

COLLIER EDUCATOR GRANT “STAND UP FOR JUSTICE”

Sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Naples.

A monetary grant will be made to the educator whose lesson(s) and/or activity(s) is selected as best meeting the criteria below. The purpose of this grant is to honor Collier County’s elementary, middle, and high school educators who strive to counter the prevailing tendency within today’s popular culture for students to deride or denigrate others based upon difference. The lesson(s) or activity(s) should have as its major objective the purpose of instilling the positive character trait of “respect for others” in students. All applicants must have created lessons and/or activities of their own design or have successfully made adaptations from other programs and show evidence of a positive nature as a result of implementation. All applicants will submit a copy of the lesson(s) or activity(s), a description of its implementation, and evidence of its effectiveness. Applicants may include Collier County elementary, middle, and high school teachers, guidance counselors, supervisors, school librarians, administrators, psychologists, and media specialists. Students, parents, colleagues, and community members are encouraged to nominate an educator. Self-nominations are also encouraged and accepted.

APPLICATION:

Applicants’ names: Angela Burchett, Terry Dalton, and Amyrose LoMele

Applicants’ email addresses: aburchett@seacrest.org tdalton@seacrest.org
alomele@seacrest.org

Number of years teaching: 15+

Grade or subject taught: Preschool, Kindergarten, Fourth Grade

School: Seacrest Country Day School

School Address: 7100 Davis Blvd. Naples, FL 34110

Phone (daytime): 239.793.1985

Phone (evening): 239.250.3891 (Angela Burchett)

Principal: Tyra Turner and Kevin Aspergren

Principal email address: tturner@seacrest.org kaspregren@seacrest.org

Principal Phone: 239.793.1986

STAND UP FOR JUSTICE GRANT APPLICATION

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ALL ARE WELCOME: KINDNESS BEGINS WITH TWO

Encouraging Acts of Kindness as the Foundation of the Diversity and Inclusion Program

Seacrest Country Day School, 2020-2021

“YOU CAN ALWAYS GIVE SOMETHING, EVEN IF IT IS ONLY KINDNESS.”

--Anne Frank

***PRECIPITATING EVENTS:**

With the opening of the 2020-2021 academic year, Seacrest Country Day School identified the importance of adopting a program to recognize and celebrate the diversity and inclusion of all students and families. A Diversity and Inclusion Committee was formed and plans were put into motion to develop a curriculum that provides awareness, education, empathy, and support to all of the Seacrest Country Day School Community, regardless of race, religion, gender identification, and/or family structure. Seacrest recognizes that KINDNESS is at the very heart of embracing diversity and inclusion, beginning with the youngest Seacrest students. With this in mind, the Seacrest Lower School is developing foundational classroom experiences emphasizing the giving and receiving of kindness. Using intentionally written and beautifully illustrated children’s literature, the Seacrest Preschool, Kindergarten, and Fourth Grades created experiences that facilitate discussion surrounding what it means to be kind. Coupled with hands-on extension activities to provide a visual expression of kindness in action, these experiences have laid the groundwork for the school community to follow suit. Additionally, Seacrest made an intentional decision to celebrate World Kindness Day across campus, using this as a celebration of kindness, interconnectedness, and the power of positivity. To make the inaugural celebration, the Seacrest Parent Association donated specially-designed kindness T-shirts for each student. Colleague Amyrose LoMele created kindness T-shirts for the Seacrest faculty and staff. The wearing of the kindness T-shirts was a lovely way to bring cohesiveness to the Seacrest Community with a gentle and visual reminder to be kind. One is never too young or too old to share kindness, because as Anne Frank so clearly stated: “You can always give something, even if it is only kindness.” Kindness is a transactional gift that can be given freely and freely received because “KINDNESS BEGINS WITH TWO.”

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***LESSONS/ACTIVITIES:**

EXPERIENCE 1: Preschool (Terry Dalton)

Literature: **THE COLOR OF US** by Karen Katz

Book Synopsis: A little girl named Lena observes and compares the different skin tones of family, friends, and neighbors. She describes the skin tones using identifiable comparisons such as “warm as French toast” and “creamy peanut butter” and then mixes her paints accordingly to create portraits of each one.

