

VALUES MATTER MIAMI

November 1, 2017

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CITIZENSHIP: Helping create a society based upon democratic values including rules of law, equality of opportunity, due process, reasoned argument, representative government, checks and balances, rights and responsibilities and democratic decision-making.

Citizenship

Our country's current climate is one where our students are absorbing information about justice and citizenship on a daily basis. At this important time we must have an essential role in creating classrooms where students learn to become respectful citizens who listen to differing opinions and take care of their communities and each other. Being a good citizen should start with students caring about their school and the people in their school and local community. Now more than ever, values matter and now more than ever educators need to be aware of the importance of teaching citizenship.

November is Homeless Awareness Month, a time when we focus on helping those who are experiencing the loss of a permanent home. This awareness is especially significant this year because we have had a difficult hurricane season. There are students enrolling in our District from Texas, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands who have lost their homes. As we implement activities for Citizenship month, take time to support these new students in their transition to a new school and a new environment. Thanksgiving is also celebrated in November. Let us remind students to be thankful for what they have, and remember to give back to our communities. Perhaps you would like to help sponsor a community service event in your school where students can band together to help others in the community. Lead a school beautification or clean-up project or start a

Congratulations



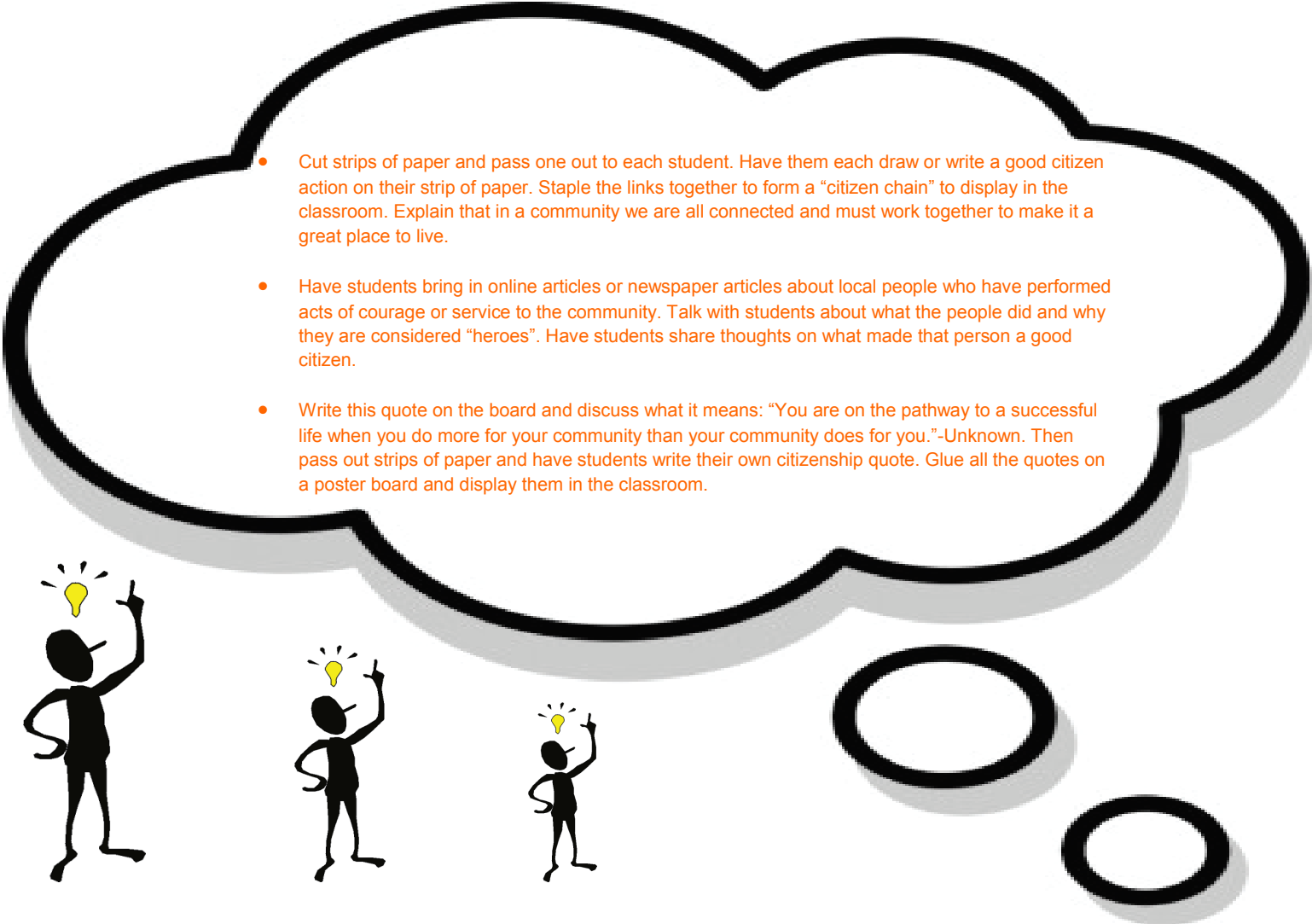
The 2016-2017 **Elementary School Outstanding Citizenship Student** was Brissia Sevilla, a third grader at Citrus Grove Elementary School. Brissia is an upstander who always looks out for her peers. She is reliable and trustworthy and exemplifies leadership and citizenship through her involvement in school activities.

