

# East Greenwich Township Schools Character Education Newsletter

First Trimester Recap: September-December 2017

*Intelligence plus character is the true goal of education. ~Martin Luther King, Jr.*

## Character is Magical

The theme of our district-wide character education program for the 2017-2018 school year is *Character is Magical*. The theme is present in our *Daily Dose of Character* via our intercom and video announcements, *Second Step & Steps to Respect* lessons each week, within our units of study for the year, and through the student work and teacher bulletin boards displayed in our hallways and classrooms. The following character traits are emphasized throughout the year: **Respect, Kindness, Integrity, Responsibility, Acceptance** and **Perseverance**. The importance of having great character is exemplified in our **HORNETS' Code of Conduct** and through our **Bee Your Best, Cash in on Good Character**, and **Buzzworthy Student Recognition** programs. Our students and staff members try their best to share the magic of having great character every day! At EGTS, our *Character is Magical!*



## Hornets' Code

- H-** Have integrity in your thoughts, words, and actions.
- O-** Own actions and promote peaceful problem solving.
- R-** Respect self and others.
- N-** Nourish an environment of kindness.
- E-** Encourage acceptance and inclusion.
- T-** Try to persevere every day.
- S-** Strive to be safe, responsible, and respectful.

*We are HORNETS in the classroom, hallway, bathroom, cafeteria, on the bus, and in the community.*



## Week of Respect

In association with the *NJ Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act*, we celebrated our annual **Week of Respect** during the first week of October, highlighting our character traits, with a primary focus on RESPECT which is the foundation of all Character Education in our school. Students participated in daily activities to show and celebrate the importance of being respectful. Our *Week of Respect* also included spirit days in which we wore school colors to show our united effort in being respectful, dressed our best to show being respectful brings out the best in us, and wore our favorite team jerseys to show that being respectful is a team effort. A special thank you to our school counselors, Mrs. Lombardo, Mrs. Weston, and the Character Education Committee for planning the activities for the week.



## The "Golden Tray"

The "Golden Tray" was introduced during our *Week of Respect* in October. It is awarded weekly to one lunch table per grade level for demonstrating responsible, respectful and polite behavior, as well as cleaning up after themselves each day. The winning tables, chosen by our Supervisory Aides, receive Golden Bees or Buzz Bucks as a reward. In addition, winning tables are charted and displayed weekly via a smiley face bar graph at Clark and a bulletin board featuring group photos of the winning tables at Mickle. The program has created a positive atmosphere in which our students try their best to show respect, politeness, and responsibility during lunch every day. A special thank you to Mrs. Benedetto, for creating our Golden Trays, and our Supervisory Aides for their assistance.

## Individually Unique, Together Complete!

Our Character Education Coordinator, Miss Kuhen, met with each homeroom at Mickle during the months of November and December, to present a character education lesson. During the lesson, all students had the opportunity to share positive traits they have that make them unique. Students also discussed ways to encourage and support each other. The goal of the lesson was to remind each student that he or she brings something special to class every day, and when they work together and support each other, they become stronger as a class family, which ultimately makes us all stronger as a school family. We are "*Individually Unique, Together Complete!*" Miss Kuhen is excited to present the same lesson to Clark students during the month of January.



## Buzzworthy Students

The following students were honored as *Buzzworthy Students* by their teachers for the traits of **Respect** and **Kindness**. Students will be honored for the remaining traits during the second and third trimesters.

### Clark Students

**Respect:** Stephen Toth, Bella Cavaliere, James Pfeiffer, Isabella Mondelli, Kennedy Wright, Vitali Calandro  
**Kindness:** Brooks Preziosi, Linda Wilkie, Ruby Strassberger, Elijah Rogers, Aiden Pounds, Samantha Medlenov

### Mickle Students

**Respect:** Anna Jamiolkowski, Johnny Seraydarian, Adalina Falocco, RJ Sciarrotta, Domenic Hibbs, Evalise Abreu, Talia Reed, Vincent Bottiglieri  
**Kindness:** MacKenzie Rigney, Zachary Moore, Michael White, Rebecca Mancha, Annaliese Kipers, Shane Mistichelli, Cassidy Dunk, Colin Helkowski

## Star Project

The “**Star Project**” was introduced by the Interdisciplinary Committee in September, as an opportunity for all students and staff members to get to know each other better. It included elements from each subject area, and allowed everyone to share who they are, where they come from, their interests, family history and traditions, and personal mantras or beliefs. Once completed, homeroom quilts were created at Clark, and grade level quilts were created at Mickle. The quilts are displayed in the hallways and students will have the opportunity to share their individual stars, make connections with their peers, and share compliments during an upcoming character education lesson.



