



October 2019

Dear LES Families:

Henry James wrote, "Three things in human life are important: the first is to be kind, the second is to be kind: and the third is to be kind." Throughout the school year, we continue to teach and provide experiences that demonstrate for our students the importance of being kind to one another as well as celebrate our differences. This was recently highlighted as our school celebrated **National Stop Bullying and Positive Post It** day on October 8. Each student was given 5 post it notes to write two positive notes to peers, two for adults and one for him or herself. Showing gratitude and kindness to others lifts us up.

Over the years, our focus has been on understanding and applying the characteristics needed to achieve a Growth Mindset: resilience, optimism, compassion, flexibility and perseverance. In a word GRIT! We will continue to work closely this year so as to ensure that our children grow and develop into confident and caring adults who look at new experiences with a positive attitude. We are pleased to share that Lawrence Public Schools will teach character development using the K- 12 program **Suite 360**. Parents are our partners in teaching our children that each of them are special. We need to treat each other with kindness above all else.

LES was awarded the **School of Character Honorable Mention** by the Academy for Character Education Northeast United States in May of 2019. We also received a **Certificate of Excellence** on behalf of The Alliance of Schools of Character for Enrichment, Networking and Transformation. We continue to foster of our core values each and every day in the announcements, in the classrooms, lunchrooms and recess fields. Our goal is to create an inclusive school community by promoting unity, kindness and respect, while empowering our learners to advocate for themselves and others.

**National Mix It Up at Lunch Day**, celebrated on October 23rd, is an event that will provide our students a chance to make new friends as they sit by designated table numbers to connect with someone new over lunch. The tables will be organized in a new way for the day. Once students are at their tables, they will pair up with a buddy. The buddies introduce themselves and then ask questions to get to know each other, using questions that will be posted at each table. Please be sure to ask your child about this experience. Many thanks to our Character Education Committee support staff for creating this most important day.

Our book of the year is *Only One You* by Linda Kranz. This beautiful picture was given to every teacher along with suggested lessons. You will see the colorful fish all around our building displaying the unique qualities of each learner. This book shares sage wisdom passed from parents to children.

"There is only one you in this great big world. Make it a better place."

As always, thank you for your continued support of our school and acting as partners in our students' social, emotional and academic lives.

With kindness and gratitude,

*Rina Beach & Jackie Beckmann*

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