



Press Release

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For Immediate Release
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Pennsbury Students Recognized for Respectfulness

(Fallsington, PA) – Congratulations to the Pennsbury-LYFT Character Award winners for October. Students Henry Skoczalek, Harish Babu, Allison Bennett*, and Izayah Hellmuth were honored at the Pennsbury School Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, October 17, 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 October was Respectfulness.

Henry Skoczalek is a first-grade student at Penn Valley Elementary School and was nominated by Mary Johnston and Dot Wilcox. They shared that Henry consistently participates by raising his hand to share his thoughts, follows directions promptly, and adheres to all rules and procedures. Henry gently and thoughtfully reminds his peers of expectations, demonstrating his consideration for others. He readily offers his assistance with a friendly and supportive attitude. Henry respects all adults in the building, whether he knows them or not. He is sure to greet a paraprofessional in his grade by name every morning, creating a warm atmosphere. In the cafeteria, Henry uses polite manners without being prompted by the cafeteria staff, demonstrating his thoughtfulness.

Harish Babu is a fifth-grade student at Walt Disney Elementary School and was nominated by Katie Hantman, Regina Lewis, Kristen Fitzpatrick, and Raechel Whittaker. They shared that Harish is consistently respectful to his peers and their feelings. He always has a positive outlook

when helping or communicating. On several occasions, he has reminded peers in kind ways to follow the school rules. In the classroom, he raises his hand and waits to be called on. In the cafeteria, he speaks at an appropriate volume when interacting with his peers and addresses the adults in a respectful manner. On the playground, he uses all of the playground equipment properly and cleans up when it is time to go inside. Harish embodies Walt Disney's PBIS values of respectful, responsible, and safe.

Allison Bennett is an eighth-grader at Charles Boehm Middle School and was nominated by Heather Bain and Virginia Reuther. They shared that Allison listens attentively when others are speaking and shows empathy by offering kind words of encouragement to classmates who may be struggling. Allison's kindness and helpfulness shine through in every interaction, as she willingly assists her peers with tasks or assignments, patiently explaining concepts they may not understand. As a member of the Best Buddies program, Allison serves as a model of kindness and inclusivity, forming friendships with students of all abilities. She goes out of her way to ensure that every student feels valued and included.

Izayah Hellmuth is a freshman at Pennsbury High School and was nominated by Wayne Demore. He shared that Izayah took it upon himself to ask a paraprofessional to work with him, and he was sure to treat her with the same respect and kindness he would show a teacher. At the beginning of the school year, a freshman came to school having missed the first day, and the student was unsure of where to go for their bus. Izayah respectfully spoke up and showed the student where their bus was. Izayah made sure a peer was taken care of. When his class schedule needed to be changed, Izayah did not get frustrated. He did not put his head down and silently quit. Rather, he thanked the staff for doing whatever was necessary to ensure that he was successful in his academics.

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.

**Allison Bennett was unable to attend and will receive her award at next month's meeting.*

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