

Our Path to Positivity



Vienna-Finley Elementary
Principal's Name: Tiffany Barrett
Principal's Email: tbarrett@scsd2.k12.in.us
Team Members' Names: Lindsey Cazares & Lori Smith

Background Leading to this Inquiry

- climate was down in the building
- started PBIS and wanted to reinforce positive behaviors

Purpose of This Inquiry

- foster kindness
- interact with students first thing in the morning
- display positive messages to start our day with a positive mindset

Our Wondering

With this purpose, we wondered how implementing a morning message and kindness initiative in every classroom might impact and change our culture and climate within the building.

Our Actions

- Discussed ways to increase morale (with staff/students)
- Kicked off year with team building activity and mounted whiteboards.
- Left to teacher discretion- quotes
- Ambassadors checklist
- Created Google doc with ideas
- Created Instructional Model with staff

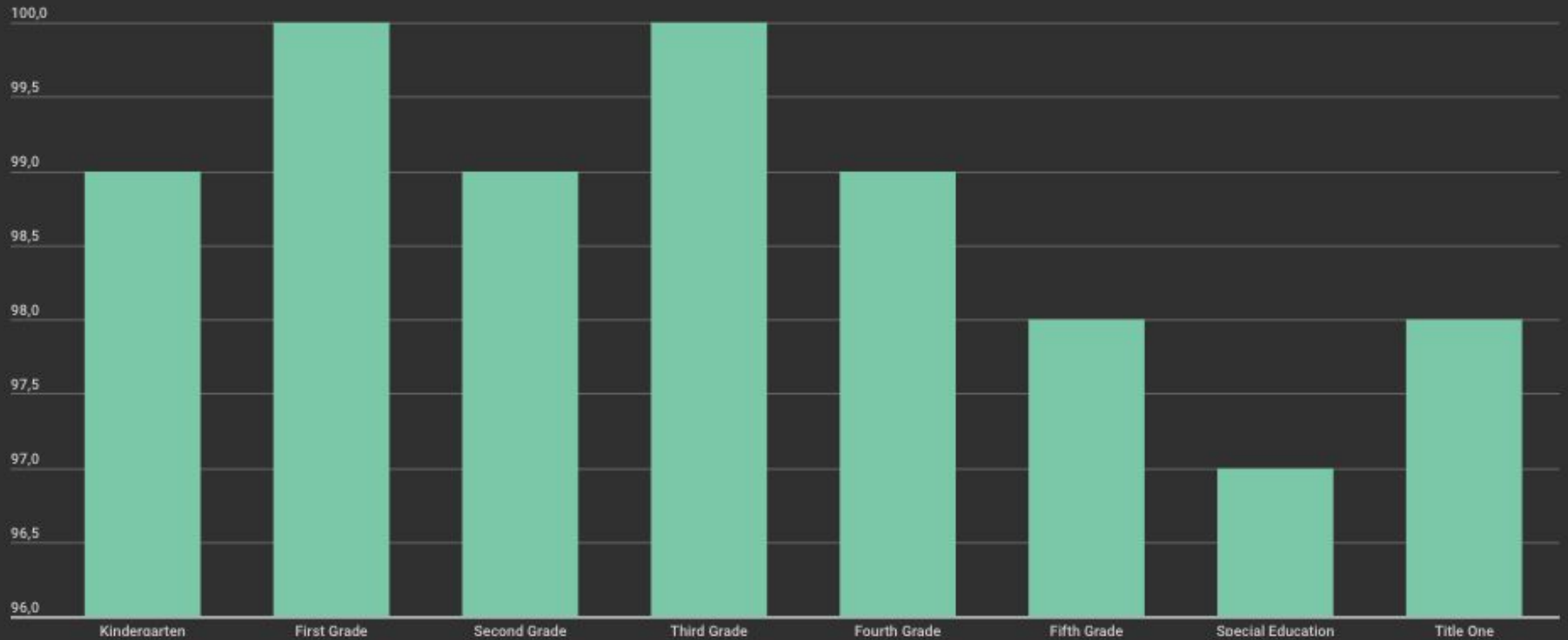
Our Actions

- Created Instructional Model with staff
- Reduces anxiety and clarifies expectation
- Celebrating success
- Created Classroom rounds schedule (did not work well)
 - They need to be presented differently.
 - More clarification and less stressfull.

