

Hello [Insert School Name] Families,

I wanted to reach out to share our school counseling lesson for 5th grade in the month of February. We read *Stone Soup* by Jon Muth and then created definitions for the fundamental concepts of cooperation before applying those concepts in a real-life cup stacking activity.

Underlying Concepts for Cooperation:

Listen
Share
Take Turns
Compromise
Do Your Part
Show Appreciation
Encourage Others
Make People Feel Needed
Include Everyone (No Excluding)

Our students gave a number of examples in which we are better off when everyone shares such as an expensive encyclopedia versus free Wikipedia, lunch alone versus a potluck style meal, a group project in which many hands make light work. The underpinning of this lesson is to show that when we hold too tightly onto our ideas or possessions, we risk losing out on the magic that can occur when everyone gives freely. I thoroughly enjoyed the ideas and participation of your students during this lesson; I am amazed at how much they have grown and matured since school began.

Warmest regards,
Elishia Basner
School Counselor

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