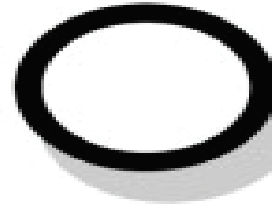


- **Native American History Month**
- **Hunger and Homeless Awareness Month**
- **November 11-** Veterans Day
- **November 13-** World Kindness Day
- **November 15-** America Recycles Day
- **November 16-** International Day of Tolerance
- **November 20-** Transgender Day of Remembrance
- **November 26-** Thanksgiving



Idea CORNER

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- Cut strips of paper and pass one out to each student. Have them each draw or write a good citizen action on their strip of paper. Staple the links together to form a “citizen chain” to display in the classroom. Explain that in a community we are all connected and must work together to make it a great place to live.
 - Have students bring in online articles or newspaper articles about local people who have performed acts of courage or service to the community. Talk with students about what the people did and why they are considered “heroes”. Have students share thoughts on what made that person a good citizen.
 - Write this quote on the board and discuss what it means: “You are on the pathway to a successful life when you do more for your community than your community does for you.”-Unknown. Then pass out strips of paper and have students write their own citizenship quote. Glue all the quotes on a poster board and display them in the classroom.



- Have students brainstorm people they know who are model citizens and write about them. Students can create model citizen awards out of construction paper and include their narrative on the deserving individual. Create a model citizenship wall of fame.
- Have students create original pledges and choose the best one to use as the class or school pledge .
- Have students Make a Promise to Serve Their School and Community using the [Handshake handout](#). They will write their name on one hand and the club/cause/organization they promise to serve on the other hand.
- Have students read the newspaper or watch the television news with their parents. Discuss the stories where good citizenship is highlighted.
- Create a class constitution together. All members of the class will collaborate on the rights and responsibilities of membership.

Great Reminders for Children: Good citizens will.....

- follow rules and obey laws.
- volunteer to help others.
- keep informed about what is happening in their community.
- participate in activities to improve your community.
- be good neighbors.
- do what they can to help protect the earth and respect the environment.

Digital Citizenship

What does it mean to be a good digital citizen?

It means the same thing as being a good classroom, school, or community citizen:

1. Communicate politely and respectfully with other digital citizens.
2. Protect private information about others and yourself.
3. Stand up to cyber-bullying and report it to teachers and/or parents.
4. Acknowledge that content posted online is permanent.
5. Be mindful of online activity and ask "Does my digital footprint convey a positive image?"
6. Exhibit academic integrity and honesty by properly citing and crediting sources.

Digital Citizenship Links:



Common Sense Media is a San Francisco based non-profit organization that provides education and advocacy to families to promote safe technology and media for children.



This site provides information for educators, parents, and students on how to become responsible digital citizens in the form of films, games and other resources.



Values Matter Miami in Action October 2017



Royal Green Elementary School



Zora Neale Hurston Elementary



Campbell Drive K-8 Center



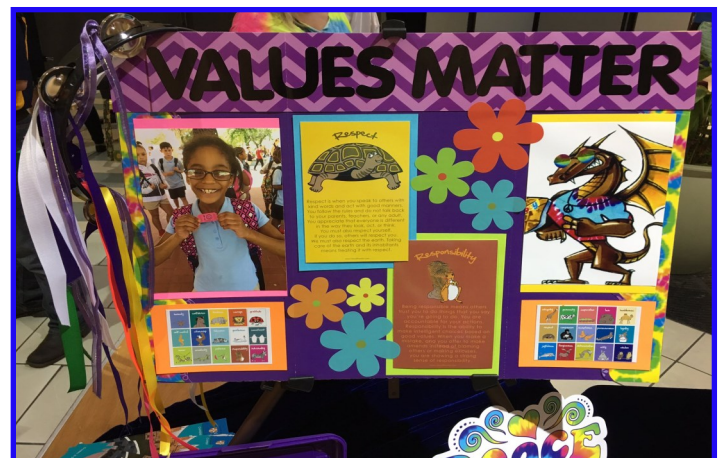
Arcola Lake Elementary School



Leewood K-8 Center



Norland Elementary



Campbell Drive K-8 Center

