

Recognizing Our Impact

Maine Learning Results: ELA:B2, D1, D2; Social Studies:A1, A2, A3

Purpose: To review and honor our accomplishments for the year, and to identify ways to continue doing meaningful work.

Key Concepts:

- A few of us can make a significant difference
- Our work has strengthened us as individuals, as a class, and as a community at large
- Different things that we accomplished mattered in different ways to each of us
- We can continue this work in our lives from here

Activity: See Road Map lesson and Community Service Log in Fall Lessons. Review our road map of the year, note accomplishments and achievements.

Together, on a flip chart or board, create a list of the different kind of service work that we have done as a class throughout the year. Build on the Charity and Change lesson if applicable, and include things like skills and knowledge gained.

Review the list and decide if it is complete.

Move on to the map of your school and community. Identify familiar places and landmarks. Explain that the purpose of the next activity is to reflect on the amazing amount of work and learning that we have accomplished this year. Each student and teacher receives three icons from a folder (keep extras). Each person is then asked to reflect on and make note of three experiences from the year, one that has made a difference in themselves, one that they think has made a difference in their class, and one that they think has made a difference in their school and community. Everyone writes their experiences on their icons, and then tacks or tapes their icons to the place on the map where they occurred. When people are finished, everyone is invited to look at the map, and have a chance to explain their icons and experiences.

Then to the class pose these questions:

- How are you a better person because of what we've done this year?
- How is our school a better place because of what we've done this year?
- How is the world a better place because of what you've done?
- What else do you think still needs to be done to make things better in the world? What can we do from here to make it better?

Capture responses in a brainstorm or discussion, or have students write reflections following the activity.

Materials: Your road map, flip chart, markers, icons, pens, tape, map of your school ground and community