

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 we are focusing on building empathy. We will first focus on shelter animals and learn what makes a pet feel safe and happy. The children will each write a letter asking for a perfect forever family from a shelter pet's perspective. To further our learning of empathy, the children will then connect to the feelings of peers and other fellow human beings. We will look at a school day from the eyes of another and discuss how our actions affect those around us. As a class we will develop a project to improve the school experience for at least one other person on our campus.

We will also be making fleece dog toys for the lonely dogs at our local shelter, in the hopes that we can bring them a little bit of happiness. We have written letters to local craft and fabric stores for donations but if you have any extra remnants of fleecy fabric that you are willing to donate, please send them to school with your child next week.

If you are able, please contact our local shelter to ask them about having your child come and read to the shelter pets. Not only is it soothing for the pets to have the close connection to a child, but also studies show that it helps build confidence and reading fluency in the reader, so it is beneficial to everyone involved. (Build reading fluency and empathy in the child and make a shelter pet feel calm and loved.)

Thank you for helping build compassion in our classroom and beyond.

Sincerely,