

## Teacher and Parent Testimonials

### Teacher Letter of Support

May 28, 2017

Dear Rotary Grant Committee:

My name is JoLynn Aldinger and I am a first grade teacher at Galileo STEM Academy in Eagle, Idaho. The first graders at Galileo are known for being members of the Kind Kids Club. The purpose of the Kind Kids Club is to spread kindness by doing random acts of kindness for others.

The first part of the school year is used to create a classroom community and establish procedures and routines. In January, after winter break, a "Mission Possible" letter is sent home with each first grader. They have the chance to earn their membership card in the Kind Kids Club by doing 10 Random Acts of Kindness for people in their family, neighborhood, community, etc. The only catch is that the Random Acts of Kindness cannot be performed on their teacher or a classmate because we are trying to spread kindness outside of our classroom.

Once they have completed all ten acts they bring their letter back to school where they share a few of their acts with their classmates. They get a Kind Kids Club membership card and a t-shirt to wear on our weekly Kind Kids Club day. At the beginning of February, our weekly meetings start. Every Wednesday the kids wear their shirts so we can, as one first grader stated this year, be "Kindness Ninjas". They love showing their membership in the club and they wear their shirts with pride.

This past year we have made thank you cards for the lunch ladies, school nurse, principal, PE teacher, fathers of students who are firemen, police officers, and in the military. We also have picked up trash on the playground and water colored signs with encouraging messages on them that we hung up in the middle school hallway. Our last Kind Kids day will be writing messages of kindness on the playground using sidewalk chalk and delivering bracelets to the kindergartens with the message, "Be Kind & Pass It On" written on them.

As my second year of being the "President of Kind Kids Club" wraps up, I am in awe of how much of a difference this makes in my classroom. My students take their role in the Club very seriously and they see how their acts of kindness makes someone's day better and the world a little brighter. There is so much anger and hate and it is entirely too easy to be mean to somebody just because they are "different". If I can teach my first graders how to practice empathy and kindness at an early age, maybe they will remember those lessons as they get older.

My plan for the future involves making the Club available to all kids in 2-5. If they weren't already a member of the Kind Kids Club in first grade they would need to complete the

same "Mission Possible" letter in order to earn their membership card and t-shirt. I would love to have t-shirts for all members of the Kind Kids Club so we can be seen and noticed. We will meet 1-2 times a month and continue to spread kindness. I have been thinking about what this looks like and although I don't have all the details ironed out, I would love to do more things in the community that involve helping others: picking up trash, volunteering at the Idaho Food Bank, visiting with senior citizens, etc. I am excited to see what the future holds for the Kind Kids Club!

Thank you so much for considering this grant and for helping the Kind Kids Club make a difference in the world.

Sincerely,

JoLynn Aldinger

## Parent Testimonials

**From:** Tiffany Ray <[kimnme@hotmail.com](mailto:kimnme@hotmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, May 29, 2017 7:49:22 AM

**To:** Aldinger Jolynn

**Subject:** Re: Kind Kids Club testimonies?

As both a parent and employee of the school, I've witnessed firsthand the difference the Kind Kids Club has made. I've noticed many kids who are so focused on what they want, they don't think about how their decisions will affect those around them. While there is still some of the typical first grader behavior, I've noticed the kids are more inclusive of others around campus. I see kids in blue, green, purple and red shirts running around and playing together unlike in years past.

The Kind Kids Club has helped these first graders become more aware of their behavior and actions toward others. They look for opportunities to be kind. They willingly pick up garbage they find on the playground. They include others in their games. They use kind words when speaking with each other. These kids are learning empathy and the ability to think outside of themselves, traits that are sorely lacking in the world today. We are in the process of raising the future leaders of tomorrow and the Kind Kids Club is helping them become the kinds of people who will make a difference in the world.

**From:** Katie Ball <[bouncingball8@gmail.com](mailto:bouncingball8@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, May 29, 2017 9:32:04 AM

**To:** Aldinger Jolynn

**Subject:** Re: Kind Kids Club testimonies?

Brinlee absolutely loved doing the kind kids club this year! Everyday Tuesday night she would remind me she needed to wear her shirt the next day and she would ask me if it was clean and ready to go! She would always tell me about the nice thing they were going to do and she loved doing it! One of her favorite parts was all of the kind things she got to do to become a member of the kind kids club. For

example, she helped me clean the house one day. Brinlee loves helping and being kind to people so this was perfect for her! It is such a great club for kids!!

Katie Ball

**From:** Carey <[careytay1@yahoo.com](mailto:careytay1@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 28, 2017 9:54:17 PM  
**To:** Aldinger Jolynn  
**Subject:** Re: Kind Kids Club testimonies?

My daughter Reese is a member of the Kind Kids Club. She is often excited to tell our family of the great things the club has been working on. I believe she has an increased sense of empathy after participating in the club. She is becoming more aware of ways to serve in her daily life. I'm grateful for her hard work with the Kind Kids Club and know she has grown more as a peacemaker because of it.

**From:** Angela Harris <[angelaharris82@gmail.com](mailto:angelaharris82@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 28, 2017 9:47:42 PM  
**To:** Aldinger Jolynn  
**Subject:** Re: Kind Kids Club testimonies?

The Kind Kids Club has had such a positive impact on Addisyn. It has helped to her to go out of her way to be kind to those that are in need of a friend. She has really enjoyed looking for ways to be a good friend to others. Our family has loved finding kind notes around our house along with "secret" acts of service. When Addisyn's younger brother found his bed made with love rock on it, he was so happy. He instantly wanted to do something like that for his other sister. Addisyn's simple acts of kindness have been such a good examples for her other siblings to see. As parents, we have loved the Kind Kids Club. It has definitely helped Addisyn to look for ways to serve and be kind.

Thanks!

Angela

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**From:** Steven Ray <[bsaswest@gmail.com](mailto:bsaswest@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 29, 2017 6:18:16 AM  
**To:** Aldinger Jolynn  
**Subject:** Re: Kind Kids Club testimonies?

With Evan I have noticed a different mindset most of the time. I have noticed many instances when he stopped and thought about what he should do, picking the idea which resulted in a random act of kindness. He would often try to do it secretly, finding joy in the kind act and the smile brought to the other person. I am very glad Evan has had the opportunity to be in the Kind Kids Club.