



Press Release

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For Immediate Release
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Pennsbury Students Recognized for Responsibility

(Fallsington, PA) – Congratulations to the Pennsbury-LYFT Character Award winners for November. Students Sahaj Thakkar, Kate Bedesem, Roneicia Austin, and Charlotte Rittersbach were honored at the Pennsbury School Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, December 5, 2024.

The purpose of the Pennsbury-LYFT Character Award is to recognize and reward students who embody exemplary character traits and behaviors. The character trait for November was Responsibility.

Sahaj Thakkar is a fourth-grade student at Fallsington Elementary School and was nominated by Sherri Cohoon, Bill McDougall, Meghan Mix, Debbie Hellmuth, Kristen Cahill, and Vinny DePaola. They shared that Sahaj completes his assignments on time, stays organized, and comes prepared with the materials he needs each day. Sahaj listens attentively to instructions and asks questions when he needs clarification, showing he cares about doing his best. He follows through with all expectations and routines. Sahaj is a hardworking and engaged learner. Whether working independently or in a group, Sahaj is reliable, shows initiative, and is always ready to learn! Sahaj takes constructive feedback appropriately and uses it to better his understanding. He is always following the rules and showing PAW Pride. Sahaj is a wonderful role model for responsibility.

Kate Bedesem is a fifth-grade student at Afton Disney Elementary School and was nominated by Trisha Baehser, Laurie Gougher, Evon Moyle, Kristin Slota, and Ryan Sodano. They shared that Kate exemplifies a strong sense of responsibility and leadership through her role as a mentor to younger students as part of the SOAR Squad. She guides younger students with confidence while respecting adult supervisors. In SPARK class, Kate stands out as a responsible and collaborative team member. She ensures that participation within her group is balanced, often encouraging compromise to incorporate everyone's ideas. Kate effectively balances family obligations, academic work, and dedicated participation in a wide range of extracurricular activities. This highlights her strong sense of responsibility within the Afton community and beyond.

Cia Austin is an eighth-grader at William Penn Middle School and was nominated by David Costasno. He shared that Cia demonstrates exceptional responsibility as a member of the Building Equity Leadership Team, embracing her role with a commitment to fostering an inclusive and equitable environment within her school community. Cia embodies the spirit of responsibility through her warm and welcoming approach to new students, ensuring they feel valued and included from the moment they arrive. Her attention to detail and willingness to put in extra effort not only reflect her personal standards, but also inspire her classmates to strive for excellence. By prioritizing her education and taking ownership of her learning, Cia demonstrates that responsibility is key to achieving success.

Charlotte Rittersbach is a junior at Pennsbury High School and was nominated by Jennifer McCormac. She shared that Charlotte consistently demonstrates a strong sense of responsibility and excellent time management skills. She promotes a culture of diligence among her classmates by setting positive examples through her own actions. Charlotte consciously makes decisions that will help spread positivity in her own life, as well as the lives of others. Along with being an exceptional student, Charlotte works hard as a member of the cross country and track team. Even when she could not compete, she supported her team at practices and meets, cheering them on as they ran. She is a well-rounded, focused, and responsible student and we are lucky to have her as a part of the Pennsbury Community!

Each month, students are nominated by teachers, staff, or administration, and the winners are selected by LYFT and other community partners. LYFT is a group of volunteers, individuals, and

organizations throughout the community that share the common goal of strengthening and supporting Pennsbury students.

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