



Happy Friday, WISD families.

Today marks the end of week 13 of the school year.

It has been a quite five days here in the school building. Students are progressing along in their studies, and teachers are working harder than ever to deliver meaningful instructional essentials. Yet, there is a subtle excitement whispering in the air, as the community prepares for the annual WI deer hunting opener. Many students talk about what their family plans will be surrounding this special time in November. Good luck to all hunters. We wish you well; be safe.

Ms. Alyssa Wagners 1-2nd grade classroom won the KINDNESS PROJECT Door Decorating Competition. Photos of all of the doors are on the district webpage. As classroom winners of this event, students were treated to hot chocolate, milk and warm cookies provided by Ms. Dahlke, who organized the venue.

The esteemed judges for this event were Andrea Vanhey (New Zoo educator in Green Bay), Janet Hanlin, Kevin Jones and Margaret Foss. The students who worked together to create their door decorating project were Niamh McGrane, Colton Steffen, Lillan Kruegar, Opal Pratt, Owen Mann, Freya Sorensen, and Isaac Weilbaker. Thanks to all door decorators, staff organizers, and judges. The KINDNESS PROJECT will continue on, with more events slated for students and staff to work on together.

Check out the school website (www.island.k12.wi.us) to see the video of our Veteran's Day Program, this year delivered at school via the school intercom system, due to COVID-19. We are grateful to have been able to organize a presentation of sorts, as we endeavored to have all island veterans know that they were in our minds, and in our hearts on November 11th.

Thanks goes out to Sophomore, Jake Kooiker who emceed the event. Students and staff were given a briefing about this special day by which we express our thanks, and our gratitude to those men and women who have so courageously served, or are serving our country during their military attachment. Ms. Breisemeister also introduced the history behind the 1938 song, God Bless America, made famous by composer Irving Berlin, and singer Kate Smith to her music students.

The Washington Island School Academic Decathlon Team placed 8th of 13 teams in Division 4 of the annual ACADEMIC DECATHALON COMPETITION. They ranked a sterling 35th overall!! They are one of the 45 total Wisconsin high school teams to advance to the regional competition on January 8, 2021. The topic for study this year is the Cold War.

Congratulations to Aidan Purinton, Spencer Johnson, Breanna McGrane, Andrea Valentincic, Hayden Lux, Zach Lux and Jake Kooiker. These seven academic athletes were prepared by Head coach Miranda Dahlke and assistant coach, Mary Grzelak. We are very excited to hear of their progress as they move forward in this year's competition.

Ms. Dahlke has the middle schoolers engaged in the Scholastic Hardest Math Problem Competition. All students in grades 6-8 are encouraged to try out a myriad of math problems, and explain their thinking in order for their chance to win a laptop, tablet, and scholarship money to apply to post-secondary education. This is the second year our students have participated in this contest. We look forward to the final results of this academic endeavor.

Ms. Kayla Mann and Ms. Marleen Ehrlich-Johnson have begun preparations for the 2020-21 Wisconsin Spelling Bee. This competition is organized through CESA 7, and is open to students from grades 4-8th. The practice spelling word lists have been sent home with students. They are encouraged to begin their spelling work for this event. We are eager to see who emerges from our January 2021 tournament, to get an opportunity to compete against other Door and Brown County students in February's contest. This year's Spelling Bee will be held virtually. More details will be forthcoming.

Ms. Grzelak provided a wonderful opportunity for the high school students, in-person and hybrid, to meet Professor John A. Cloud.

Ambassador (ret.) John A. Cloud is a professor in the National Security Department at the U.S. Naval War College. Ambassador Cloud retired in 2010 after almost 32 years in the U.S. Foreign Service.

He was the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Lithuania from 2006 - 2009. He also served as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Berlin, the U.S. Mission to the European Union, and the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw. He served as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for International Economic Affairs on the National Security Council staff from 2001-2003. Mr. Cloud had earlier assignments in the State Department, Bonn, Germany, Mexico City, Mexico, and Warsaw, Poland.

Mr. Cloud met with the students and staff virtually, for nearly an hour. Students heard his governmental involvements, as well as his career experiences throughout his three decades of work for the U.S. Foreign Services. They were able to interact with him directly, asking questions during this time as well. It was an enlightening period for all of us who were in the room to hear him. It was also a great opportunity for our students to have a connection with the likes of someone such as Professor Cloud. Thank you for organizing this experience for our high schoolers, Mrs. Grzelak.

- I want to remind everyone that NOVEMBER 25th is a half-day of school for students and staff. Everyone will be released at Noon on this Wednesday.

Finally, here is some information for a free coding for kids website. This could provide some education STEM fun for families during their free time.

Have a great weekend. Be safe and stay well. We are grateful for our partnership.

