question: What is one way a family member has shown you empathy lately?

Resources: [Size of Problem](#) and [Breathing Rainbow](#)



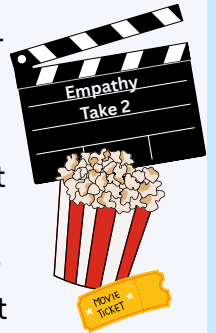
Name the Emotion



At Home: Family Night

Bring Empathy into Action at Home:

1) Movie Night-Schedule a family movie night so that you can specifically watch for feelings and emotions. Let everyone know that you'd like them to point out how the characters in the show are feeling and that you will pause periodically to discuss Empathy. As emotions are identified, invite one another to Empathize by sharing about a time they felt that way or imagining how they might be feeling in that moment.



2) Game Night-Play Candyland Game using specific prompts to each color on the board. You can use the following examples or create your own based on the players' ages and needs:

- Red:** Share a time you felt angry or frustrated.
- Blue:** Talk about something that made you feel sad or disappointed.
- Yellow:** Describe a situation or circumstance that made you feel happy or excited.
- Green:** Name one way you've noticed yourself growing or learning something new.
- Orange:** Share a hope or goal you have for the future.
- Purple:** Think of a time recently when you felt extra brave or courageous.
- Pink/Any other color:** Describe a time you felt loved, surprised, or confused.

The goal of the game is not just to win, but to encourage open discussion, self-awareness, and empathy among players.

Click below for more resources

[Empathy Video](#)

[Empathy Sing-Along](#)