Data Collection

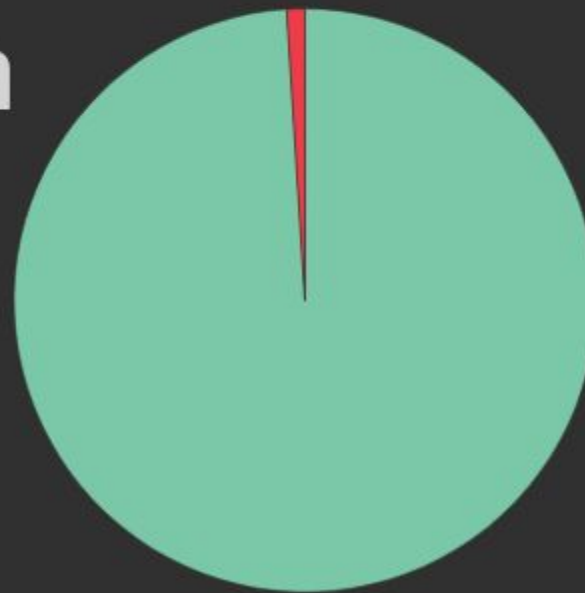


Ambassador's Checklist



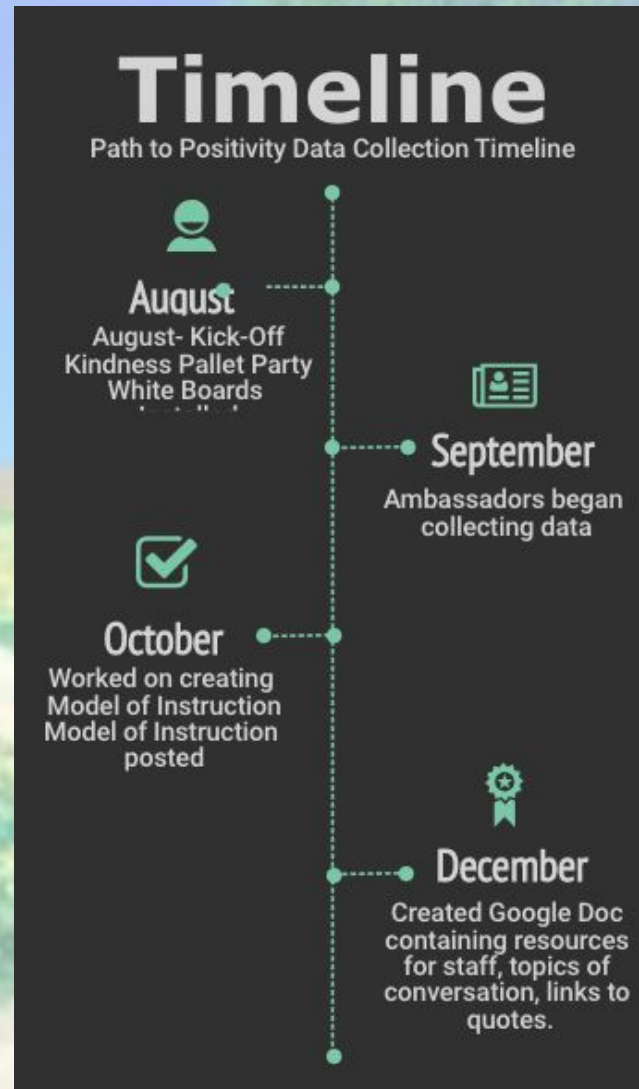
Data Collection

Whole-School Whiteboard Data



● White board Participation ● Blank White Boards

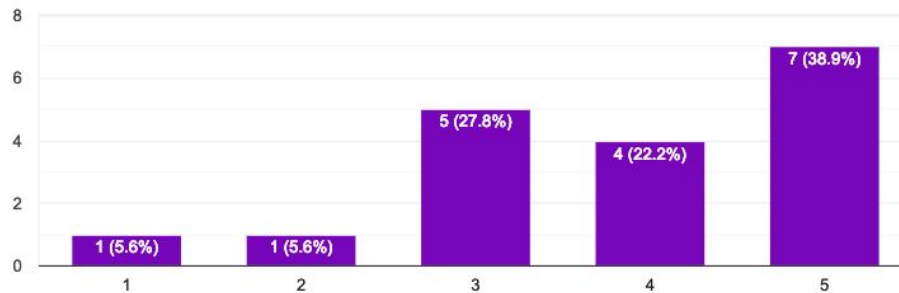
Our Data



Our Data

What do you think about the impact our whiteboard messages is having on our school family so far?

