

# VALUES MATTER MIAMI

March 1, 2018

Volume 2, Issue 7

Cooperation: Working together toward goals as basic as human survival in an increasingly interdependent world.

## Cooperation

Cooperation is an important twenty first century social skill that students will need to be successful later in life as they enter the world of work. When we teach students collaboration through cooperation we are teaching them to value the contributions of everyone. When students learn to work well with others who may be different than themselves they also learn to appreciate and celebrate diversity. This is vitally important in our richly diverse South Florida community.

Students who are taught cooperative skills are also better able to solve conflicts and have greater success as members of teams. When you promote cooperation you are also reinforcing other values like fairness, honesty, respect, kindness, and responsibility. Whatever you do to make Values Matter in your school this month, remember cooperation is the key to social interaction, inclusive practices, and successful teams.



## Congratulations

**Cooperation School of the Year 2016-2017**

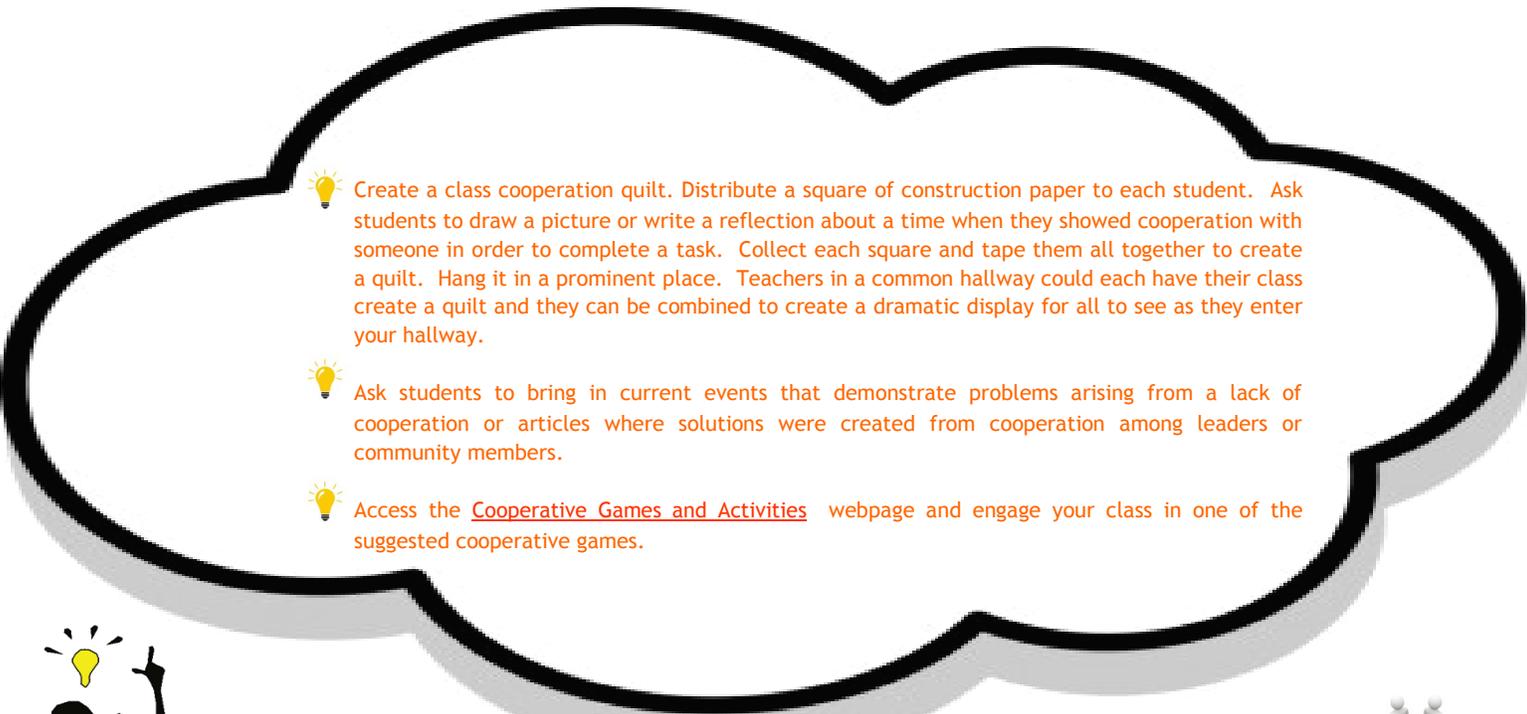
Kendale Lakes Elementary School has been very engaged in the Values Matter Miami initiative. This school has made promoting cooperation in the school and the community a priority. They have also provided workshops for parents on the importance of fostering cooperation in their children.



