

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

Your child received a special award of recognition today for their generous contribution to our efforts to ensure recess is an enjoyable time for each child, each day. They volunteered their time as a Recess Leader, a position that has many benefits for your child, the younger children, and the school as a whole.

The purpose of our efforts is to ensure that we provide all children opportunities for meaningful play and social connections during recess. Play and positive relationships are essential for children's overall well-being and success in school.

Your child completed a training program in leadership, role modeling, and compassion. He/she volunteered, two times per week, to do two things: 1) to eat lunch with the younger children, talk with them, and get to know them better. In doing so, your child was modeling positive conversation skills and encouraging respectful relationships among students. And 2) he/she set up Zones outside and monitored the equipment that went with it (for example, Skipping Zone, Frisbee Zone, Chalking Zone) and encouraged the younger children to play respectfully and inclusively.

This position

- Provides your child with leadership skills and opportunities to express empathy for the younger children.
- Builds bridges between the younger and older children, encouraging positive relationships across the school.
- Provides more opportunities for physically active, meaningful playtime at recess, resulting in more positive interactions and healthy physical development.
- It influences the school climate to one that feels safe and supportive and inclusive, which has an impact on children's learning and well-being.
- It influences the larger community, as your child and the children that they connect with will likely take their experiences outside of the school, creating a domino effect of compassion and inclusion.

Please join us in congratulating your child on their commitment and compassion.