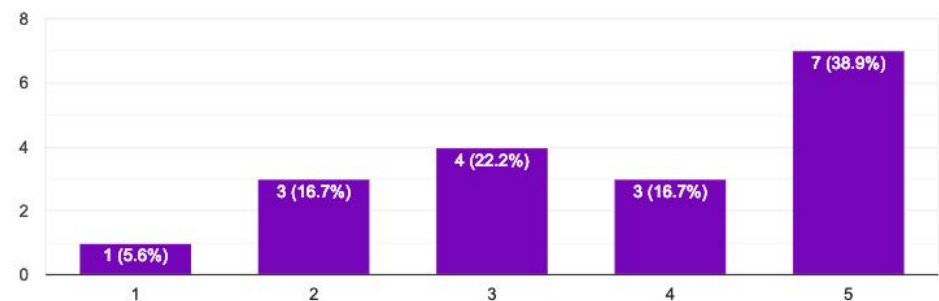
18 responses



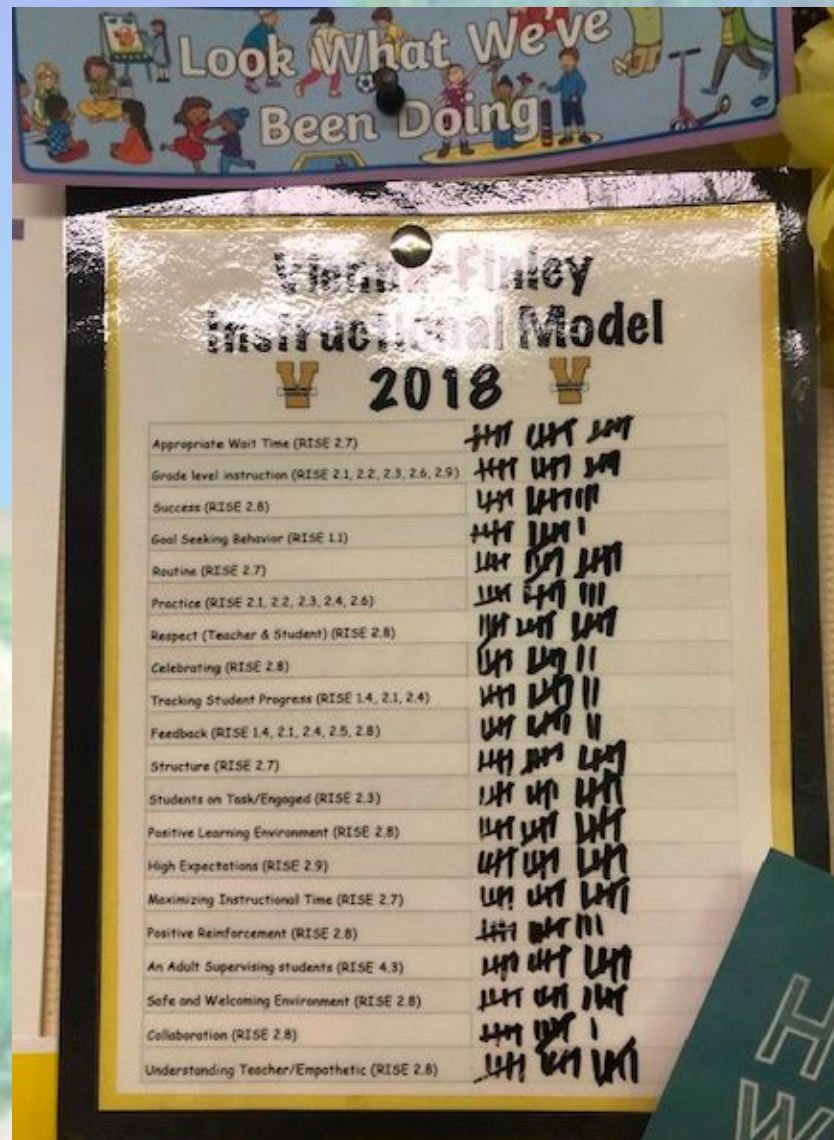
Is the whiteboard message project helping to improve the culture at Vienna-Finley?



