



## Press Release

Pennsbury School District • Office of Public Relations  
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***For Immediate Release***  
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### **Pennsbury Students Recognized for Leadership**

(Fallsington, PA) – Congratulations to the Pennsbury-LYFT Character Award winners for May. Akash Gaba, Callie Bayer, Alli Templeton\*, and Nolan Kolanko\* were honored at the Pennsbury School Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, May 19, 2022.

The purpose of the Pennsbury-LYFT Character Award is to recognize and reward students who embody exemplary character traits and behaviors. The character trait for May was *Leadership*.

Akash Gaba is a third-grader at Eleanor Roosevelt Elementary School and was nominated by Hannah Rumbelow, Kris Bria, and Lisa Follman. In their nomination, they shared that Akash serves as third grade student council representative, where he communicates effectively with his classmates and is always eager to share his knowledge. During the fall, Akash demonstrated his leadership skills by teaching his classmates about the Hindu festival of Diwali. He answered all of the questions his classmates asked about this Hindu tradition with skill and knowledge. In class, Akash demonstrates a love of learning every day and embodies respect, responsibility, and safety.

Callie Bayer is a kindergarten student at Fallsington Elementary School and was nominated by Jennifer Tietz, Cherie Lynne Kooker, Kristina Rehill, Alison Blaney, Kristen Cahill, and Vinny DePaola. They say that Callie stands out among her peers for her responsible behavior and strong leadership abilities. She takes initiative to help in the classroom in appropriate ways, and there is

never a moment when she cannot be counted on to guide her peers in activities or groups. She even goes out of her way to help guide a new student, who does not speak any English, in all areas throughout the day. She is a great role model, and is very polite and supportive in her ability to lead others.

Alli Templeton is a twelfth-grader at Pennsbury High School and was nominated by Matt South and Damari Fallacaro. They shared that in her role as President of the Thespian Troupe and Drama Club, Alli maintains a demeanor of encouragement and inspiration. Although she plans the student board meetings, she always welcomes input and delegates tasks as needed. As the student director of a one-act play this year, she led the cast with professionalism and a clear vision, and she balanced the task of being a leader and being a peer extremely well. For her efforts, she was recognized as Best Director by the Bucks County Playhouse.

Nolan Kolanko, an eighth-grader at Pennwood Middle School, was nominated by Stacey Freed and Team Integrity. They say that Nolan demonstrates leadership both in and out of the classroom. In class, Nolan always steps up and gets his group started and on task. He delegates so everyone has a role, and he gets everyone back on task if they get distracted. Nolan participates in sports, band, and other activities, and is always a role model for his peers who look up to him and respect him. He helps to organize fair teams and always demonstrates good sportsmanship.

Each month, students are nominated by teachers, staff, or administration, and the winners are selected by LYFT and other community partners. LYFT is a group of volunteers, individuals, and organizations throughout the community that shares the common goal of strengthening and supporting Pennsbury students.

\*Alli Templeton and Nolan Kolanko were unable to attend and will be formally honored at the June 16, 2022 School Board meeting.

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