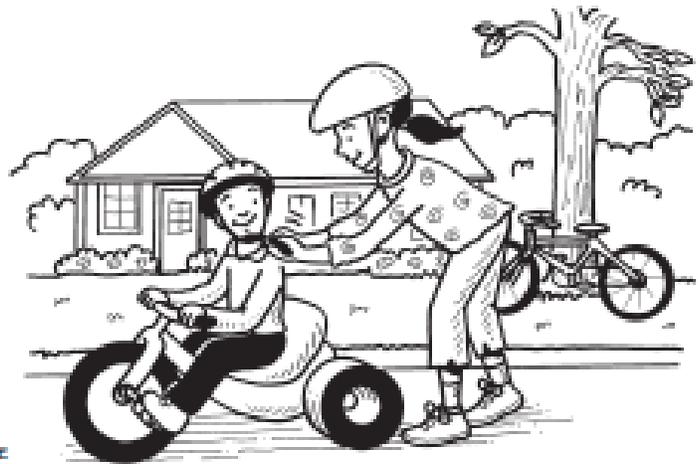
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Kindness and Compassion

Performing simple acts of kindness and compassion encourages your child to think of others and makes her feel good about herself—a one-two punch that also helps to prevent bullying. Try these ideas to inspire your youngster to be a kind and compassionate person.



AT HOME

What do kindness and compassion look like? Use these activities to help your child spot kindhearted actions in her daily life.

Make a reminder

Look up *compassion* and *kindness* in the dictionary together. Then, have your youngster collect quotations about these qualities from books or websites. *Example:* "Always try to be a little kinder than necessary." —J. M. Barrie. Ask your child to invent



her own sayings, too, such as "Be a ray of sunshine and brighten someone's day." Next, let her use her favorites to create a place mat. She can write the quotes graffiti-style on construction paper. Slip the paper into a plastic sheet protector so her place mat lasts longer. *Tip:* Suggest that your youngster spread the compassion message by making a place mat for each family member.

Catch kindness

Show your child how much kindness happens around him every day—he'll see ways he can be kind, too. Have him make a label to stick on a clean, empty jar. It might say "Be kind" or "We're a kind family." Place the jar in an easy-to-reach location

continued

The anti-bullying connection

Empathy is a powerful tool against bullying. When children can imagine themselves in another person's shoes, they're less likely to be bullies and more prone to step in if someone else is bullied. These strategies will help your youngster consider how other people feel:

- Using pictures in magazines, take turns inventing scenarios that encourage you to put yourselves in another person's place. *Example:* "Someone tripped this boy on the playground. How would you feel if that happened to you?"
- While watching videos or reading, point out when one character shows empathy for another. "George could see

how sad Lucy was when those kids were teasing her. I'm glad he stood up for her."

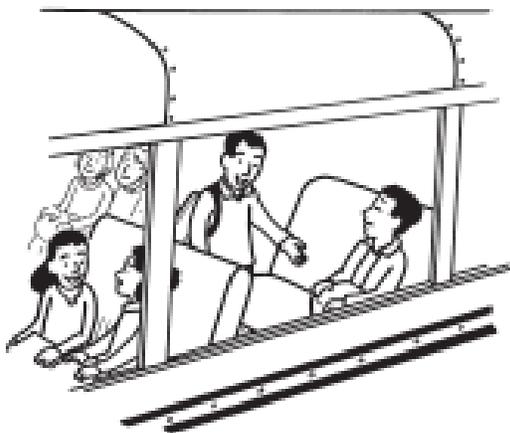
- Think aloud to help your child understand how to show empathy for people who act angry, rude, or mean. "Your brother must be having a bad day for him to be so grouchy. Let's ask how we can help."



along with slips of colored paper and a pen. Now tell everyone in the family to add a note to the jar when they “catch” someone being kind. For instance, “Dad made soup for me because I didn’t feel well” or “Jeremy cleaned up the dog’s muddy paw prints so Mom didn’t have to do it.” Once a week, read the slips aloud. Then, start a new batch.

AT SCHOOL

When students are kind and compassionate, there is more learning and less bullying. These ideas can help your youngster be a caring classmate.



Welcome someone new

Have your child think about what it feels like to be the new kid. You might remind him how he felt on his first day somewhere. Maybe he was afraid the kids at basketball camp wouldn’t like him or that he’d have no one to play with at an after-school program. Then, help him think of ways to make things better for a new student. For example, he could sit with the classmate on the bus or invite him to join a kickball game at recess.

Share a compliment

While your youngster doesn’t have to be best friends with everyone in her class, she does need to be nice to them. Encourage her to focus on each person’s strengths instead of reasons she might not like them. Try prompting her with questions like “Who is a good athlete?” or “Who draws cool pictures?” Suggest that she use those answers to give compliments. For instance, in art class, she can tell a classmate she likes his painting. After a spelling bee, she could congratulate the winner. She may be surprised to see that a few nice words will encourage others to be kind, too.

AROUND TOWN

When your youngster regularly puts others first, kindness and compassion become second nature. Take advantage of big and small opportunities for her to make a difference in the community.

Pay it forward

Make it a family policy to do two kind things for each one done for you. Be sure to let your child know that even small things count. Someone might hold the door open for her to enter a restaurant, for example. To pay the kindness forward (twice), your youngster could hold the door for another person—and offer to get an elderly couple’s order when it’s called.



For times when she can’t pay it forward right away, your child can watch for chances to catch up during the day.

Encourage a can-do attitude

In tough situations, your youngster may want to show compassion but feel that his actions won’t make a difference. For instance, he might want to help a neighborhood family who lost everything in a house fire. Remind him that while some things are too big for him to fix completely, there’s still plenty he can do. Then, brainstorm ideas together. His list could include everything from donating clothes from his own closet to bigger things like having a yard sale to raise money for the family.



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