



Press Release

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For Immediate Release
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Pennsbury Students Recognized for Respect

(Fallsington, PA) – Congratulations to the Pennsbury-LYFT Character Award winners for October. Students Ethan Kali, Sean Hetrick Jr., Rithwik Bommagani, and Zachary Bunin were honored at the Pennsbury School Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, October 19, 2023.

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 October was Respectfulness.

Ethan Kali is a second-grader at Afton Elementary School and was nominated by Trish Baehser, Laurie Gougher, Evon Moyle, Kristin Slota, Ryan Sodano, Michelle Corbett, and Katie Oppenheimer. They shared that Ethan consistently listens the first time to any directions given by an adult. Ethan is respectful in being silent when he is supposed to be and makes it a pleasure for the Afton teachers to teach him. He models respectful behaviors for his classmates every day. In special area classes, Ethan is always focused and polite. He is a quiet leader who demonstrates expected behavior and inspires his classmates to do the same. Ethan SOARs with the Core 4 by being respectful, responsible, cooperative, and safe in his homeroom, special area classes, the hallway, at special events and assemblies, during arrival and dismissal, and at lunch and recess.

Sean Hetrick Jr. is a fifth-grader at Manor Elementary School and was nominated by Catherine Jones, Kristen Cimochofski, and Megan Edson. They say that Sean consistently shows

respectfulness in his interactions with both staff and students. His classmates notice his high regard for authority and strict adherence to the policies and procedures of the school and, in particular, the library. Sean is a phenomenal student and person. He is the first to be sure everyone is included. He can always be “caught” doing the right thing. He is well-respected in the classroom. His kindness, consideration, and willingness to listen and understand others is evident in SPARK class each week. Sean's actions and words consistently promote a positive and inclusive atmosphere.

Rithwik Bommagani is an eighth-grader at Pennwood Middle School and was nominated by Jacquie Shafer and Lisa Marie Belmonte. Rithwik is new to the District this year and is also new to the country. He is from India, and he is very happy to share about his life there with teachers, staff, and peers. He is always respectful when discussing similarities and differences between his life here and there, as well as his cultural beliefs. He always respectfully follows directions, and follows up for clarification when he is unsure of procedures due to language barriers and/or cultural barriers. Rithwik is respectful to his peers, is always willing to help, is always friendly, and shows kindness. When some might become discouraged, Rithwik always finds the light against the odds.

Zachary Bunin is a freshman at Pennsbury High School and was nominated by Breanne Weeden and Will Beliveau. They shared that Zach actively participates in class discussions, raises his hand politely, and offers helpful contributions. When he was sick and absent from school, Zach sent an email to all of his teachers notifying them of his absence and asking what work he could complete before his return to class. Zach always raises his hand and says "Excuse me" to ask for clarification to a question during assessments.

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 shares the common goal of strengthening and supporting Pennsbury students.

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