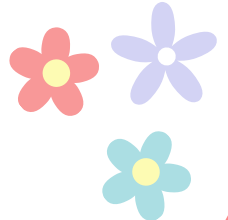


Cotrone's Character Corner

A Monthly Newsletter from School Counselor, Connie Cotrone



May 2026

Character Education

The theme of the month for May is "collaborator." Our character tree this month was a visual reminder of how collaborators work together to achieve a common goal and was filled with ways students can be collaborators both in and out of school, such as during games at recess, in PE class, in after school sports & activities or working with others at home and in the classroom.



STAR WALL OF FAME

It has been an exciting year watching our STAR Wall of Fame grow each week. This year we had so many STARS, we had to find additional space to hang them, what a great problem to have! We are very proud of our STAR students who continually show responsible, respectful and safe behavior and demonstrate Mt. Pleasant's Portrait of a Learner Qualities.

While it is not always possible to catch every STAR act, we want all students to take pride in their good behavior and know that responsible decision making leads to success.

GREAT JOB CES!



STAR Students

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

Jacob Smith
Julie Aprea
Amelia Amendola
Donatello Caggiano
Kaylin Lalaj
Pelagia Ferst
Emma Ragonesi
Angelina Romano
Santino Zerbo
James Costa
Ava DeVito
Amelia Sze
Amelia Roughan
Avery Fiasconaro
Christian Papa
Charlie Suriano
Christian Paquette

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 May.





Making a connection...



How to reinforce character education at school and home

What can I do at home?

Books that encourage collaboration and teamwork:

"The Hard Hat for Kids: A Story About 10 Ways to Be a Great Teammate"

By: Jon Gordon

"The Great Spaghetti Challenge: Children's cooking competition book about friendship and teamwork"

By: Emma Afia

"Teamwork Isn't My Thing, and I Don't Like to Share!"

By: Julia Cook

Mental Health Awareness Month

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Whether through checking on classmates, showing kindness and empathy, practicing self-care, or connecting to resources, these actions advance our commitment to developing well-rounded students. Together, we're building a foundation where wellness is prioritized alongside academic achievement, empowering every student to thrive.

Peer Buddies

Several 5th grade students participated in our Peer Buddies program this year. All students involved enjoyed playing games and doing crafts and activities that fostered friendship and collaboration. A great time was had by all!



FUN RUN

A special thanks to our PTA and Physical Education department for facilitating an amazing opportunity for students to work together to raise funds for our school, while promoting good health and exercise. Character education videos were shown in classrooms to reinforce collaboration and other qualities such as curiosity, resilience and perseverance. It was a successful day all around and the money raised will benefit our Columbus students for years to come.

