



Smyrna School District

Essay Contest

2005

Adult and Student Winners

I ♥ The Smyrna School District

The fifth essay contest to support the five Smyrna School District core values of *Respect, Responsibility, Perseverance, Integrity, and Compassion* was held during the month of January 2005. There were two categories of winners: adults (18 and over) and students (K through Grade 12). First, second, and third place winners received medals and certificates noting the accomplishments during “I Love the Smyrna School District” day on February 26, 2005.

The 2005 writing contest focused on the value of *Integrity*. Hundreds of touching and heartfelt essays were submitted. This booklet contains the essays of first, second, and third place winners at all levels.

I hope this booklet is a source of inspiration for both the readers and the writers.

I extend my sincere appreciation to all who contributed their time and effort to enter this contest and share their thoughts.

Debbie Wicks

Superintendent

For the fifth annual “I Love the Smyrna School District” essay contest, students and adults were asked to write about *Integrity*, a core district value. Contest rules and a writing prompt were disseminated to students (via their teachers) and the community in January 2005. The writing prompt was created to mirror the type of prompt students might encounter on the Delaware Student Testing Program (DSTP) writing tests given each spring.

Janet Garrett, retired Smyrna High School business teacher, completed the typing and formatting of the publication. Karen Kennedy, Smyrna School District Central Office secretary, assisted with the layout and editing of the final publication. District teachers encouraged their students to write and helped select essays. Appreciation is extended to all for their time and effort in making this publication possible.

ESSAY CONTEST

Contestants are asked to write a maximum 500-word essay on the following topic (deadline in January 31, 2005):

Integrity is an adherence to moral and ethical principles; soundness of moral character; honesty.

Think about someone who has integrity. Tell in detail why you chose this particular person, what specific qualities this person possesses, and give specific examples of how he/she demonstrates integrity.

ADULT WINNERS: First (gold), second (silver), and third (bronze) place winners received medals and certificates noting their accomplishments. Winners and runners-up were recognized during the “I Love the Smyrna School District” day (February 26, 2005).

STUDENT WINNERS: First (gold), second (silver), and third (bronze) place winners were selected at each grade level (K-12) in each building. Winners received medals and certificates noting their accomplishments. All winners were recognized during the “I Love the Smyrna School District” day (February 26, 2005).

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Our community has truly been blessed by the integral life of Kenneth David Knotts. Called away on the second of January in the year Two Thousand-five, Ken had been a child of God, the husband of Edith, a father to many, and a friend to all.

The weather was gloomy at best outside as Smyrna gathered to celebrate Ken's life. In the church, however, the air was teeming with amazing joy as family, friends, and strangers found themselves united in love; for each, though uniquely touched, had been left with the same sparkle after encounters with Ken in their lives.

Ken's demonstration and pursuit of integrity became evident as the service commenced and witnesses spoke of time shared with Ken and how he had helped them to grow in uprightness.

One man learned that societal status didn't have to segregate people as he observed Ken's interaction with others, noting how he was "comfortable in his skin." He was always the same Ken in any company.

Another spoke freely of learning to have friends by first being a friend, open, trustworthy, and honest as Ken had been to him.

A woman's heart softened as it became apparent to her that her son's inherent integrity had been molded that way through knowing such a man as Ken for most of his young life.

The "light" of Ken Knotts' life glows forever because he willingly passed the torch to his family and friends by leaving behind a legacy of love and integrity to be shared with all, present and future.

Debra G. Hanna

First Place, Adult

The following speech was presented in recognition of honored guest Senator James T. Vaughn, Sr. during "I Love the Smyrna School District" day, 2005.

Senator James T. Vaughn, Sr.: A Model of Integrity

Integrity has been defined as uprightness of character, probity, and honesty. It is not a single character trait. It is a collection of traits which combine in a person to produce character. Among the traits which make up integrity are truthfulness, courtesy, humility, commitment, and perseverance.

My father, Senator Vaughn, has always exhibited the highest degree of integrity. It has been described over the years by countless people with phrases, which I have heard many times, such as: “You always knows where he stands,” “You can always count on what he says,” “If he tells you he is going to do something, he does it,” and “He always does what he thinks is right.”

