

Coronado Compass

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Dear Coronado Families,

Happy Spring! I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful weather each weekend as we continue to experience above average temperatures this time of year. I'm not sure I am ready to wave goodbye to winter as I personally haven't even had a chance to click on my skis for some Colorado downhill fun! I can imagine you too are feeling the pressure of spring busy-ness, so my hope is that the extended daylight will help to reenergize each and every one of us. As a reminder, daylight savings time starts on Sunday, so be sure to set your clocks forward an hour. As promised, in this month's newsletter I will continue to describe the next of the five competencies that are part of Jeffco's 2020 Vision, **Civic & Global Engagement**.

Civic and Global Engagement is a core competency that encompasses the skills of *leadership, advocacy for others, cultural proficiency, and civic responsibility & citizenship*. Each of these characteristics related to civic and global engagement begin developing from the time a child starts to monitor and perceive interactions that occur in the world around him/her. Some of the ways in which we engage students in these skills at school are explained below.

Leadership is a skill we see developing at a young age as students very often want to be "in charge" or act as "the boss" of their imaginary play. Leadership skills develop as children observe parents, family members, teachers, peers, and others around them. At school we support the development of leadership skills by assigning important jobs and tasks to students providing them with various opportunities to take care of others. In 1st grade our students learn about great leaders today and in history. We discuss that leadership requires listening, collaboration, communication and problem solving. These characteristics and others are reinforced throughout a child's educational experience while working in groups, studying and assessing leaders in history and engaging in opportunities to take on roles of both a leader and a supporter.

Advocacy for others is emphasized through the development of friendships and empathy. Students begin to foster relationships from the moment they are exposed to other humans, pets and even inanimate objects. Through a variety of interactions they learn compassion, sharing, conflict resolution, empathy and how to advocate for themselves and others. Empathy is a skill we consistently reinforce at school as it is one of the most difficult to grasp as a young child. Through constant conversation, reflection and community outreach we work hard to instill the important characteristics of advocacy and empathy. This year Coronado has engaged in multiple outreach projects to build our advocacy for others (*example projects listed below*).

- Sock, underwear, hat and mitten drive for Jeffco's Serving Kids organization
- Holocaust Shoe Project & Book Drive (with Girl Scout Troop 1222)
- Pajama Drive (3rd Grade)
- Birthday Bags for women & children's shelter

- Pennies for Patients
- Love of Literacy Book Drive (6th Grade – Rogstad)
- Black Dog Syndrome awareness (5th Grade – Marshall)
- Pet Food & Supply Drive (with Brownie Troop 3051)
- Coronado Cares Thanksgiving & Christmas support

Cultural Proficiency is understanding, appreciating and accepting the similarities and differences that exist among us. This year students at Coronado have met with me approximately once a month to engage in discussions and discovery about diversity and culture. We have identified what diversity is, how we are all unique individuals, and why it is important to accept and celebrate diversity. Students have participated in self-discovery activities and continue to develop cultural proficiency each day as they interact with others who are both similar and different than them.

Civic Responsibility and Citizenship is the foundation for our top three expectations of all students at Coronado: be safe, be responsible and be respectful. Within our community at large we are all members of smaller sub-communities. Whether that is our neighborhood, classroom, place of work or family we are all expected to be engaged and contributing members of that community in order for it to be a positive and supportive environment for everyone. Teaching skills to interact and engage in ways that promote productivity and positive problem solving are valued by our entire staff, and I believe it is a value that is shared among our entire community.

At Coronado our hope is to provide multiple opportunities for students to participate in civic and global engagement throughout their educational experiences. We believe that the development of these life skills support the ability to become positive and productive members of our society.

Take care of each other,

Amanda Pierorazio
Principal, Coronado Elementary

