



Press Release

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For Immediate Release
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Pennsbury Students Recognized for Caring & Service to Others

(Fallsington, PA) – Congratulations to the Pennsbury-LYFT Character Award winners for January. Students Kaitlin Savage, Danielle Bennett, Samantha Kersten*, and Jonathan Vereb were honored at the Pennsbury School Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, January 18, 2024.

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 January was Caring & Service to Others.

Kaitlin Savage is a third-grade student at Afton Elementary School and was nominated by Katie Oppenheimer, Julie Foster, Evon Moyle, Ryan Sodano, Kristin Slota, Emily Kopchinski. They say that Kaitlin always demonstrates kindness by including others. She has the confidence to treat all of her fellow classmates with kindness, no matter what their differences may be. Kaitlin is often observed cleaning up without being asked, helping her teammates or those that need extra assistance, and lending a hand to the teacher by organizing supplies and distributing or collecting student work. Kaitlin is a member of Afton's Green Team. She helps collect items to recycle and reuse, has participated in an on-campus bulb-planting project, starred in a PECO Natural Gas Safety PSA with her teammates, and is looking forward to many more community outreach projects this year.

Danielle Bennett is a fourth-grade student at Manor Elementary School and was nominated by Dana Joy Carducci, Patty Kropp, Stephanie Hutchinson, Steve Brunozi. They shared that Danielle has always shown compassion and care for others. She goes out of her way to make ALL students feel special and included. Danielle goes above and beyond in class. She enters the room, and automatically asks if she can help anyone. She does not look to be of service for any reason other than she is naturally a helpful student and friend to others around her. Danielle also volunteers to assist her mom and the PTO in organizing the Manor food pantry. She spends time after school, before school, and during her breaks to help with the upkeep of the pantry and assist others in need.

Samantha Kersten is an eighth-grade student at William Penn Middle School and was nominated by Blair Greiner, Cheilaugh Garvey, Dave Costanzo, and Sally Poletick. They shared that Sam is an eager, thoughtful student who contributes with her extreme talent in the Arts. She doesn't just use her skills to create her own artwork, she also contributes to the school community by creating murals, painting bulletin board designs, creating animations for teachers, and more! Sam has been a valuable part of the "Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports," otherwise known as the PBIS mission at William Penn, spending countless hours of her own time in service to the mission of strengthening the school community and culture. Sam gives her kindness and her artistry in such a humble manner, with no expectation of accolades or anything in return. She focuses her kindness and caring on others, simply because it is the right and humane thing to do.

Jonathan Vereb is a senior at Pennsbury High School and was nominated by Doug Campbell. He shared that Jonathan is committed to creating an equitable environment for all students. He has utilized the District Equity Leadership Team, as well as the Building Equity Leadership Team, to help push the work forward. Jon and some other students brainstormed ways to improve activity periods at the high school to improve climate and culture. They submitted solutions for this problem, as well as other ideas, to administration. Jon's involvement has led him to be selected to help interview candidates for administrative positions within the Pennsbury School District. He has served on interview panels to represent student voices in the future leadership of Pennsbury schools.

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 share the common goal of strengthening and supporting Pennsbury students.

** Samantha was unable to attend and will be recognized at next month's board meeting.*

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