He has demonstrated that integrity in thousands of individual, everyday examples. Most of these individual acts of integrity are small and important only to one or a few people who might have been involved in a particular event. To give just one personal example, when I was a young boy, if he told me that he would pitch me batting practice or hit me ground balls when he got home from work, he always kept his promise, no matter how difficult his day might have been or how tired he might be.

But some examples of his integrity are larger. An enduring example of integrity is demonstrated by his dedication to the Smyrna-Clayton Little League program. Through his commitment and perseverance, he was a leader in laying out and constructing the baseball fields and buildings, one after the other, and building up the Little League program over a period of forty years. As a result, thousands of Little Leaguers have had an opportunity to play in an excellent Little League program, hundreds of whom played on the Little League team which he coached.

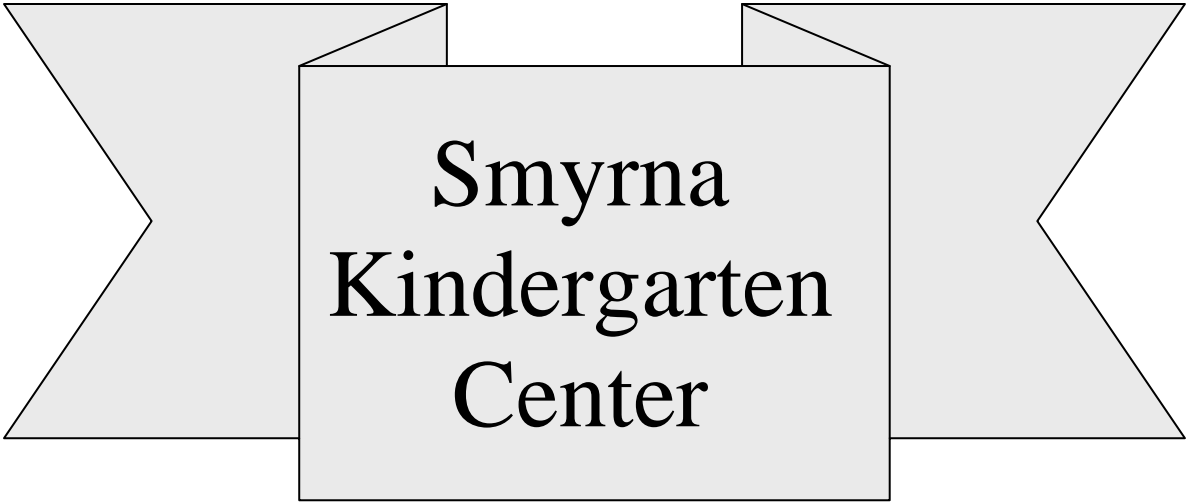
His integrity was also proven by his tireless work to protect the public safety, first at a Delaware State Trooper and later as Commissioner of the Department of Correction.

During his many years as a member of the school board of this school district, his honesty and commitment served as an example for other school board members to follow. Among many other accomplishments, he led the effort for the construction of this Smyrna High School building and served as board president.

In his current career, he has performed distinguished service as a member of the State Senate. He has served as chairman of important committees, including a session as chairman of the Joint Finance Committee, which made him during that time the senator primarily responsible for the state budget. He is now chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which makes him the senator primarily responsible for bills which affect the judicial branch of government.

For these and many other reasons, it is very appropriate that the school district is recognizing him today as a role model for integrity. I am proud to be his son, and I thank the school district for asking me to read my essay on my father and his integrity.

The Honorable James T. Vaughn, Jr.



I am honest when I don't take people's stuff because I don't steal.

