

## Wingman Press Release

Our first recognized Wingman is an individual who works hard to always make everyone feel included and successful. For example, on the field hockey field, she always runs extra laps with the other girls to make sure they don't feel slow, alone, or excluded. As she runs beside them, she whispers encouragement and shares kind words. In the classroom, she always helps others in need and is never afraid to speak up for others. Congratulations to Paige Remington for going above and beyond to be a wingman!

Often times, in the classroom, students see others who often work alone, need some assistance, and do not readily "fit in" with the crowd. A Wingman notices this situation and takes action to make it better for the affected students. On a daily basis, these two recognized Wingman do just that. They always make the effort to build relationships by saying hello, asking how people are doing, and really listening to their responses. Congratulations to Cami Bosco and Amelia Rutt for going above and beyond to be wingmen!

Our next recognized Wingman demonstrates kindness and empathy for others on a daily basis. She is constantly helping others in the classroom and striving to work with different students on a daily basis. One situation exemplifies how she goes above and beyond for others. One day, in class, a teacher allowed students to pick their own partners. A friend of our recognized Wingman asked her if she wanted to work together. Recognizing another student may be left without a partner, this individual politely declined her friend's offer and said she was going to see if "she has a partner." That period, she worked with someone new. Stepping away from the comfortable and choosing to work with someone new is going above and beyond for others. She noticed and need and filled it. Congratulations to Paige Baillargeon!

This student goes above and beyond to show kindness to others. This year, the 6th grade welcomed a new student to its ranks. Being from another town, the student entered Suffield Middle School knowing no one. As you can imagine, this can be a scary situation. Knowing no one, the student found herself sitting alone during lunch in the first days of school. While many failed to recognize or remedy this situation, our next Wingman noticed the new student sitting alone and took it upon herself to join her. This certainly brightened the student's day and made being a new student at SMS much easier. Today, they continue to eat lunch together and are forming a friendship. Acts like this are what being a Wingman is all about - noticing a person in need and without prompting - helping. Thank you Hayden Feldmeier for being a true Wingman.

Our next recognized Wingman is a new member of our Suffield Middle School Community, having moved to Suffield this year. Although this is a daunting situation for anyone - let alone an 8th grader coming into a well established group of friendships - this student immersed himself completely in our community and quickly became a role model for others. He is conscientious of those around him, always considering how his actions will affect others. Thank you for going above and beyond for others John Martino and modeling what a kind, empathetic, and considerate Wingman should be.

The 8th grade has another natural leader and role model in its community who daily leads by example. In the classroom, this Wingman selflessly reaches out to help peers in need on a daily basis. As such, her teachers consider her a leader in the classroom - someone who can be counted on to provide support and friendship to those in need. Congratulations Sophia Zacchia.

One member of our school community has gone above and beyond for a friend in need. This year, this individual's friend had a really rough start to the school year, missing quite a few days of school. Upon the return, this recognized Wingman went above and beyond to support his friend on many levels. Emotionally, he has been a right hand man. Physically, he has been able to assist in making up missed work so his friend has seen success. Overall, he has been a constant support when he was needed. He did this all without hesitation and without being asked. He saw a need and he provided a remedy. Congratulations to Robby Leahey. Thank you for having someone's back.

During the month of October, the Flight Crew issued a challenge to all students to donate items to the Hurricane Relief efforts for Puerto Rico, Houston and Florida. Many, many students brought in pencils, notebooks, bandaids, and other needed items. Five students from our community, however, took their effort to the next level - going above and beyond for the victims of the hurricanes. These 5 girls took it upon themselves to arrange a bake sale one weekend to raise monetary funds for those in need. They planned the sale, baked the goods, and manned the tables. Through their efforts, \$360 was raised for our hurricane relief drive. These funds will be sent directly to the American Red Cross Hurricane Relief Fund. Thank you for going above and beyond to make this world a better place Ava Toomey, Ella Kollmorgen, Brynna Tinnerella, Paige Baillargeon and Rebecca Gibbons. You are all true Wingmen.

