



The Kindness Crew

EDEN PARK ELEMENTARY

SAMANTHA KINSLAND 4TH GRADE

Applicant- Samantha Kinsland

Describe the precipitating events that motivated you to initiate these lessons or activities.

Even the smallest act of kindness can form big waves and that is exactly what we plan to do this year at EPE! Eden Park Elementary has some of the brightest and best students and teachers in Collier County Public Schools. Located in Immokalee, we serve over 650 students daily. At Eden Park we strive to look at the positive behaviors in all we do. One of our school wide goals is to recognize every student in our building with a positive referral by the end of the school year. One day I was staring at my computer while my students were working on their morning writing prompt and thought out loud, "Who will I be able to give a positive referral to today?" Then a hand went up... and a few others followed. Out of curiosity, I let them share. One student said, "'John' should get a positive referral because he is always on task." Another mentioned, "'Sarah' helped me the other day when I needed help, so I think she deserves one". Hearing my students recognize their peers for positive behavior made me feel a sense of pride. I have always strived to inspire kindness and acceptance into my classroom. I make sure that all my students feel important and special for who they are. So, I knew in that very instance I had to grab onto this wonderful thing that was happening and encourage it. I stopped what we were doing and we had a lengthy conversation and came up with our new classroom initiative, the "positive referral bin."

Describe the lesson(s) or activity(s); and if adapted from another source please reference.

A typical day in Mrs. Kinsland's classroom: Greet students at the door, answer a writing prompt that leads to a whole class discussion, get to work on science and writing. With the positive referral bin, students can freely get up throughout class and grab a sticky note. They jot down the positive action they observed and put it into the bin. Every Friday, I pick two notes and read them to the class. We quickly celebrate the students who were picked and they proudly get to add their positive note onto our "wall of positivity." After we celebrate, I use the positive notes that were written by students and create a positive referral for that student in Focus. This was just the start of it all. After they had begun writing positive notes to each other, they began asking if they were allowed to write notes for others; such as teachers, students in other classes and even the custodians. When I heard custodian, I paused. I wasn't really expecting them to ask to write positive notes to the custodians. And I did what I always do, I asked why and we talked about it. Due to Covid-19, students realized the importance of keeping our classrooms clean and how important our custodians truly are. So, I ran with it. I took this opportunity to continue building upon this kindness initiative. I suggested that instead of writing a positive note and adding it to our bin, how about we thank them for all they do by creating multiple positive notes and taping them somewhere for everyone to see? This small idea became the foundation of what we now call, 'The Kindness Crew'. We as a class have made it our mission to continue spreading random acts of kindness throughout the school. I have purchased a variety of stickers to pass out to classrooms as well as candy and small gifts to surprise teachers. As we continue to expand our initiative, we hope to incorporate new ideas and ways to spread kindness across our school.

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Explain how the lesson(s) or activity(s) teach students the importance of respecting others no matter what religious, racial, cultural, or other differences exist.

Kindness is contagious! I knew that if I showed my students respect, they would follow. These students quickly embraced our new classroom culture and practiced kindness in every way. In a school that is increasingly diverse, kindness was necessary to welcome the increasing number of students coming in. Many students were returning from virtual education to face to face instruction and it was my duty to make them feel as welcomed and wanted as possible. Rather than look at student differences based on religion, race, or cultural background, students look at their classmates as a family and partnership within the classroom. Kindness notes were written in student's heritage language to further recognize that we are all "EPE Bobcats" ... regardless of race, religion, or cultural background. With kindness all things are possible!

Explain how it helped them counter bigotry and bullying and prepared them to stand up for justice.

My class chooses to focus on celebrating each other and encouraging each other to meet behavioral expectations. The class culture is very positive and encouraging. Students choose to recognize and value each other. Mutual care and respect have been developed by all students and they do not engage in behaviors such as bullying or judging others for being different. Truly, the class works together and helps each other without hesitation; simply put, they do not have the time to bully or judge.

Please provide evidence/proof of effectiveness such as but not limited to: a questionnaire, interviews, documented anecdotal conversations and/or observations, student writings, and etc

Evidence #1: Recognition

From: HENDRY, JENNIFER
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2020 1:41 PM
To: EPEGroup <EPEGroup@collierschools.com>
Subject: Kuddos

