

October 1, 2019

WHITEHOUSE NEWS



WE ARE CUBS OF CHARACTER!

The mission of Whitehouse School is to provide children with a nurturing environment where they will feel safe and accepted. Our school community encourages respect and builds independence while fostering academic and personal growth and creating a love for learning.

A Message From Your Principal...

Dear WHS Friends and Families,

Thank you for partnering with us to instill good character in our children. We appreciate how you have consistently supported our *bucket-filling* efforts by discussing our monthly themes at home, and by returning signed bucket puzzle sheets to us each month. In our Town Hall Meeting today, we celebrated a milestone that illustrates how important our home & school connection has been. This month marked the 21st consecutive month that 100% of Whitehouse School students handed in their signed bucket puzzle homework! Wow!!! What a winning streak!!! Please help us maintain this unbelievable record!!! October is *Friendliness* Month, so that bucket was distributed today. Also, check out our *Character Corner* tab on the Whitehouse School website for amazing resources or in case you ever need to print out another copy of our monthly bucket, or want a younger sibling to participate, too!

As we integrate our monthly character traits into instruction, we try to focus on five major areas of Social-Emotional Learning or SEL. Our goal is to help students recognize and become proficient with these competencies as we build upon the foundation that you have already established at home. The five Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Competencies include: *Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, and Responsible Decision-Making* (CASEL, 2017).

One place that students see us *putting it all together* is in the *WHS SEL Lounge*. This is a place that Mr. Anthony Tumolo first envisioned for us four years ago. Mr. Tumolo is a former WHS teacher, who now works as a district Supervisor as he shares his SEL expertise with all of the schools. Our *SEL Lounge* is a calming place that is designed to help students develop their senses. Materials in this sensory room are available for students to use. Students are given the freedom to explore the contents of the room depending on their visual, auditory, or tactile preferences.

[Click here](#) to see Mr. Tumolo, and our school counselor, Mr. Paul Smith, as they outline our expectations for using this space in a respectful manner.

Pictured on the right with third grade teacher, Mrs. Truempy, are Alaina Gauvin and Amelia Alicino-Farnella in our SEL Lounge.



Warmly,
Ann T. DeRosa, Ed.D.