

Peru Catholic School

Volume1: December 1, 2018

Parents say, "Good grades trump kindness," at least this is what students think

When your kid gets straight As, it's cause for a celebratory dinner out. When they win a baseball game, there are loud cheers from the bleachers. But when that same kid helps an elderly neighbor, or a friend, is there any kind of fanfare?

"My parents are prouder if I get good grades in my class than if I'm a caring community member in class and school."

Several years ago, Harvard researchers¹ discovered that children were 3 times more likely to **AGREE** than disagree with this statement. Dr. Weissbound found in his 2016 study, that 80% of youth say their parents care more about their achievements and happiness than about whether they are being kind. "We are hyper-focused on our own kid's happiness," says Rick Weisbound, who conducted the study at Harvard Graduate School of Education. "I wasn't surprised that happiness was ranked the highest, but I was surprised that achievement was ranked so high."

Interesting, right?

If you ask most parents how important instilling kindness into their kids is, they will rank it pretty high on the list. The truth is, ranking it high is not enough. **Teaching children kindness and empathy does involve deliberate effort.** Children learn kindness just like they would learn anything else, such as a sport or an instrument. So daily repetition of acts of caring is crucial to learn a lifelong kindness habit.

¹ "Parents say good grades trump kindness." Richard Weissbound, December 6, 2018. Harvard Graduate School of Education



Upcoming Events

December 5

Kitty Cougar Forms Due

December 7

January LUNCH Forms Due

December 12

Make an Impact Day
(formerly Mission Theme Day)
– Wear your FAVORITE PJ's

December 12

PCS Christmas Program

December 18

Kitty Cougar Performance

December 21

Recognition Ceremony

Classroom Holiday Parties

Noon Dismissal – Christmas Break

We are going to respond to this study at PCS starting NOW. Look for our KINDNESS tree and check out the **FREE PRINTABLES** I've provided in this week's newsletter.

KINDNESS MATTERS – SPREAD THAT GOODNESS EVERYWHERE

Peace & Blessings,

Amy

aperona@perucatholic.org

GOOD 2 GREAT MOMENTS

“Our character is what we do when we think no one is looking.”

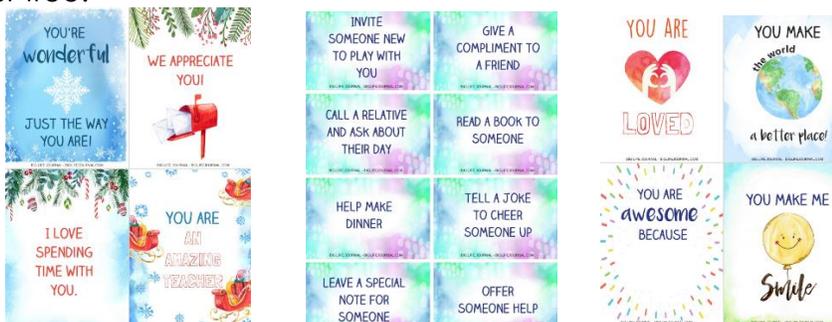
Over the past couple weeks, the following students were recognized for their outstanding character traits. They are another reason why we are moving from #good2great!

- McKenna Biagoni (grade 2) – Quick Thinking

KINDNESS TREE (and FREE PRINTABLES FOR HOME)

At PCS I value the long tradition of strong academic achievement, Christian values and faith formation. I also value strong character traits, kindness, empathy, and compassion for everyone. One of the ways I've worked to ensure my students know this is through our "good2great" movement, and recognition assemblies. Hugs, smiles, and compliments are an everyday occurrence in this building.

During the month of December PCS students will be provided with KINDNESS cards to give out to classmates, or other students in the building they notice or receive a random act of kindness from. These cards will be signed by the students and placed on our KINDNESS tree in the entry way. We will also leave some cards out for EVERYONE who comes into our building to fill out. Maybe someone shared a smile, hug, or kind word with you? Share that with us as we fill our tree.



Maybe
Christmas he
thought, doesn't
come from a
store. Maybe
Christmas
perhaps, means
a little bit more!

All month we are asking our PCS students what Christmas means to them. I'll be sharing their stories in my newsletter, and on our social media accounts.



EMPOWER ILLINOIS – 75% TAX CREDIT

Change A Child's Life Transform K-12 Education in Illinois

A quality education is out of reach for far too many children. Empower Illinois scholarships give children the chance at the quality education they deserve.

Who are We: Empower Illinois provides low-income and working class families the opportunity to explore new, quality K-12 education through private school scholarships.

The Invest in Kids Act: In 2017, Empower Illinois played a critical role in the passage of the Invest in Kids Act which provides up to \$100,000 in private school K-12 scholarships to children from low-income and working-class families. Scholarships are funded through private donations from individuals and corporations to scholarship granting organizations, like Empower Illinois, which administer the program.

Proven Results: Tax credit scholarships give children a change at a quality education.

- In Florida, \$650 million is raised each year to provide scholarships to more than 100,000 low-income students.
- A recent report from the Urban Institute discovered that scholarship students are more likely to attend college than their non-scholarship peers.

A Tax Credit Opportunity: Donors to the Empower Illinois Invest in Kids program receive an Illinois income tax credit worth 75% of their gift up to \$1 million.

- The tax credit may be carried over for five years.
- The donation cannot be deducted from federal taxes.
- Marketable securities donations are exempt from federal capital gains taxes.

How Can This Help/Benefit Peru Catholic School?

Selecting a Region: Empower Illinois allows donors to TARGET THEIR REGION

- Corporate donors may direct their donation to one of five regions in Illinois.
- Individual donors may designate gifts to a specific school or group of schools.

EMPOWER ILLINOIS is a GREAT way for us to TARGET one of our INITIATIVES: TUITION ASSISTANCE.

For more information contact: aperona@perucatholic.org
Click [HERE](#) for more information and downloads.

THANK YOU

Make an Impact Donors (2018-19)

- Mr. and Mrs. Beth Potthoff
- Dr. Louis Lukancic
- Mr. and Mrs. Tim Kenney
- Mr. and Mrs. Anne Norris
- Ms. Camron Windy
- Mr. and Mrs. Jeremy Ring
- D&M Contracting
- Dashiell Natale
- Melanie Hirst
-



Make an Impact and GIVE using the VENMO app



Peru Catholic School Peru Catholi...
@PeruCatholicSchool



or Mail your donation

2003 5th Street

Peru, IL 61354

Make Checks Payable to: Peru Catholic School, *Make an Impact*

The “**Make an Impact**” drive helps support our school initiatives.

1. Technology
2. Modernization of the Building
3. Curriculum
4. Tuition Assistance

[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#)

INSPIRATIONAL WORDS



PEACE. LOVE. JOY.