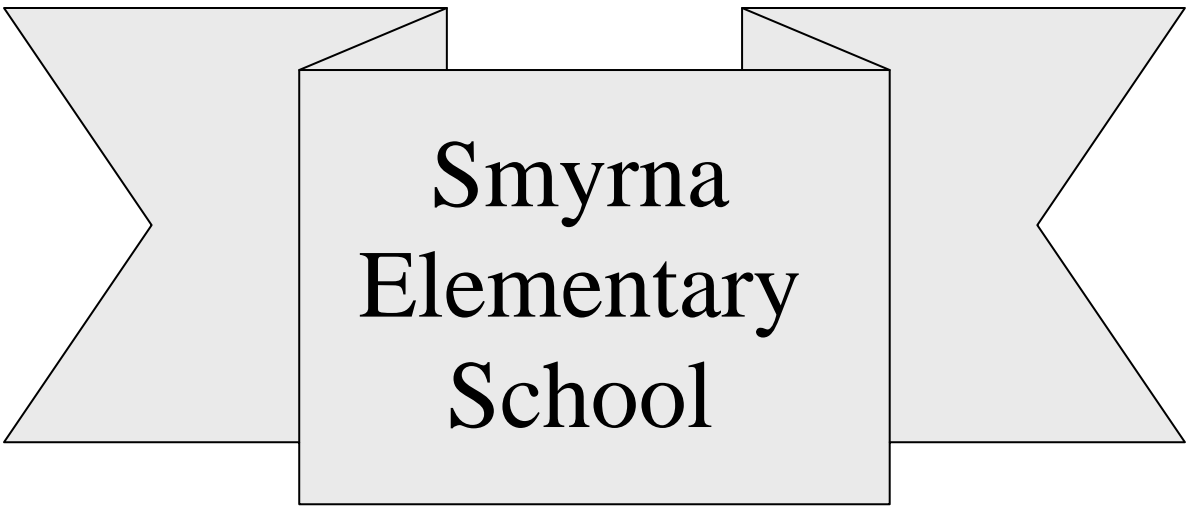
Colleen Henderson
First Place, Kindergarten

Mom asked, "Who made this mess with this floss?" I said it was my brother who did it. Next time I will tell the truth.

Angela Haldas
Second Place, Kindergarten

I am going to be honest if Mom asks who took the cookie.

Hunter Shane
Third Place, Kindergarten



Grades 1, 2, 3, and 4

Do you know someone who shows integrity? A person who shows integrity is honest, tells the truth, and does the right thing. Aunt Gwen in the mall showed integrity. Aunt Gwen gave the red violet purse back to the very old lady at the mall. I hope there are other nice people like my aunt.

Louise Cancino

First Place, Grade 1

Do you know someone who shows integrity? I do. She is my cousin Betheny. I lost my money and then Betheny gave money back to me and she did the right thing. I love my cousin.

Dwayne Boney

Second Place, Grade 1

Do you know someone that shows integrity? A person who shows integrity is honest, tells the truth, and does the right thing. My friend Morgan was leaving my house a couple of days ago and Morgan almost left my pony tail in her hair and good thing she reminded me. I hope people all around the world show integrity.

Katellynn Stoll

Third Place, Grade 1

I want to tell you about Helen Burgess. Please write about Helen Burgess in the newspaper because she shows integrity. One time she gave me a swimming tube when I was going to the deep end of the pool. Although I could swim I fell off and went into the water. She came and helped me out. She told my parents what happened even though she was scared that they might not trust her again. She told them though, and that is how she showed integrity.

One time she was at the mall and she saw a one hundred dollar gift card on the bench. She didn't steal it. She got a guard and the guard took it to the house that matched the address on it.

Sydney Burgess

First Place, Grade 2

My mommy shows me lots of integrity. She always tells the truth which means she is honest. My mom is so so soooo nice. She never lies. My mom always does the right thing. Oh, and by the way, my mom's name is Lori Holford. My mommy also treats everybody fairly. She never breaks promises either. My mom always stops me when I start to do something bad. My mom is soooooo brave. She also shows respect. She always thinks of others before herself too. My mommy never ever hurts others or me. My mom has never hurt anybody's feelings either. She is also very helpful and that is how my mommy shows me integrity which makes me happy.

