

Dear Parents,

Our class is participating in the Lucky Dog- Humane Education curriculum that teaches kindness, respect, compassion, empathy, 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 acceptance and inclusion. The lesson begins with reading the book “A Different Little Doggy” by Heather Whittaker. The children are then introduced to real pictures and stories of animals that are unique. (A bird without feathers who wears sweaters, a dog with 3 legs, & a cat with no bones in her legs, and more). The lessons begin with animals and then generalize into human relations, acceptance, and inclusion of all animals and people.

As a class we will be participating in “Daily Acts of Kindness” and will also be making cards for a grandparent, an elderly neighbor, or for the residents of our local assisted living home.

I encourage you to continue the lessons at home. Doing acts of kindness is one of the best activities you can do with your kids. It’s a great way to bond as a family, a lot of fun and teaches kids about compassion and service. Here are a few ideas (we have many more in the classroom)

- Give candy to your bank teller.
- Bake cookies for the elderly.
- Serve at a homeless shelter.
- Tell someone why he or she is special to you.
- Donate outgrown clothes.
- Pick up litter on the beach.
- Let someone go in front of you in line.
- Bring your neighbors’ garbage cans up for them
- Leave a letter in a library book

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

Sincerely,