

Dear Parents,

Our class is participating in the Lucky Dog- Humane Education curriculum that teaches kindness, respect, compassion, and responsibility. Research has shown that teaching young children from an early age to participate in community service and empathize with others can greatly reduce the risk of developing bully like characteristics.

This month's lesson begins with the book Make Way for Ducklings by Robert McCloskey. The book helps teach the importance of respecting our community wildlife or "urban wildlife" such as ducks, squirrels, birds, and opossums. The lesson focuses on being a responsible citizen, keeping our community clean, keeping a safe and respectful distance from wildlife, and speaking up if you see cruelty or disrespect. We will be taking a wildlife walk, and following writing prompts to write about what respect means to us.

Throughout the past month's curriculum we have been engaging in community service learning projects. This month we invited a wildlife conservationist to speak to our class. The _____ conservation group will be visiting us on _____, you and your family are invited to come learn with us.

To expand your child's learning at home, please consider joining a clean up day or simply visit a park and pick up litter. I will be making a "Helping our Community During Family Time" poster so please send any pictures you would like included in our poster.

The children are also going to be reporting on a wild animal that is part of our local community. Each child will select an animal and research that animal's needs. They will then report their findings by creating an informative poster, making a video, or creating a diorama of that animal's habitat.

Thank you for being a big part of our journey to become compassionate and responsible citizens.

Sincerely,