Liza Holford
Second Place, Grade 2

I know a person that has integrity. He is my brother Colton. I think he has a lot of courage because we had some people come over. He went over there, and he was not shy. He was happy when he talked. I think my brother has a lot of honesty. One time he broke an important toy of mine. He told me and I didn't get mad at him. He broke a helicopter and I still didn't get mad. That is how I know my brother has honesty. He made me feel happy. When he did all those really nice things, he did the right thing. That is how I know my brother has integrity.

Miles Humphries
Third Place, Grade 2

Do you know someone who has integrity? Do they make you feel good to know them? Well, Jenifer Watson has a lot of integrity to share! Jenifer is a caring individual. Jenifer is a thoughtful girl, she teaches people things, and she helps needy people. She's the one with most integrity.

Jenifer, otherwise known as the great Jenny, is a kind and thoughtful person. Jenny's not self-absorbed, she lets people play with her belongings. She lets her little sister play with her Skip It. Next, if someone's struggling with homework, school work, or plain out work, she helps. Samantha and Jenifer play with each other most of the time. Jenny is a very thoughtful girl. Jenny is so thoughtful it would take forever to tell you all of the kind things she's done!

Next, Jenny helps teach people really cool things. She explained to Samantha and Emily how to play Skip It. They never even heard of Skip It until Jenny came to explain. Now they have their own and they love playing with it. Jenny also taught Emily how to play softball plus now she loves playing softball. Jenny has helped so many individuals. But there is one more thing—she taught her little sister how to skateboard! She learned how to and how to go grinding on the wheels! Jenifer is the most honest person I know!

Finally, I must say Jenny cares about a lot of needy people. Whenever she gets a fund raiser she works so hard because it goes to the poor. Next, I remember they were gathering canned goods and she about cleaned all of the cabinet. She had like thirteen bags filled! Finally she always brings in about \$100, maybe \$200, because her class always raises the most! Before she takes this in she always asks her family! Jenny's a life saver!!

Jenny is a great teenager. When she grows up, we hope to still have her. Poor Jenny is very ill though and we hope that this sparkling creature will conquer her sickness. Jenny is very thoughtful, she helps people, and she helps the needy people. Right now she's the needy one and her family is with her sparkling heart!

Samantha Geedy
Second Place, Grade 3

There are many people who have integrity, but there is one person who has it the most and that is Mr. Davis! Mr. Davis is a teacher at Smyrna Elementary School. He teaches 3rd grade. Mr. Davis has integrity because he helps people, he is kind and friendly, and is fair.

Mr. Davis is a very nice guy and he helps people all the time. When he helps people he gives them a hand. For example, when a person is in a store and has kids, if the kids are running around he would help that person. The next thing how he helps people is doing HOMEWORK! When he helps people with their homework and that kid needs help on a problem like 9×20 he will sit down and help him/her. Also when people need help he will go to them. Like if someone just got hurt he will be there to help. So that is one of the ways he has integrity and how he helps people

Mr. Davis is kind and very friendly. Mr. Davis is a great guy and he does great things. One of the great things that he does is he lets his class play on the computers. Another way that he is kind and friendly is when his class is doing Accelerated Math. He will help them with it. Like 7 dogs have 3 bones each, so how many bones are there in all? The last way that he is kind and friendly is if a word is not on the word wall he will help his student learn how to spell it. So that is another way he has integrity, by being kind and friendly.

Mr. Davis is fair. Mr. Davis is fair because he does not get mad at his class all the time. Mr. Davis does not yell at his class all the time because they get high grades most of the time. Another thing about how he is fair is he teaches the class a lot of things for the DSTP. Things like math and writing and lots more. When we do writing and they are stuck on something, he will tell students to use a dictionary. He tells students to use a dictionary because they will find a word in it. So that is why he is so fair to his class.

He is a great person and if you get to meet him he will be a great person. So guys, if you find a person like him write a prompt about them/him/her. So that is why Mr. Davis helps people, is kind and friendly, and fair.

Bronwyn Wright

Third Place, Grade 3

At Smyrna Elementary today there is integrity in the air. But the most integrity is coming from one person and that person is Amy Fitzcharles. The possible ways Amy can show integrity is this way: by showing honesty and doing what's right.

