

**March  
2017**

# KIDS2KIDS

## Students Uniting to Create Positive Change

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Safe Communities**  
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### Kindness Matters at Merriam Avenue School

During the week of January 23rd, Merriam Avenue School staff and students were encouraged to perform as many kind acts as possible as part of the Great Kindness Challenge. All together, they performed **4,147** acts of kindness. Their 2nd graders performed an astonishing 1,132 acts of kindness in one week!



Students who participated in the Great Kindness Challenge got their name on a heart on the pictured bulletin board. On top of the

kindness challenge, Merriam Avenue participated in Spirit Days including "Dreaming of Kindness" day and "Team Kindness" day. The whole school had an opportunity to participate in a door decorating contest. Door designs needed to incorporate the theme of kindness and reflect the Great Kindness Challenge and incorporate references to the Newton Public Schools and the Merriam Avenue School PRIDE Expectations of Respect for Self, Others and our Environment. To make this week even more special, Merriam Avenue invited special guests in to read special messages of kindness during the morning announcements. Special guests included Newton Police Chief Michael Richards and Mayor Diglio.



### Hudson Maxim School Celebrates the Great Kindness Challenge

The Hopatcong Borough Schools became a Kindness Certified School District for the second year in a row, after all schools took part in the Great Kindness Challenge from January 23-27, 2017. The kick-off celebration for the week began with the message "Catch the Wave of Kindness" and staff and students dressed in vacation wear! Hudson Maxim students competed in the Great Kindness Challenge by filling out the Kindness Checklist with ideas to spread kind acts and also by bringing in pop tabs to donate to the local Ronald McDonald House charities. Students were able to follow the arrows that were posted throughout Hudson



Maxim School all week. Each arrow specified a different act of kindness to complete, such as smile at 25 people or say good morning. The kindness walks following the arrows of kind deeds helped each student participate in the challenge!

This year, students at Hudson Maxim School also painted rocks as part of the "Kindness for Christopher D. movement." All students at Hudson Maxim painted rocks and wrote words of kindness along with Christopher's number, 86. "The Kindness for Christopher D. movement" was started by the D'Amico family of Mount Arlington to honor their son, Christopher. Christopher's message of spreading kindness filled the hallways of Hudson Maxim during this week.





## Konner Sauve a Washington Valedictorian's Secret Instagram Reveals Tear-Jerking Thoughts on Classmates

Konner Sauve said he gave his classmates a real shock at the end of his graduation speech on June 6th, 2015 when he revealed he was the identity behind the Instagram account, @TheBenevolentOne3, where he had been secretly posting heartfelt thoughts about students for 43 weeks.

"I was nervous," Suave, 18, who was the co-valedictorian of East Valley High School in Washington told ABC News. "It got really loud, but they were happy. Some of my close friends were like 'why didn't you tell me earlier?'"

The account which had been an unsolved mystery for almost an entire year, contained over 650 selfies and yearbook photos of students from the classes of 2014-2017.

Every post was completed with a caption, recognizing each student for their most incredible attribute.

To read more about this story go to: <http://abcnews.go.com/Lifestyle/washington-valedictorians-secret-instagram-reveals-tear-jerking-thoughts/story?id=31689197>