*We are each a star shining brightly with all that makes us unique, and together we form a beautiful galaxy.*

## Give a Gift Family Night

The East Greenwich Education Association hosted its **5th Annual Tree Lighting, Hearts of Remembrance Tribute, and Give a Gift Family Fun Night** on December 7, 2017. Mrs. Zimmerman and the 6th grade chorus did an awesome job with their performance and Lunch Bunch reps and advisors from grades 3-6 assisted with the Hearts of Remembrance Slideshow tribute. There were over 400 people in attendance and over 40 teachers volunteered their time to be a part of this special event. 20 boxes of toys were donated to **Bianca’s Kids** and the **U.S.O.** as a result of the generosity and support of the school community. A special thank you to everyone who attended, the teachers who volunteered, and to Mrs. Cavanaugh and Miss Theodoris for organizing the event.



For more information about our Character Education program, please contact:

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## Recycling Challenge

In an effort to promote awareness and encourage our students to protect the environment, **The Recycling Challenge** was introduced by Mr. Agar, one of our Supervisory Aides at Mickle. Students are encouraged to place their recyclables into a plastic bin and at the end of each lunch, Mr. Agar tallies up the number of recyclables for each grade level. The totals for the month are logged and on the last day of month, the winning grade level is announced. As a reward, the winning grade level receives a trophy made out of recyclables to be displayed in their classrooms throughout the month, a half sheet of Buzz Bucks, and additional recess. Our 3rd graders were recognized as the Recycling Challenge winners in October, recycling a total of 814 plastic bottles. Our 4th graders were recognized as the Recycling Challenge winner in November and December, collecting a total of 1,115 in November and 925 plastic bottles in December. As a school, we have recycled **8,400 plastic bottles** since the middle of October. We appreciate our students’ effort to make a difference and look forward to seeing how many plastic bottles we are able to recycle this year!

## Author Visit

Jeffrey Clark students recently received an exciting visit from author, Julia Cook. Julia’s books promote respect, kindness, and acceptance while teaching students strategies for communicating with others, problem solving, and fostering character development. During her visit, Mrs. Cook read a handful of her books and students were given the opportunity to reflect on how to create a safe, respectful, and responsible environment filled with kindness and acceptance every day. Teachers were also given the opportunity to purchase a variety of Julia’s books to add to their classroom libraries. A special thank you to Mrs. Weston and Mrs. Wordelmann for setting up the assembly and to Julia Cook for the inspiring messages she shared.



## Character Education Assemblies

Our 6th grade Lunch Bunch reps for the first trimester and advisors, Mrs. Cavanaugh, Ms. Marghilano, and Ms. Kuhen presented four Character Education assemblies for students in grades pre-k through sixth, during the week of December 18th. The assemblies focused on team building and highlighted our traits of respect and kindness. Students were partnered up to participate in a variety of games and challenges. The assembly also featured several students from each grade level in a video that highlighted ways to show respect and kindness. Our LB reps kept the audience engaged throughout the assemblies by leading chants, cheers and a scenario-based game. Our students did an awesome job showing respect and support for their peers. All four assemblies culminated with teachers from each grade level teaming up for a Teacher’s edition of the **Minute to Win Challenge**. Teachers worked together in a relay race format to organize cups to spell out several character traits, unscramble puzzle pieces to spell out our theme “Character is Magical,” and to write our school pledges out for all to see. To show our school unity, both students and teachers stood to recite the pledge together at the end of each assembly. We are very proud of our Lunch Bunch reps for doing an amazing job and appreciate the participation and support of our students and staff. We look forward to presenting two more sets of assemblies this year!



## Educator Honors

Congratulations to 2nd grade teacher, **Mrs. Townes**, and 6th grade Social Studies’ teacher, **Mrs. Doyle**, for being recognized as the **Governor’s Teachers of the Year for 2017-2018!** We’d also like to congratulate Clark Librarian, **Mrs. Wordelmann**, and Teacher on Assignment/Journeys’ Instructional Coach, **Mrs. Giorgianni**, for being recognized as the **Governor’s Educational Services’ Professionals of the Year for 2017-2018!** In addition, we’d like to congratulate **Mrs. Townes** for also being recognized by the **NAACP** with the **Game Changer Award**, for her contributions to the field of education, and 6th Language Arts/Writing teacher, **Mrs. Cavanaugh**, for being honored as a **2017 Axalta Philadelphia Eagles’ All-Pro Teacher**, for her school and community involvement, and use of innovative technology in her classroom. We are proud of the accomplishments of all five teachers and are very lucky to have them in our EG Family!