The first way Amy Fitzcharles shows integrity is being honest. Amy was honest by telling Amber she didn't want to play totally spies. Then everything was okay. They played tag instead.

Amy Fitzcharles also shows honesty and what's right by telling her friends the truth and not saying things behind their backs. For example, Amy and Christina were playing. Then another student chatted to Amy alone. Suddenly the student was saying stuff about someone. Finally Amy said, "If you don't enjoy someone say it in your head not out loud." Then Amy went to support the person.

Amy shows honesty by finding something that is not hers and giving it to the owner. For example, Amy found a ring and it was not hers. So she took it to the lost and found. When the owner found it she thanked Amy. Amy felt confident about herself because the owner was proud. Amy shows integrity by showing honesty, by telling the truth, and by doing what's right and leaving what's wrong alone. Finally, she's honest and did what's right by finding something that wasn't hers and giving it to the owner. So that is how Amy Fitzcharles shows more integrity.

Arizona Dyer

First Place, Grade 4

A friend of mine, René Fretz, shows integrity by being honest. She demonstrates integrity by being a good friend and trying not to tell lies. René makes me feel like I should have more integrity.

René and I went outside one hot summer morning to play a little bit of baseball. René accidentally hit the ball and it went as high as a giraffe's head. While it was coming down it hit

the top of the house and then rolled down. My mom came rushing out of the house eager to know what happened. I tried to cover up for her, and say that a bird hit the roof instead of a ball, but René didn't want to lie. She said, "I hit the ball as far as a cloud could go, and as it was coming down it hit the roof and landed on the ground." Since René told the truth my mom didn't get mad so we went inside and drank some nice cold lemonade.

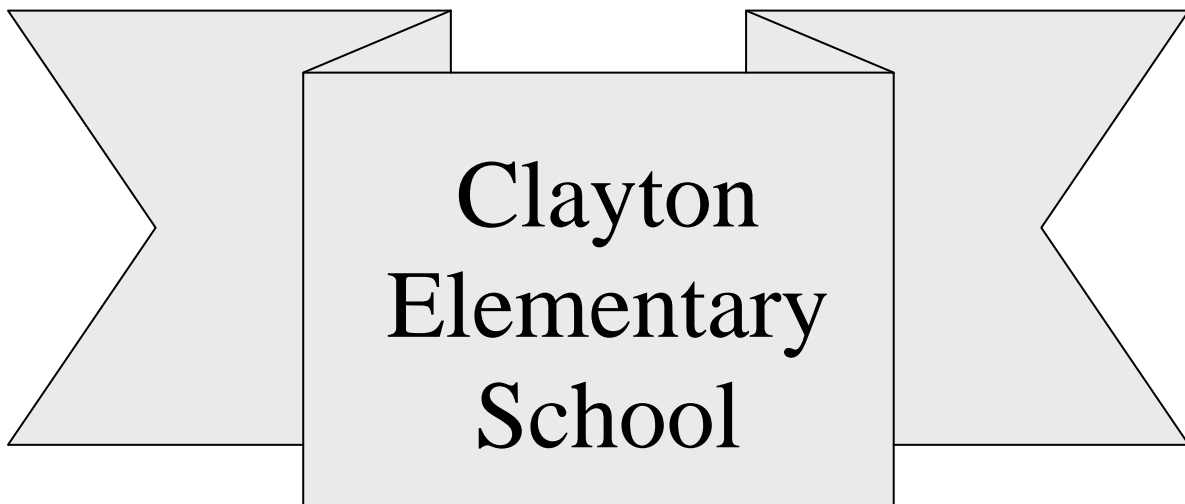
Gia Ford
Second Place, Grade 4

Hi, do you know what integrity means? Well it means honest, sincere, and always doing the right thing. Do you know anyone like that? Well I do—my Uncle Rob. He is honest because he never cheats in games and always plays fair.

For example, when we played a board game I thought he rolled a six but he only rolled a four. I said, "Move six spaces." But he said, "No, I only rolled a four." I felt pretty stupid, but I was glad he didn't cheat.

