



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER NAPLES

**THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.**

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.

View previous winners and submissions here: <https://jewishnaples.org/outreach/educator-award>

Applicant's name: Cara Denny and Candace Johnson
Applicant's email: DennyCa@collierschools.com, johnsc@collierschools.com
Number of years teaching: 20 yrs. and 15yrs Grade or subject taught: School Counselor
School: Golden Gate Elementary
School Address: 4911 20th Place SW, Naples, FL 34116
Phone (daytime): 239.377.6900 Phone (evening): _____
Principal's name: Kelly Bergey Principal's email address: bergeke@collierschools.com Principal's Phone: 239.377.6900

Requirements due by February 15, 2019:

On a separate page(s) with the name of the applicant on each page, please briefly:

- Describe the precipitating events that motivated you to initiate these lessons or activities.
- Describe the lesson(s) or activity(s); and if adapted from another source please reference.
- 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.
- Explain how it helped them counter bigotry and bullying and prepared them to stand up for justice.

If your application is selected as a finalist, you may be asked to provide evidence/proof of effectiveness such as but not limited to: a questionnaire, interviews, documented anecdotal conversations and/or observations, and etc.

Please complete the following if you have encouraged someone other than yourself to apply:

Your name: Kristina Fisher Your email: fisherkl@collierschools.com
Phone (daytime): 239.377.6914 Phone (evening): 608.225.0076
Your relationship to this applicant: Assistant Principal

Submit the completed form in writing, by email, or video format no later than February 15, 2019, to:
Beth Povlow, Educator Grant Coordinator, C/o JCRC, Jewish Federation of Greater Naples
2500 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Suite #2201, Naples, FL 34109

“Stand Up For Justice” Collier Educator Grant

**Cara Denny
Golden Gate Elementary**

Golden Gate Elementary (GGE) is a wonderfully unique and diverse school. We are a community of students from different countries, cultures and who speak different languages, but it is our goal to welcome and create a sense of belonging for every student. Golden Gate Elementary is a Lighthouse School, which is a distinguished school in the Leader in Me framework. Within this framework, students are empowered to have a voice to step up and lead to implement ideas and programs within our school. Because of this vision, the Kindness Club was created for ‘Kindness Leaders’ to create and facilitate activities to promote kindness within the school, as well as outside our school community.

To help welcome new students to GGE, the Kindness Club expanded on a Collier County District initiative, and has identified ‘Friendship Ambassadors’ to greet new students with a welcome gift and escort them to their classroom. The Friendship Ambassadors are from the new student’s classroom, and whenever possible, speak the same language, so they continue to mentor the new student and help them acclimate to their new classroom and to GGE. Friendship Ambassadors also interview new students which they post with a picture on a ‘Welcome to our Team’ poster and they facilitate a “Welcome Breakfast” to bring all of the new students together for a morning of fun and comradery.

The first official mission for the Kindness Club, was a secret mission! The Kindness Leaders performed random acts of kindness around the school for other students. Kindness Leaders left compliment cards, student shout outs and thank you notes to recognize and encourage their classmates. They were also given ‘seagull cents’ to share with other students so that they could shop at the school store. One of the most positive outcomes of this activity was the reflection piece, as Kindness Leaders recognized how spreading kindness not only makes someone else feel good, it also impacted their own mood in a very positive way.

The Kindness Leaders took their roles as a leader very seriously and they wanted to find a way to motivate other students to be kind. During a group discussion, the leaders identified the playground and the cafeteria as two locations where they felt that students sometimes needed that reminder. The Kindness Club went to work to ‘graffiti’ the school. Messages of kindness and respect were artistically written on a wall poster in the hallway to the cafeteria. They also used sidewalk chalk to create a pathway of inspiration to the playground. The messages that they shared encouraged students to “Be Yourself”, “Spread Kindness”, “Be a Friend”, and reminded them, “It’s Cool to be Kind”.

Cara Denny
Golden Gate Elementary

When the Kindness Club wanted to do a project to spread kindness to the community, Hurricane Michael had just hit the Florida Panhandle. The Kindness Leaders were able to identify with some of difficulties and feelings of the students who had been effected, since they had recently gone through Hurricane Irma just one year before. As we talked, the leaders discussed damage to their homes, school being cancelled and their fears. However, one year later they wanted to convey a sense of comfort and hope to the students of the Florida panhandle. The Kindness Leaders drew pictures to encourage hope, and those pictures were sewn together by a very special volunteer to create a quilt. The quilt was sent to Hiland Park Elementary as a symbol of comfort, hope and the connection between our two school communities.

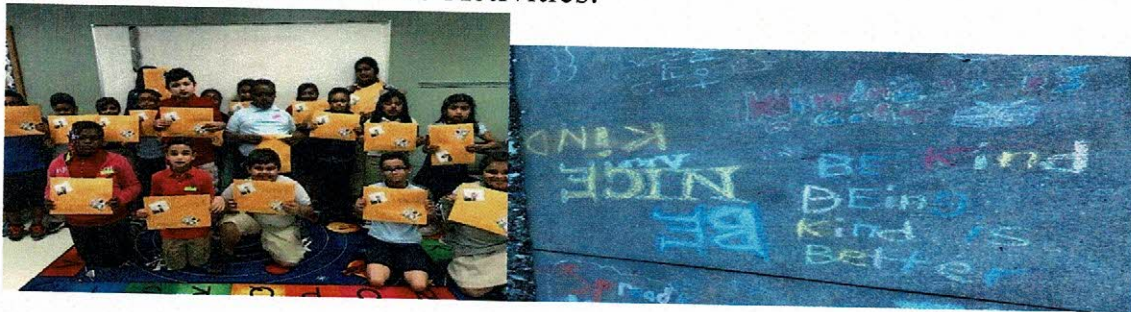
The Kindness Club also expressed a desire to spread kindness to the school staff. So they achieved this goal by 'candy caning' the staff parking lot. Kindness Leaders drew pictures, wrote words of inspiration and gratitude on a card and attached a candy cane. The cards were then distributed to all of the cars in the staff parking lot. Of course, some students tried to identify certain teacher's cars to 'candy cane' but it didn't stop there, the Kindness Leaders tried to identify the car of that special custodian or cafeteria worker, emphasizing the impact all staff members have on a student's school experience.

