Character Education Theme: Responsibility

Thank you to the parents who attended our Restorative Practices Information Night at Conferences!

Restorative Practices Language
As we move into implementation, we understand that it is important to have common language around Restorative Practices. Here are some words that you will hear throughout the year.

Restorative Practices (RP) – Is a way of how we wish to be in relationship with others in the world. It grounds us in community through understanding and nurturing relationships. Through the use of practices like a Circle and community learning we honor the whole child.

A Circle – a process of communication that allows for participants to connect with themselves and others to build understanding and relationships.

Circle Keeper – someone who prompts the circle with questions for learning.

Talking Piece – an object that is used to signal to the circle who is speaking.

Center Piece – the center of the circle that reflect the community and it’s values.

Opening & Closing – a way to start & end a community circle. (a book, poem, activity, etc.)

Prompt – guiding questions that open conversation for the circle (can be: a check in, story sharing, a reflection)

Try a circle at home!
Parents and families, here is what you can do at home to have your own family circle!

1. Choose a time to sit in a circle together.
2. Set up your circle with chairs without furniture in the middle. (optional: create a centerpiece)
3. Identify an object to be your circle’s talking piece.
4. Explain how the talking piece works: “Today this (object) is our talking piece, please make sure to respect the talking piece. Whoever has the talking piece has the ability to speak from their heart. Those who don’t have the talking piece can listen with their heart. You can choose to pass the talking piece if you’d like.”
5. Opening: “Lets take a few deep breaths together to open our circle.”
6. Ask a prompt that you feel is important to the community, examples:
   - How was school for you this year?
   - How are you feeling? What do you need? What is an activity that you would like us to do together?
7. Closing: use a book, quote, or activity to mark the end of the circle. Thank everyone for participating in the family circle.

We hope you have an amazing winter break and look forward to seeing you in the new year!

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