I think it is more fun to play with people like that. He always says, "I rather lose fairly than win cheating." So that is why I think Uncle Rob shows integrity.

Chris Urban
Third Place, Grade 4



Grades 1, 2, 3, and 4

I know a person who is very honest. Her name is Mom. Once when my family was going through the entrance at Disney World the ticket man asked my Mom if my little brother was two. She said he is three even though if she said two he would get in for free. My Mom was honest and paid for the ticket. I'm proud my Mom is honest.

Shawn Dulin

First Place, Grade 1

I think Kiki shows integrity because one time my dad said "Did you sneak some nuts?" She said no. Kiki is my mom. Moms do not lie that much, and I know she did not eat the nuts because she was not hungry. Kiki shows integrity and she is good. She plays with me and my sister fair. When my pet died, my mom Kiki did not lie.

Raevyn Horton

Second Place, Grade 1

The person in my life who has the most integrity is Mary. She always tries to tell the truth. She does her work and does not fake to go to the nurse's office. She does not run down the hallways. Mary is a good, honest friend.

Jacob Lucas

Third Place, Grade 1

I know of someone who demonstrates integrity. He's my uncle. First, when he was a kid he told the truth even when he knew there were consequences. For example, he was ruining his mother's jewelry and putting it on. He told the truth because he had integrity. Another time he found a wallet with \$900.50 in it and returned it as soon as possible. He told me he would help me on my homework even when he wanted to watch the football game, but he helped me do my homework. Then he promised to play football. My cousin wanted to ride bikes. He played football with me.

He always is doing the right things. Like when he was walking, instead of throwing trash on the ground he threw it in the trash can even though nobody was looking. He makes me proud. I want to be just like him. Now you know about my uncle.

Ryan Budnik

First Place, Grade 2

The most honest person I know is my pop pop. My pop pop tells the truth. He does his job, he does not steal, he keeps his word and does what's right. My pop pop is honest because he tells the truth. One day my pop pop had a light and gave it to my brother. I wanted a light too. He promised he will buy me one. Then my mommy, my brother, and I were heading to my mom mom's house. Then we stopped at WAWA and guess what? I saw my pop pop! And he had a light. So he got the light out of his truck and gave it to me. I know my pop pop—he is the most honest person I know. He may be a little impatient but he sure is honest.

Daniel Carter

Second Place, Grade 2

I am picking someone that shows integrity. That person's name is Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He is the honest person I had in my life. Martin is a nice person. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. showed integrity to Washington, D.C. Martin Luther King is a powerful speaker because he spoke against unfair law. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is a respectful person because he kept everybody company. Dr. Martin Luther King is a best hero. A hero is a person who has done something brave or important. I chose Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. because he makes me feel so happy that I am not going to forget him. When someone got hurt Dr. Martin Luther King tried to help them. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. treated people in the right way. Everybody must worship him because he wanted us to do things in the right way. When we do things in the right way he will know that you show integrity to other people. Everybody was sorry when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. died. Everybody wanted him to live forever.

Korto Kerkula

Third Place, Grade 2

Integrity usually starts off with family. I have three sisters, and I chose one out of all of my sisters. Her name is Melody J. Harter. She was the first one born in my family. Boy, I bet mom was happy. Well, my sister Melody shows me so much integrity I had to write about her. So if you take a seat right here I'll tell you about my sister Melody.

She shows me uprightness. Most people think that means that she sits up right. Well, it doesn't. It means that she's right most of the time. Like a time when I was sitting on her bed she said to me, "Olivia, did you know that we are going to Hershey Park next week?" I said, "No, Melody." The next week came and guess what—we went and I said, "Wow!"

Did you know that Melody shows so much integrity to me? There was this time when I was at a store with her and my zipper was down. Instead of saying "Olivia, your zipper is down," she pulled me aside. She told me in my ear, "Olivia, your zipper is down" and that makes me feel good to know that she cares if I get embarrassed. And sometimes I daydream that I'm hurt and she comes and helps me.