Following a reading of the book, Mrs. Dalton asked her Preschool children to compare the skin tones of their hands. She had the children help her mix paints to create their own skin tone and then had the children make handprints. The handprints were cut out, laminated, and placed on display in the Seacrest Country Day School Lower School hallway with the heading of “BELONGING.” Photographs of the children and their hands were added to the display.

This story and activity were shared with the PreK and Kindergarten classes. The handprints of the PreK and Kindergarten children were added to the display to emphasize the array of diversity within these three classrooms and to promote awareness that at Seacrest, all are welcome and that kindness is shown to all children, regardless of skin tone.

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EXPERIENCE 2: Kindergarten (Angela Burchett)

Literature: **A SICK DAY FOR AMOS MCGEE** by Philip C. Stead and Erin E. Stead

Book Synopsis: Amos McGee is the kind and gentle zookeeper who knows just how to care for his animal friends each day. When Amos is kept away from the zoo with a bad cold, his animal friends ‘escape’ from the zoo to spend the day at Amos’ home kindly caring for him in the ways they know best.

The Kindergarten children loved the book **A SICK DAY FOR AMOS MCGEE**. This book beautifully illustrates the transactional quality of kindness and how “kindness begins with two.” Following the reading of the story, the children shared their thoughts about how kindness is meant to be shared, just as Amos and his animal friends were both the givers and receivers of acts of kindness. The Kindergarten children created wonderful illustrations of how they are kind friends to one another. As a culminating event to this project, the Kindergarten children invited the Seacrest Leadership Team to a classroom presentation in which the children proudly voiced their ideas and shared their artwork. These “pictures worth a thousand words” beautifully convey how even very young children understand that no act of kindness is too small to make a difference.

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EXPERIENCE 3: Fourth Grade (Amyrose LoMele)

Literature: **ENEMY PIE** by Derek Munson and Tara Calahan King

Book Synopsis: A little boy is having the perfect summer, until Jeremy Ross moves into town. He quickly becomes the main character's "best enemy". But the boy's father has the perfect solution to help with the problem, a recipe for Enemy Pie. The boy imagines the gross and terrible ingredients that will be included. As his father begins to assemble the pie, he shares with his son the last step to making this super secret recipe: tricking your enemy into trusting you by being kind and spending a whole day of quality time together. Little does the main character know, this is the most important step, for it changes enemy pie, into friendship pie.

After reading this book, students discussed themes from the story including acceptance, friendship, conflict resolution, multiple perspectives, differences, choices, and relationships. Students shared their thoughts on kindness and how it is important to spread kindness and look for the light in others, even when it may be challenging. Students also discussed the idiom don't judge a book by its cover, and also how important it is to find ways to come together, versus focusing on the things that keep us apart. After these discussions, students made their own recipes for how to get rid of their enemies, using the lessons learned from the book to highlight that the best way to get rid of an enemy is to make that person your friend instead.

After creating their recipes, student work was displayed in the hallway for others to read and learn from. The experience was also highlighted during the Fourth Grade Flag Ceremony, where students shared examples of how they learn about and live by the Seacrest Core Values, which include: KINDNESS, integrity, respect, responsibility, curiosity, and perseverance.

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***EXPLANATION OF HOW THESE LESSONS/ACTIVITIES TEACH STUDENTS THE IMPORTANCE OF RESPECTING OTHERS NO MATTER WHAT RELIGIOUS, RACIAL, CULTURAL, OR OTHER DIFFERENCES EXIST:**

Seacrest Country Day School adopted an important diversity and inclusion statement as a tenet of our school's core values. In order to support this "All Are Welcome" initiative, Seacrest endeavored to create a collection of 75 children's literature books, centered on the themes of diversity and inclusion. With gratitude, the funds for this book collection were received through a generous grant. This collection of 75 children's literature books has been carefully curated and is intended for inspiring thoughtful and respectful dialogue, as well as an understanding of empathy, compassion, and inclusion from the youngest of Seacrest learners in Preschool to the Seacrest Seniors. The beauty of children's literature is that important life lessons are presented through simple, yet powerful prose with illustrations that deliberately underscore the theme of the story. The experiences described in this grant proposal are examples of lessons that can be adapted to each and every Seacrest Country Day School classroom. The Seacrest Diversity Committee will continue to work alongside classroom teachers to develop lessons and activities for each book geared to support the themes of diversity and inclusion. This is a multi-faceted and ongoing project--but one with on-going and high hopes that the Seacrest Community will be one that models a school where "kindness begins with two" and spreads until ALL ARE WELCOME.