18 responses



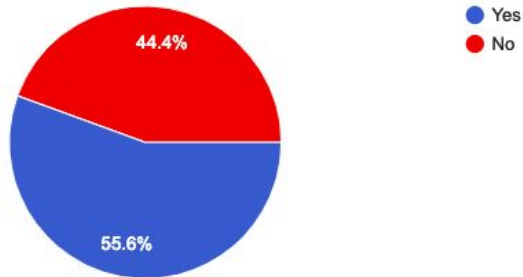
Our Data



Our Data

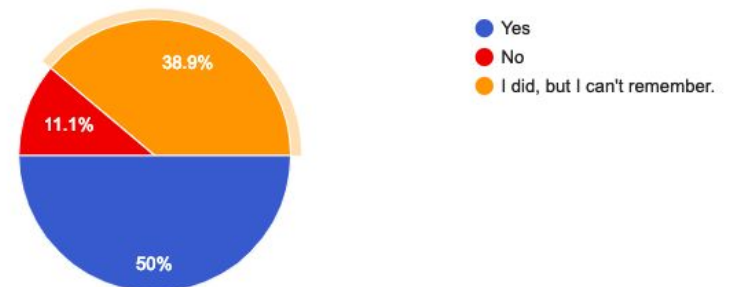
Do you know where the checklist is located?

18 responses



Do you know the items that Mrs. Barrett is looking for on the checklist when she comes into your classroom to do a walkthrough?

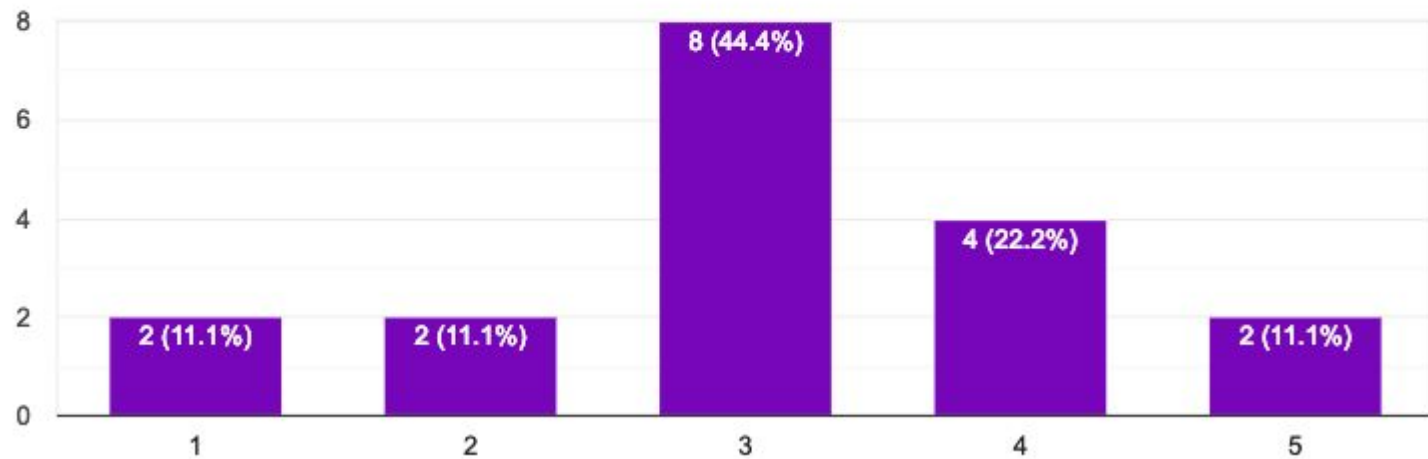
18 responses



Our Data

What do you think about the checklist in terms of improving our culture?

