



THE SUPER SANTAS



Our third Virtue Group has been learning about *Generosity* this month and the many different ways we can be generous. Our group is called “The Super Santas” and we will be sharing what we have learned throughout December, beginning at the assembly on Monday, December 5.

A lot of us already know how to be generous with money and with possessions. When asked, many people think of presents at Christmas or birthdays as examples of being generous. We also think of donating money to charities or giving to food banks but there is much more than that. Being generous also includes sharing our time, our skills and our good feelings with others. We are being generous when we give others compliments or give them our attention when they want to talk; we can be generous by not always needing to be the centre of attention, or we can be generous by giving others the benefit of the doubt in a disagreement. Generosity begins with a feeling of gratitude for the gifts and talents we have and wanting to share our best qualities with others. More than just the act of giving, generosity is the feeling we have first that we *want* to share with others.

As with the other Virtues Groups we will be having weekly activities to help everybody learn and practise Generosity. In Week 1 we will have 2 activities to celebrate the coming holiday season. For our first activity we are going to play “pass the present” with the whole school. We have made up a small gift box with a special message inside that we want everybody to receive and pass on. It can be given to anybody, anytime and we hope it will make its way to all students and staff at least once during the week. Our second activity for the first week is for each class to sign one of the Christmas cards that we are going to give you. Once all the cards are signed we will pack them up and send them to Mr. Keith at his new school to let him know we are thinking of him and wishing him and his family well during the holidays.

In Week 2 we will be asking students to bring donations of non-perishable food items, toys or money to the office that will become part of Christmas hampers. We will be setting up boxes there, and staff and students are invited to contribute to them throughout the week. Let’s practise generosity so that others who are not so fortunate can enjoy the holidays also.

In Week 3 we are going to “wrap” things up by playing a “Secret Santa” game with the whole school. We would like everybody to participate by making a special Christmas card and giving it to another student to be chosen from the whole school population. But remember: don’t tell them because it’s a secret! You can also practise generosity in other ways by doing little things to be nice to that person for the week. We will be having our traditional Christmas Carol Sing-along on the last day of school and as our school-wide Generosity activity we will be inviting some guests from the community to participate as well. The Carol Sing will conclude by handing out oranges and candy canes to all in attendance.

Of course we will also show Generosity to everybody we meet by continuing to spea*k politely and appropriately* to them, and by being courteous and kind as well throughout the month. This is an example of having a generous spirit, sharing respect and good will. The more we practise *Generosity*, the more we realize that making others happy makes us happy too.

“Thousands of candles can be lit from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared.” Shakyamuni