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More of the Best of the Valley

March 20, 2018

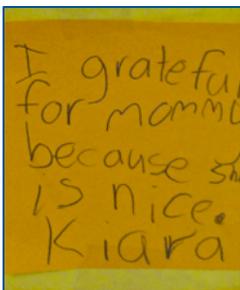
Prendergast students in Ansonia learn about gratitude

By Patricia Villers

ANSONIA - John G. Prendergast School staff is thankful for students' enthusiastic response to the *Look for the Good* project launched two weeks ago.

Assistant Principal Amy Cosciello and guidance counselor Rachel Gabrielson said in an interview Friday they wanted to "make it a more positive school climate."

The initiative has been a big hit with students, they said, and they expressed gratitude to the Parent-Teacher Organization for purchasing a kit to introduce the initiative. It included a video that discusses gratitude.



"It's nice that with everything you read and hear in the media these days that our school is recognizing the good and able to find kindness," Cosciello said.

Members of the student council, which was created this year, led two assemblies to teach schoolmates about *Look for the Good*.

Four gratitude spots have been placed on the corridor floors. Students explained to a visitor that when they stand on the spot they have to say aloud or to themselves something for which they are grateful.

A gratitude hall has been created featuring hundreds of sticky notes with messages written by students from all grades. They have given thanks for everything from their parents, teachers, and pets to tacos and chicken nuggets.

Gabrielson said teachers give students "you matter" cards when they see them doing something good. Then students give them to classmates when they see a kind deed being done.



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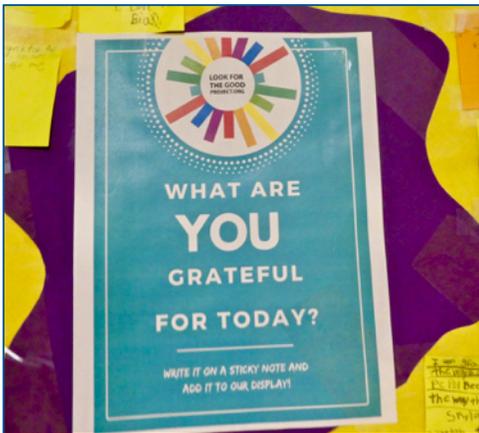
Prendergast students in Ansonia learn about gratitude

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“When you get one and you show an act of kindness to someone - you’re passing it forward,” Gabrielson said. Students initial the card and pass it on to someone else. Kindness acts include holding the door for someone, picking up something that another student has dropped, and the like.

Student council member Peyton Santiago, 9, a fourth grader, likes participating in the project. “We can all be kind to each other and we can spread positivity to each other throughout the community,” she said. “We’re all excited to participate.”

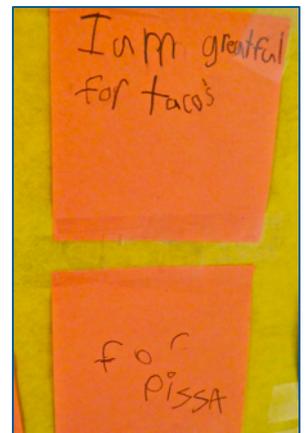
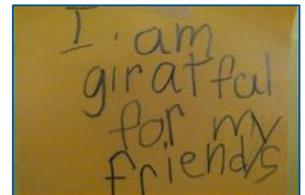
Classmate Callie Geoghan, also 9, said, “It’s nice to be part of it because not lots of schools are doing it.”



Sixth grader Jose Lopez, 12, also a student council member, said he likes being part of the project. “It teaches students don’t bully and to be grateful in life,” he said.

Sixth grade teacher Jen Muller, student council co-advisor with Gabrielson, commended student council members for getting to school at 7:45 a.m. to attend meetings. “They also have given up their recess to work on this,” she said.

“They place sticky notes on the gratitude wall,” Muller said, among other things. She said the staff wants students to know that they matter, every day.



Ansonia's Irish flag raising ceremony warms hearts on cold morning

By Patricia Villers

ANSONIA - Irish eyes were smiling on St. Patrick's Day Saturday despite the wind and cold at the city's 7th annual Irish Flag Raising ceremony.

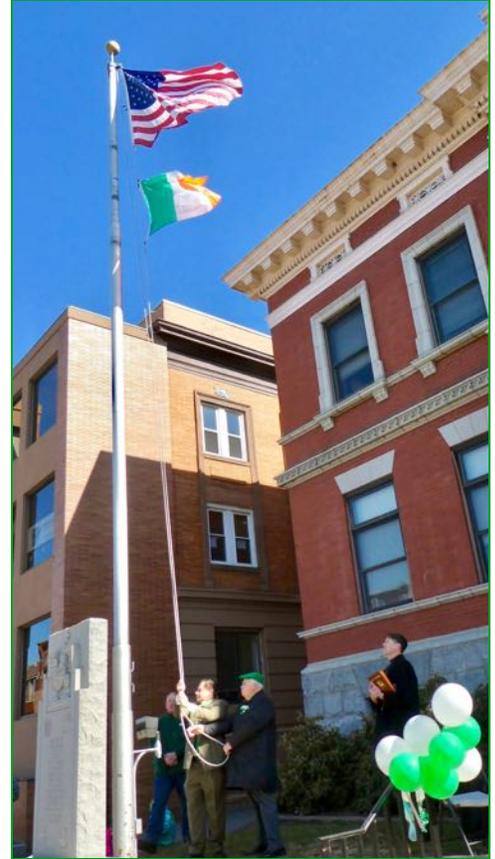
Mayor David S. Casseti honored resident Jack Ahearn as Mayor for the Day, and the two raised the Irish flag in front of City Hall.

The Rev. James Sullivan of Assumption Church led an invocation and a benediction.

Casseti held hands with other audience members and danced and clapped with talented performers from the Kathleen Mulkerin School of Dance of West Haven.

The Trumbull-based Coastal Chordsmen's quartet, The Usual Suspects, entertained at the ceremony and also sang at a free corned beef and cabbage lunch courtesy of Casseti and the City of Ansonia at Copper City Bar and Grill at 82-84 Main St.

It was a fun event, as always. Many thanks go to Copper City chef/owner Tom Carney, who once again provided a delicious, traditional corned beef and cabbage lunch for a hungry and enthusiastic crowd.





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At



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Proceeds from tonight's event support our scholarship fund!



Please present this flyer to your server when you are seated and Hot Tamale will donate a percent of your guest check to the Seymour CT Lions, Inc. to contribute to this year's scholarship awards.



Ansonia Corporation Counsel John Paul Marini has announced that he will be hosting a Freedom of Information Workshop April 9 beginning at 7 p.m. in Ansonia City Hall, with special guest Tom Hennick from Connecticut's FOI Commission.

The event is open to all!

The announcement is a fitting end to Sunshine Week, a national celebration of open government and Connecticut's FOI laws.

#SunshineWeek