- ◆ Arts in Our Schools Month
- ◆ Dr. Seuss' Birthday - March 2
- ◆ International Women's Day-March 8
- ◆ [National Youth Violence Prevention Week March 19-23](#)
- ◆ School Social Worker Week March 4-10
- ◆ Spring Break - March 26-30
- ◆ St. Patrick's Day - March 17 



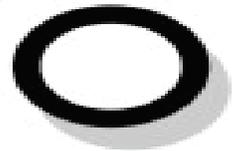
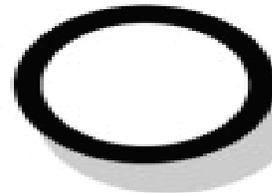
# Idea CORNER



• Create a class cooperation quilt. Distribute a square of construction paper to each student. Ask students to draw a picture or write a reflection about a time when they showed cooperation with someone in order to complete a task. Collect each square and tape them all together to create a quilt. Hang it in a prominent place. Teachers in a common hallway could each have their class create a quilt and they can be combined to create a dramatic display for all to see as they enter your hallway.

• Ask students to bring in current events that demonstrate problems arising from a lack of cooperation or articles where solutions were created from cooperation among leaders or community members.

• Access the [Cooperative Games and Activities](#) webpage and engage your class in one of the suggested cooperative games.



- Divide students into groups and distribute puzzle pieces to each group. Ask each student to write one thing he or she will do to cooperate or be a good team member in school or at home. Then have students put the puzzle pieces together and reflect on how cooperation allows individuals to work together.
- Ask students to think about a time when someone was uncooperative with them. Then ask students to write a letter to the person. Have them include what the person did, how it made them feel, and what they would want the person to do differently in the future. Explain that the letters won't be sent so they can be honest and truly reflect on their feelings.
- Group art projects are a good opportunity for dividing work and creating a lasting reminder of cooperation. Select a theme and have students individually look for specific features of the larger project. If the goal is to create a cooperation bulletin board, assign roles and give time lines for individual tasks. Give students time to work together to construct the board and later time to reflect upon their creation and how cooperation played a part in the finished product.
- Assign a subject specific cooperative group assignment to your class. Have students discuss the importance of cooperation when working in teams. Once the assignments are complete, use the following team project evaluation link to have students evaluate their contribution to the project and reflect on the cooperative group experience. [Team Project Evaluation](#)
- Have each student keep a daily record of all the things they do that require cooperation for one week. At the end of the week, meet together and have each student rate themselves on how cooperative they have been. Reflection and feedback will make for great discussion.

# Congratulations!

## Values Matter Miami Cooperation Winners 2016-2017

2016-17  
Elementary Student Winner  
Sunset Elementary School

### Isabela Gonzalez

Isabela is always ready to listen and accept others' opinions while working with them to complete a task. She does not mock or belittle her classmates when they need help, but rather clarifies information and oftentimes adds a touch of humor to ease any tension.

2016-17  
Secondary Student Winner  
John A. Ferguson Senior High

### Alyssa Gomez

Alyssa is an outstanding leader who works well with her peers to coordinate school activities. She led a book drive where her cooperative nature created collaboration in her very large high school. She knows how to bring out the best in her peers while building relationships and creating solutions in her community.

BILL RICHARDSON  
*we cannot  
accomplish  
all that we  
need to do  
without  
working  
together.*



COMING TOGETHER  
IS A BEGINNING;  
KEEPING TOGETHER IS  
PROGRESS; WORKING  
TOGETHER IS SUCCESS.

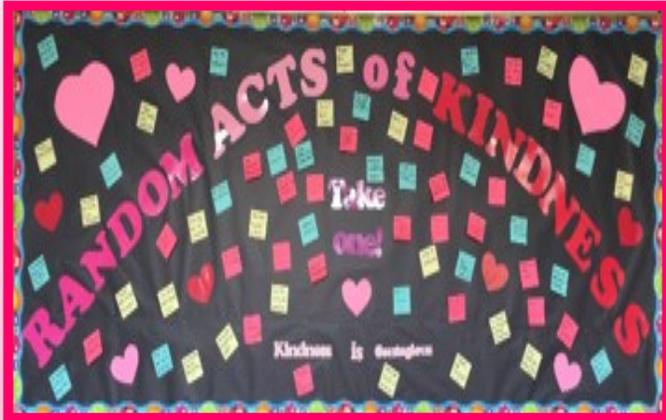
- Henry Ford

ProGood.me

2016-17  
Staff Winner  
Norma Gutierrez  
Shenandoah Elementary

# Values Matter Miami in Action February 2018

... **KINDNESS** ...  
*is contagious*



Ben Sheppard Elementary



Cutler Bay Middle



Seminole Elementary



Chapman Elementary

“ Kindness is a gift everyone can afford to give. ”

- Unknown



Ruth O. Kruse Educational Center