The mission of the Kindness Club is not done! As we enter February, our kindness month, there is a race to kindness where all students at GGE are encouraged to perform random acts of kindness. As each student performs these kind acts, they will add a car to our race track, and we will see which grade level demonstrates the most kindness. There will also be activities at recess to facilitate new friendships, students will find out things they have in common when they play 'Take a Seat, Make a Friend' or a game of 'Just Like Me'.

The Kindness Club works under the belief that kindness is truly contagious. As the Kindness Leaders express excitement for each new activity, they have formed new friendships with students of different grade levels and different backgrounds. The other students have also enthusiastically embraced the school wide kindness initiatives, adding cars of kindness to our racetrack as they too look beyond racial or cultural differences to celebrate the unique qualities that help create lasting friendships and respect.

Golden Gate Elementary is a wonderfully unique and diverse school. We are a part of a close knit and diverse community, and as such, there are conflicts, and at times students can be mean to one another. However, more often than that, we see a school where students feel a sense of belonging and a playground where our students, could serve as examples to the rest of the world of how to get along in this multicultural world. Because of these continuous efforts, we see students standing up for one another or asking the adults for help as they try to maneuver friendships and recognize that everyone is special and deserves to be treated with kindness and respect.

Cara Denny
Golden Gate Elementary
Pictures of the Kindness Club Activities:



Kindness Leaders prepare for their kindness secret mission.

Kindness Leaders create a path of inspiration to the playground.



The quilt that was created by the members of the Kindness Club for Hiland Park Elementary.



Spreading good cheer to GGE staff by "Candy Caning" the parking lot.



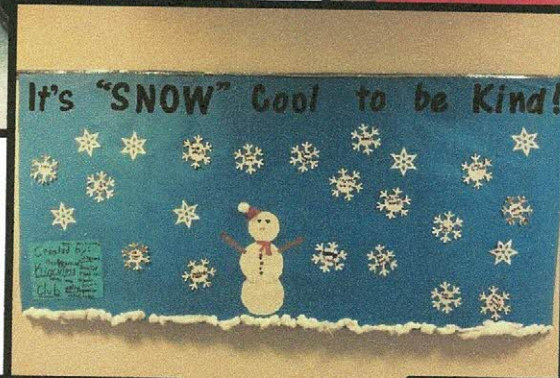
5th Grade is off to a strong start in the GGE Race to Kindness Challenge.

GGE'S KINDNESS CLUB ACTIVITES

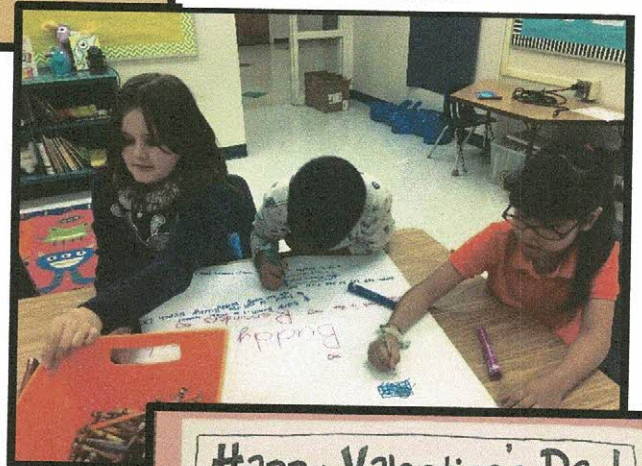
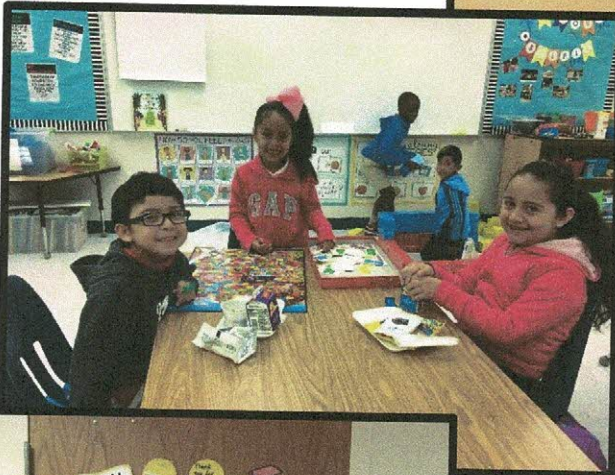
Kindness Club members working on creating their Kindness Bulletin Board. They wanted to share ways their peers can spread kindness around GGE.



Kindness Club members having a "Welcome to GGE" breakfast with new students.



Kindness Club members making Buddy Bench posters to hang up around school.



Kindness Club members enjoy showing their appreciation for our staff members.