18 responses



Our Discoveries

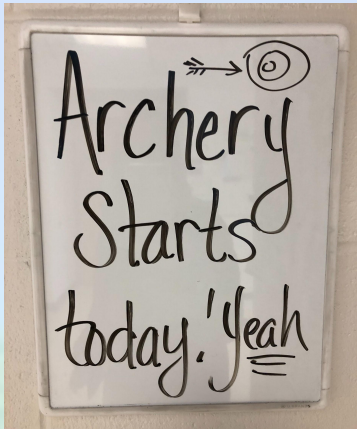
- 100% staff participated
- Quickly ran out of ideas
- Shared resources were very helpful!

Where We Are Heading Next

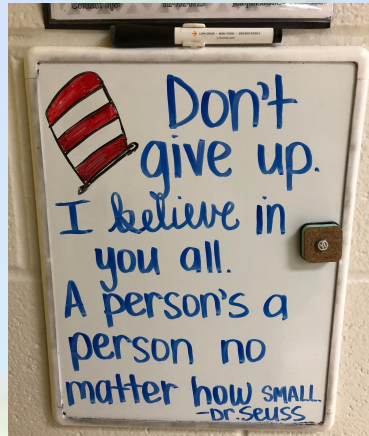
- Next year, we will incorporate one each day into our morning announcements.
- HERO initiative

Whiteboard Examples

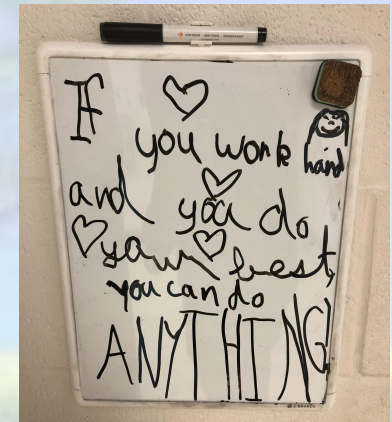
Reminders/ Announcements



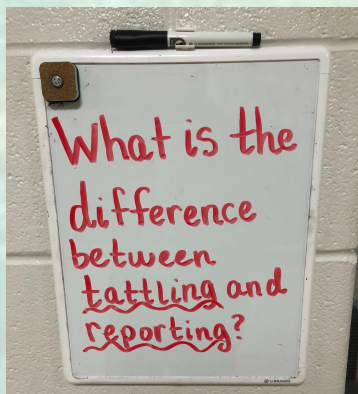
Quotes



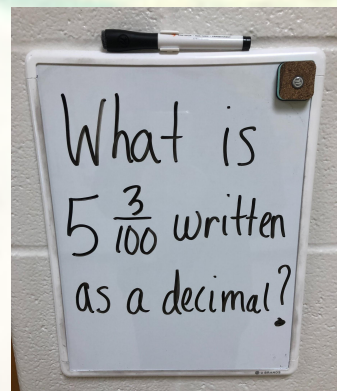
Student Involvement



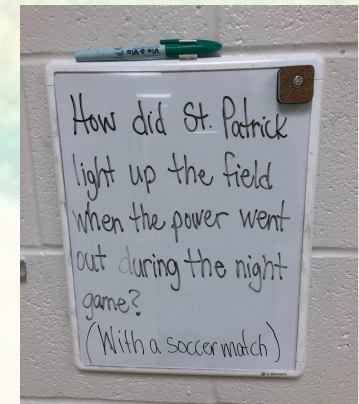
Character Counts



Lesson Practice



Jokes/Riddles



Bibliography

Lydia Sweatt, (December 22, 2016) 15 Inspiring Quotes. Retrieved from <https://www.success.com/15-inspiring-quotes-about-giving/>

Jonathan Michael, (13 Quotes on the Joy and Importance of Giving. Retrieved from <https://articles.bplans.com/13-quotes-joy-importance-giving/>

Retrieved from <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/giving>



[Our Path to Positivity)

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School Name:Vienna-Finley

Team Members' Names: Lori Smith and Lindsey Cazares

Principal's Email Contact: tbarrett@scsd2.k12.in.us

Background Leading to Our Inquiry (Slide 2)

Outline what led your team to this particular inquiry. Include the following:

When looking at what we wanted to do for IPLI, we looked at the area we felt our building was the most in need of. Last year our climate was really down. There was a lot of tension among staff, morale was down, students fed off the negative energy they could sense--we knew we had to do something to help with that. We began PBIS as a behavior system last year and wanted to tie the kindness and positive aspect in to helping our climate.

