



Press Release

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For Immediate Release
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Pennsbury Students Recognized for Cooperation

(Fallsington, PA) – Congratulations to the Pennsbury-LYFT Character Award winners for February. Students Ellis Austin, Skylar Nees, Jacob Depew, and Gianni Capriotti were honored at the Pennsbury School Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, February 16, 2023. Lucy Schopfer, a winner of January’s Caring and Service to Others LYFT award, was also honored at the meeting.

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 February was Cooperation.

Lucy Schopfer is in the fourth grade at Afton Elementary School. She was nominated by Megan Wells, Trish Baehser, Laurie Gougher, Evon Moyle, Ryan Sodano, Kristin Slota, Julie Linkchost and Nick Terramani. They say that Lucy exemplifies the qualities of a caring student who is dedicated to serving others, but she never expects recognition or special rewards from anyone for her kind and honorable actions. Lucy is always ready to participate in school spirit days, and helps encourage others to do the same. As a student council representative, Lucy helped promote a Thanksgiving Food Drive and a PJ Day fundraiser for the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. Lucy has been involved in Girls Scouts since kindergarten, and she makes trips with her troop to Pickering Manor in Newtown to play games and do crafts with the residents. Lucy helps others for the sake of being kind.

Ellis Austin is a first-grader at Walt Disney Elementary School and was nominated by Lorie Becker and Rita Barish. They say Ellis guides and encourages others to work cooperatively in class. He understands the importance of teamwork and is an effective leader in both small and large groups. Ellis displays cooperation at lunch and recess as well. He listens, follows directions, and guides others to make appropriate choices. Ellis will always make an effort to engage other students and invite them to join a group or activity.

Skylar Nees is a second-grader at Fallsington Elementary School. She was nominated by Alison Blaney, Diane Mount, Terri Sherman, Taylor Hunt, Amy Murray, Kristen Cahill, and Vinny DePaola. They believe Skylar is the perfect example of cooperation. She works very well with all of her classmates, and is always willing to help others and collaborate during group activities. She listens intently to everyone's ideas, offers helpful suggestions, and shares positive comments. Speech-language pathologist Ms. Hunt says that Skylar "demonstrates her PAW Pride Core Beliefs in every speech session. She patiently waits for her turn, and uses kind words toward her peers. Skylar is a very kind and thoughtful student who goes above and beyond to help others.

Jacob DePew is an eighth-grader at Pennwood Middle School and was nominated by Jacquie Shafer. She says that Jacob follows directions and participates every single day. He also rallies the class to follow suit and leads by example. When another student was having trouble calming down, Jacob naturally and easily got the student to switch gears by showing compassion through his cooperative attitude. He never separates himself from the issue at hand, and strives to find solutions with his teachers and his peers.

Gianni Capriotti is a sophomore at Pennsbury High School and was nominated by Jen McCormac. She says that Gianni went above and beyond in her culinary class to help another student who was struggling. He did so in a supportive manner while still allowing the student to complete the task themselves. Gianni will stay after class to make sure the kitchen is clean and ready for the next students. When forming groups, Gianni invites others who may not easily find someone to work with on their own. He will even request a trio during a partner activity so that

no one is left out. Gianni always includes and stands up for others who may have trouble finding their own voice.

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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