

The Caring Award

We have completed all four weeks of our caring unit. Now it's time to apply everything you have learned. Over the next week or two, we will be working towards nominating and presenting a caring award for one teacher or staff in our school as a way to honor them for their truly kind and caring spirit.

Caring Sub-Concept(s)

Compassion, Gratitude, Helpfulness, Empathy, Kindness

Project Timeframe

1-2 weeks, broken up as needed by class schedule.

Required Materials

- Nomination Handout (see below)
- Pens/Pencils
- Basic Art Supplies
- An 8x11" Frame (if possible)
- Index Cards
- Tape
- Pipe Cleaners
- A vase (or a large cup to hold the kindness bouquet)
- Optional: Balloons

Standards Map

This project aligns with CASEL Competencies, National Health Education Standards, International Society for Technology in Education Standards, when applicable, and Common Core State Standards. Please refer to the [Standards Map](#) for more information.

Here is the plan for this project:

1. Each of you will create a nomination for the teacher or staff of your choice that you feel is the most caring adult in our school. Remember, caring incorporates self-care, helpfulness, gratitude, empathy, and compassion. All nominations must follow the format we will review below.
2. I will read each nomination aloud over the course of several days to allow our class time to hear about all of the caring adults we have here in school!
3. After tallying the nominations, we will present the award winner with a framed award and a kindness bouquet.

PART 1 (Week 1):

This week we are focusing on nominations! Using the handout below, write 1-2 paragraphs about your nominee. Here are the guidelines for your nomination:

- The person must be an adult in our school. He or she may be a teacher, administrative staff, service professional (janitor, bus driver, etc.), or volunteer.
- You may not nominate a family member (of course we love them, but let's expand our horizons).
- All writing needs to be your very best. Write or type it clearly and with proper spelling and grammar to the best of your ability. This nomination should take some time. Don't rush through it quickly. The person you are nominating deserves a kind and caring nomination from you. Your nomination is due Wednesday of this week. (You may adjust this timeline as needed for your class. Make sure you allow two days to read aloud the nominations.)
- Keep your nomination anonymous. This is NOT a popularity contest. We are looking for adults in our school that encompass all of the aspects of caring to the best of their ability. Make sure you are focusing on all aspects of caring that we have learned about: self-care, helpfulness, gratitude, empathy, and compassion.
- Your nomination needs to include at least two of the sub-concepts we learned about. Please give specific examples of these in your writing to help the class understand your nomination.
- If desired, use art to enhance your nomination. You can add color, illustrations, or even a cartoon to help the reader understand just how caring your nominee is!

If possible, allow your normally scheduled RAK time for working on this project in class. Fifteen minutes each day (or even a few days this week) can help you guide students and assist those who are still developing as writers.

- As students turn in their nominations, begin to read several aloud at the end of the class period as time allows.
- Ensure that all nominations have been read by the end of this week.

Part 2 (Week 2):

This week we will identify our caring award winner, prepare the award and their kindness bouquet, and present it to them! We have lots of work to do, so let's get started.

Step 1:

Tally up the nominations and vote between the two nominations as a class. If time allows, read the nominations for both individuals aloud again to refresh student memories and help them make an informed decision.

Step 2:

Have a small group of volunteers create the physical award for the winner. They can use a pre-designed template (see below) or design one of their own.

Step 3:

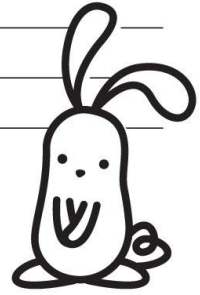
As a class, create a kindness bouquet as an added way to award the recipient. Pass out an index card to each student. Have them draw a picture or create a colorful phrase on the blank side. On the lined side, have them write a kind note for the caring award winner. Attach 1-2 index cards to each pipe cleaner to mimic flowers and leaves. If desired, roll up the cards to mimic roses! Ask for volunteers to arrange the "flowers" into a bouquet in the vase provided. Attach a label to the front identifying your caring award winner.

Step 4:

Carve out time on your last day of class this week to present your award to the winner. If they are not present during regular school hours (such as a bus driver or janitor), create a simple class video presenting the award and arrange for the award to go to the recipient at a scheduled time that works for you and them.

Caring Award Nomination

I nominate _____ for the Caring Award because:



Include at least 2 of the following 4 categories to support your nomination.
A minimum of 2 sentences is required for each section you choose.

<p>They demonstrate self-care for themselves by:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>They demonstrate helpfulness by:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>They show gratitude for others by:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<p>They demonstrate empathy and compassion by:</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>