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***EXPLANATION OF HOW THESE EXPERIENCES PREPARE CHILDREN WITH MEANS TO COUNTER BIGOTRY AND BULLYING AND PREPARE THEM TO STAND UP FOR JUSTICE:**

It is true that knowledge is power and that consistency is key. By introducing the youngest of Seacrest learners to experiences that emphasize kindness, diversity, and inclusion, and by creating a consistent school wide curriculum that emphasizes these values throughout each grade level, the hope is that students will grow up to be accepting, empathetic, and kind, as well as confident, well-versed, and skilled at meeting bigotry and bullying head-on. And, it must be stated that no person is too young or too old to give kindness to another. No matter the circumstance, "kindness always begins with two" and the words of Anne Frank must be ever remembered: "You can always give something, even if it is only kindness."

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***PLEASE PROVIDE EVIDENCE/PROOF OF EFFECTIVENESS, SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO A QUESTIONNAIRE, INTERVIEWS, DOCUMENTED ANECDOTAL CONVERSATIONS, AND/OR OBSERVATIONS, STUDENT WRITINGS, ETC.**

Please see the photos below for each of the three literature-based “All Are Welcome: Kindness Begins with Two” experiences, created to encourage acts of kindness as the foundation of the Seacrest Country Day School Diversity and Inclusion Program.

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Submit the completed form in writing, by email, or video format no later than February 12, 2021, to:

Beth Povlow, Educator Grant Coordinator,

**C/o JCRC, Jewish Federation of Greater Naples
2500 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Suite #2201, Naples, FL 34109**

MarcoPovlow@hotmail.com



Photo of Faculty, Staff, and Students on World Kindness Day





Preschool, Pre-K, and Kindergarten "Belonging" bulletin board and photos

WORLD KINDNESS DAY!
NOVEMBER 13, 2020

Olivia is kind when she throws
away trash to take care of our
earth.



WORLD KINDNESS DAY!
NOVEMBER 13, 2020

Hudson is kind when he pushes in
his chair so friends do not trip.



WORLD KINDNESS DAY!
NOVEMBER 13, 2020

Cam is kind when he says 'thank
you' to people.



Examples of Kindergarten Kindness illustrations

Recipe to get Rid of my Best Enemy

Steps

Ingredients

Base ball, time,
to go, trampolene, play RC cars,
DVDs, TV!

- 1) let them win in Bds
 - 2) let them pick a coloring Page
 - 3) play tog with them
 - 4) teach how to do flips
 - 5) watch tv
- let them over
- 6) become friends

Recipe to get Rid of my Best Enemy

Steps

Ingredients

See if they can Play
(Play games)
hang out
be kind
have cake
(civilian and recren)
have fun
(Play tags)
(be friends)

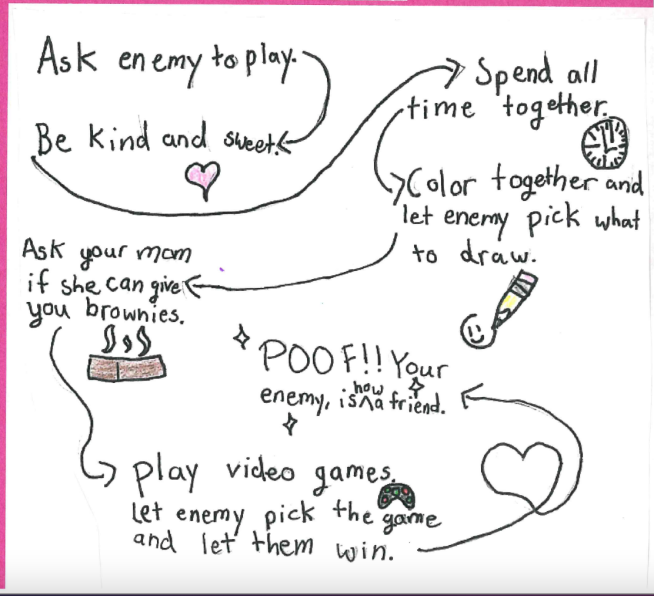


Recipe to get Rid of my Best Enemy

Steps

Ingredients

Courage, kindness, time,
fun, brownies, crayons,
and video games.



Examples of Fourth Grade Recipes for Enemy Pie