



KIDS WITH CHARACTER

Astoria Middle School

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The great gift of human beings is that we have the power of empathy.
~Meryl Streep

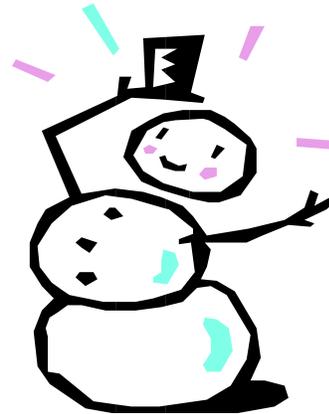
Empathy and Generosity

We are excited to have December provide the opportunity to practice empathy and generosity. Empathy is an important characteristic and a key component of character education. Teaching children to recognize and understand the feelings and viewpoints of others makes for a better community and society, as a whole. It also helps children to develop into compassionate and understanding human beings. This month our students have multiple opportunities to learn about and

practice empathy.

***“Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.”***
— John Wesley

Generosity is the character attribute that demonstrates a readiness to show appreciation for - and to return - kindness. It is being thankful for what you have and willing to share it with others. Generosity means you can give to other without expecting anything in return.



In December, our school is the recipient of great generosity. Through countless donations from the community our leadership class prepares a Holiday Bazaar. Students have the opportunity to practice empathy with their family and friends by buying gifts for Christmas presents. It is a wonderful coming together of giving and receiving with a generous heart.



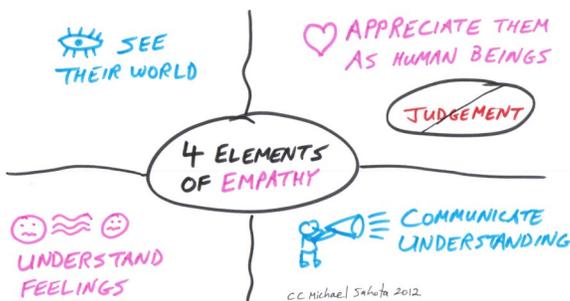
Home of the Vikings

Table Talk: Walk in their shoes

- Empathize with your child and model empathy for others
- Make caring for others a priority and set high ethical expectations
- Provide opportunities for children to practice empathy
- Expand your child's circle of concern
- Help children develop self-control and manage feelings effectively

Generosity: Choose it

- Why do you think generosity is important?
- How does a stingy person act?
- How does being generous help you be grateful for the things and people in your life?
- What are some wrong motives to give to people? What are some right motives?



Support your child academically

Find homework help for your child if needed. If it is difficult for you to help your child with homework or school projects, see if you can find someone else who can help. Contact the school, tutoring groups, after school programs, churches, and libraries. Or see if an older student,

neighbor, or friend can help.

Help your child prepare for tests. Tests play an important role in determining a student's grade. Your child may also take one or more standardized tests during the school year, and your child's teacher may spend class time on test prepara-

tion throughout the year. As a parent, there are a number of ways that you can support your child before and after taking a standardized test, as well as a number of ways you can support your child's learning habits on a daily basis that will help her be more prepared when it's time to be tested.

Upcoming Dates:

Character Assembly	1 December
Band Concert-7pm	6 December
Winter Sport Grade Check	8 December
Choir Concets	14 December
Progress Reports	14 December
Holiday Bazaar for Stu-	11-15 December
Coat/Can Drive	All month
Christmas Break	20 Dec-2 Jan