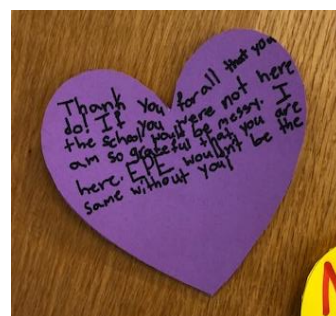
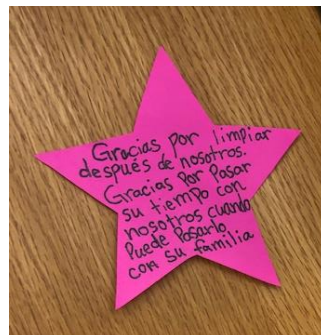
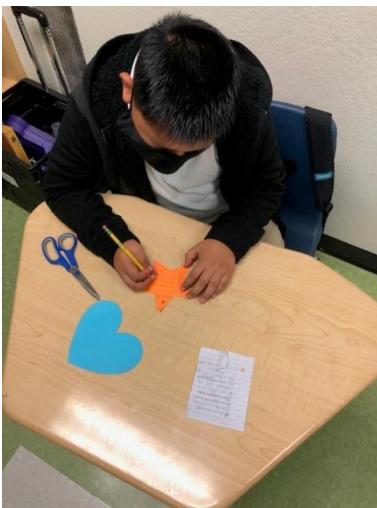
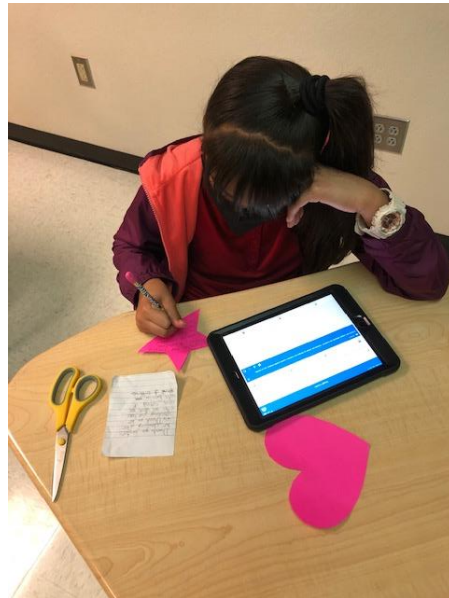
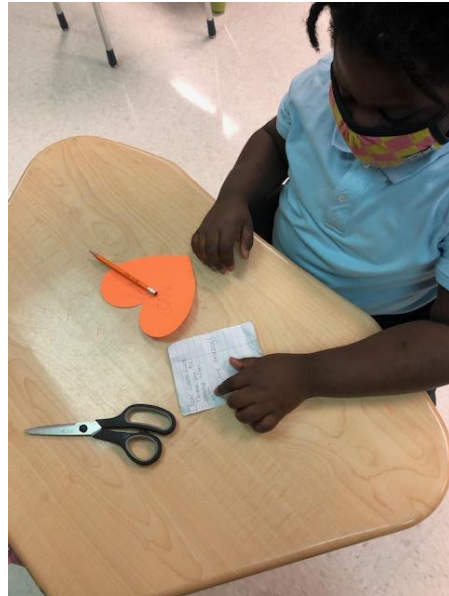
SHOUT OUT AND KUDDOS TO MRS. KINSLAND.

I have been in and out of 3-5th grade classrooms the last two weeks and saw some amazing things happening in each classrooms. In Mrs. Kinsland's 4th grade class I saw an amazing SEL/culture building activity going on. What is it you ask? They have a positive note bucket in their classroom where kids can give each other a positive note. "mind blown here" when I walked into the classroom all of the kids were so excited to show me what they were doing and eager to tell me about the positive notes they were writing each other. AWESOME JOB MRS. KINSLAND. This is an awesome example of building class culture at EPE. 😊 Be sure to give Mrs. Kinsland an air heart or air high five when you see her. 😊

Jennifer Hendry
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Evidence #3: Custodian Appreciation



Evidence #4: Notes from the students

How has the kindness crew helped you because it had teched us to do nicer things in life. It make other's feel happy inside when they are having a bad and it also makes them feel that we care about them.

The kindness crew helps me spread kindness around the school and outside of the school. It makes me feel happy because I want to spread kindness and for more classes to spread more kindness so the whole school has kindness. I think they feel kind and I hope they spread more kindness too.

2-3-21 Daniel
The kindness crew helps me by spreading kindness around the school without kindness everyone will be mad at each other and fight. In my opinion I think it makes other feel happy and greatful.

The 'kindness crew' helps me feel happy because I love surprising people. It has also helped me try new things. I think it makes other people be happy because they get things they like. I think the 'kindness crew' helps students feel happy. The kindness crew is kind because we give people a nice surprise. I feel like it also makes others feel like they have someone to trust.

The kindness crew help me be a better person I use to not say good morning when the teacher say but now when she says good morning i say good morning.

The kindness crew helped others by making them do something kind for others. We are doing the kindness crew because we want to make people feel good about themselves. I believe that the kindness crew will help others be kind. The kindness crew makes me feel good because I want others to be kind to each other. I am so glad I get to be in the kindness crew.

MyRA

Mr. B. Kinsland

We make people happy exided it can help them by being kind because if everone is be mean they would not have no freinds so this is why it's important to us to be kind.