The Purpose of Our Inquiry (Slide 3)

Therefore, the purpose of our action inquiry was to foster kindness among our students and staff and to begin our day with a positive interaction. We implemented a change of how our students would be dismissed to the classroom first thing in the morning. In the past, we would pick them up and walk them back to the classroom. During this time, only the first couple of students were able to interact with us as we walked down the hall. We decide this needed to change, so now our students are dismissed and teachers are standing outside their classroom door greeting the students as they enter. In the hallway outside our door, whiteboards were mounted so that we could write words of encouragement, a positive message, or even something the students were learning in the classroom. We felt that starting our day this way would help to to foster kindness and create a positive mindset.

Our Wondering (Slide 4)

With this purpose, we wondered how implementing a morning message and kindness initiative in every classroom might impact and change our culture and climate within the building.

Our Actions (Slide 5/6)

Our actions for this project began before we had even picked this as the topic of our action research project. Tiffany began our year by discussing the obvious--the climate had been super

low the year before and we didn't want a repeat of that. She brought in someone to do a pallet class with us as a staff to create pallet boards to display outside of our classroom that all had a positive/kindness vibe. It was a great time for fellowship with one another and got our spirits boosted and got us excited for the new school year together. Tiffany then explained the whiteboards that were outside of our classrooms and how she wanted us to put positive messages on it as a talking point with our students as we greeted them in the morning since our dismissal procedures were changing. She explained that there would be Fifth Grade Ambassadors who would come around and read and check each whiteboard in the morning so that we could pull data from and the ambassadors were getting that positive start to their day from reading all the different boards. I created a Google Doc that compiled a ton of ideas for everyone to put on their boards so they wouldn't have to spend too much time on the board and that it wouldn't be just "one more thing."

During our September IPLI meeting, Dr. Warrick spoke about creating an Instructional Model of Growth for our school. The three of us immediately thought this was a great idea. It could help to reduce anxiety felt by teachers and give them clear expectations for the classroom. At our next staff meeting we presented the idea to the whole staff and came up with items that we "should always see in our classroom, sometimes see in our classroom, and never see in our classroom." Tiffany then created a checklist that she uses as she does her walk-throughs in our classroom. Every month, we go over the checklist and celebrate our successes. After a couple months, Tiffany created a "classroom rounds" schedule, so that the teachers could observe other classrooms. This was not as successful as we hoped.

Data Collection (Slide 7=13)

Ambassadors checklist: We began using 3 daily ambassadors to do our announcements and to read everyone's whiteboards. They enjoyed reading them, but we noticed that many lower grade students were not able to read them all.

When combing through the data, we noticed that the only times that whiteboards were not utilized where in rare cases that an unexpected sub was in a classroom. In the cases of a planned sub, they were still updated.

We began everything in August with our first faculty meeting, ambassadors started doing their checklist in September, October was when we introduced our instructional model at our faculty meeting and created our list of things we wanted on the checklist, in December

After our initial survey over the whiteboards we noticed that although there were some who clearly showed a distaste with it, that the majority thought the whiteboards were helping the climate.

Our Discoveries (Slide 14)

- Learning Statement One: Through our data, we discovered that there was 100% staff participation in our whiteboards and writing on them daily.
- Learning Statement Two: We also learned that they ran out of ideas after a few weeks, but after creating and sharing out the Google Doc, everyone was able to find something to put on their boards and the stress of it was alleviated.

Where We Are Headed Next (Slide 15)

Next year, we will have our ambassadors choose five of their favorite messages and one will be incorporated in our morning announcements each day for our students to reflect on during the moment of silence. Also our district is moving toward a more robust PBIS program called HERO. Our project will integrate very well with this positive approach.

Bibliography (Slide 17)

Lydia Sweatt, (December 22, 2016) 15 Inspiring Quotes. Retrieved from <https://www.success.com/15-inspiring-quotes-about-giving/>

Jonathan Michael, (13 Quotes on the Joy and Importance of Giving. Retrieved from <https://articles.bplans.com/13-quotes-joy-importance-giving/>

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