Character Education Theme April: Acceptance & Empathy
At Nokomis we accept students for all that they bring to our community. Being able to understand their unique experiences allows us to give them a learning experience just for them.

Birthday celebration circles at Nokomis
Birthdays are such an important time for our young scholars and many students love announcing to staff that they are one year older! One such celebration that has taken place in a classroom community are circle celebrations. Circle celebrations are a beautiful way of honoring the whole child for what they bring to the community. One Children’s House teacher has each student say one positive thing about the Birthday Student, and then add a bead to a special Birthday Bracelet. An E2 teacher has a small glass vial that students can add different colors of sand as they share an appreciation they have for the student. These are just a few of the amazing ways that our staff incorporate circles into celebrating birthdays.

Make your own talking pieces at home!
We encourage families to create their own talking pieces with their children. Each person is gifted with their own unique creativity. Bring it out of your children by trying one of these ideas at home:
- Painted rocks with art or value words
- A wooden stick with decorative feathers, yarn, ribbon, etc.
- Bracelets with colored beads or strings
- Chenille stems twisted into various shapes

Music Circles at Nokomis
Our music teacher, Mary, led circles with each of our E2 classes to discover which songs they would like to perform for the May 21st concert. This is the first time our E2 classes will participate in our music concerts. A talking piece was sent for each student to voice which songs they would like to perform. From that circle, the teacher identified student’s interests and co-created a program for the spring concert with her students. This is a beautiful example of how student voice can be incorporated into decision making through circles.

The Nokomis North music concert will be held on Tuesday, May 21st. For E1 & E2 students at 2:00 p.m. Evening performances for E1 are at 6:30 p.m. E1 and E2 performances at 7:00pm

Spring Restorative Practices Plans
Chris and Liza plan to spend more time in classrooms. Good & healthy relationships are such an important part of restorative practices. We will continue participating in classroom circles to deepen our relationship with staff and with students.

Questions, please contact:
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Join us on Thursday, April 18th 5:00pm-6:30pm for our Nokomis Climate Advisory Team Meeting. Free school-age child care is provided.