



Press Release

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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. Students Leilani Pomierny, Harper Cook*, Margaret McGinty, and Pattybeth Jajua were honored at the Pennsbury School Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, May 16, 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 May was Leadership.

Leilani Pomierny is a kindergarten student at Fallsington Elementary School and was nominated by Cherie Lynne Kooker, Kristen Cahill, Vinny DePaola, Kristina Rehill, Debbie Hellmuth, and Patricia Gambardello. They shared that Leilani is able to guide classmates in their choices and everyday routines. She does this with a smile, laugh, and positive attitude. She leads by example with her integrity and honesty. Leilani takes the initiative and motivates others to be better on a daily basis. Her flexibility and clear-headed ability to see the bigger picture speak to her leadership skills. Her calm demeanor and respectful words help her classmates at a time when compassion is needed. Leilani has the ability to actively listen which is unmatched by students and teachers alike. Students feel comfortable going to Leilani for help, direction, or support.

Harper Cook is a fifth-grade student at Oxford Valley Elementary School and was nominated by Paula Whitman. She shared that as a safety, Harper can often be seen helping the younger students to find their buses and get to class. She directs them with kindness, care, and order.

Harper's classmates look to her as a natural leader. During her turn as the "Class Leader," Harper takes her job seriously by preparing, leading class discussions, and encouraging her friends to share their work. Harper makes good decisions and encourages her classmates to do the same rather than follow along, particularly during recess and other unstructured activities. Her positive attitude has a positive influence.

Maggie McGinty is an eighth-grade student at Charles Boehm Middle School and was nominated by Heather Bain. She shared that in her role as class president, Maggie has consistently demonstrated her commitment to effective leadership by fostering an inclusive and collaborative environment. She actively listens to her peers' concerns and ideas, ensuring that all voices are heard and valued. As a member of the National Junior Honor Society, Maggie has consistently gone above and beyond in her commitment to academic excellence, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. Her willingness to take on responsibilities and lead by example within NJHS reflects her unwavering dedication to making a difference in both her school and community.

Pattybeth Jajua is a senior at Pennsbury High School and was nominated by Allyssa Churchwell. She shared that every time they sat down for a class circle, Pattybeth shared her honest opinions and feelings, which has helped her classmates to feel like they can open up and not feel judged. Pattybeth was one of the first students to speak out on how much she liked trying new techniques for note-taking, because it kept her focused in a different way. That one comment helped to spur a more open-minded approach from the rest of her peers. Previous teachers of hers all speak of the same energy that she brings into a room that creates a better environment. Mrs. Churchwell is honored to have Pattybeth as part of her classroom community because she is an essential part of the family they have created together.

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.

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

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