Melody makes me feel so happy and glad. She plays like a kid even when she is 25 and has four kids. Their names in order from biggest to littlest are Keirstan who is 8, Collin who is 4, Savannah is 1 or 2 (I'm not sure), and Skyler is 1 month old. Well moving on, she makes me feel good about myself because she acts like I'm there.

I've chosen Melody out of all of my sisters because she helps me believe that I can do it, and that makes me feel good. So if you have a sister and you think that they are a pain in the butt, well just look on the bright side and you will love them. Having Melody is like having a second best friend.

Olivia T. Cahall

First Place, Grade 3

Do you know anyone who shows integrity? If you don't, I'll tell you about someone who does and her name is Mrs. Daniels. Here are three reasons why I picked my teacher. Mrs. Daniels is the person who shows the most integrity.

First, I have to tell you three times she showed integrity. When asked, Morgan said she shows integrity by not lying and playing games fairly. When asked, Brooke said she's always kind to everyone not just one person.

Second, she makes me feel like a better person about myself and others. She does what is right for everybody. Those are two reasons how Mrs. Daniels makes me feel.

Last, one time she showed integrity was when she said we were having recess after lunch, and we did. She stuck with her choice. This shows how no one can change her mind.

All of this shows how Mrs. Daniels shows integrity. I picked Mrs. Daniels because she shows the most integrity I've ever seen. After reading I hope you feel like a better person.

Lacie Heritage
Second Place, Grade 3

Hello! My name is Maureen. I am the author of the news story you are reading called *News About the Chocolate Cherry Stealer*.

This cherry thief did this crime the day after New Year's Day. It was a beautiful afternoon, and Kevin Dunkleberger (the cherry thief) asked Mrs. Ayers (the teacher of the boys and girls club) if we could go outside. Mrs. Ayers said, "Let's have a picnic!!" Everyone jumped for joy. Then we started to pack snacks. Kevin watched what Mrs. Ayers put in the basket. He saw juice boxes being put in, crackers and, of course, chocolate cherries.

Kevin ran to the front of the door so Mrs. Ayers would let him carry the basket. Then Kevin ran to the end of the line and asked me if I could help him. I did of course, but I wished I hadn't. So Mrs. Ayers took us outside to have a picnic. We got around the parking lot then Kevin grabbed the cherries. Soon we got very close to the blacktop (that is where we were going to have the picnic). Kevin still had the box of cherries in his hand. Kevin told me he is going to hide the cherries in the pipe. I said, "When are you going to do it?" He said, "Now!" and he put the box of cherries in the pipe. After he did that, I dropped the basket and ran to the blacktop. Kevin grabbed the basket and ran too! Mrs. Ayers asked where the cherries were when we got there. Kevin said, "I don't know" but he really did. I whispered to Mrs. Ayers (not really but I pretended). Kevin finally said, "I know!" and Mrs. Ayers said to go get it so we did. We came back with the cherries and our punishment was no cherries for anyone.

So now you know that Kevin is an honest stealer.

Maureen Hossler
Third Place, Grade 3

Have you ever known someone so honest that they got a nickname about honesty? I do. If you didn't, you might want to continue reading this piece. The honest person I'm writing about is Abe Lincoln. I decided to write about him because of his nickname. In my story I'll tell you why I chose him and facts about him.

We all know that freeing slaves was nice to do, but most of us do not know that Abe Lincoln helped. I think he had a lot of guts to risk his life just to do the right thing for another race of people. I couldn't find who shows so much integrity and courage than Mr. Lincoln. I am glad not only that he was famous, but that famous people did things to help other citizens.

Now I think it is a good time to tell you about another thing our honest friend did. Abe used to collect money for a company. But when poor people paid he gave them some money back. For example, a poor lady paid him twenty-five dollars and he gave her ten dollars back. He did that for awhile. Then one day about mid-afternoon his boss came and said, "Abe, do you know where the money is going? We don't have the proper amount in our bank."

"Yes," replied Abe. "Where?" asked his boss. "I've been giving some money back to poor people," he replied. Many wealthy people got mad because they didn't get money back. Only the poor people got money back. Abe went to court and was found guilty. He had to pay \$400 to the company. A few years later he paid the money back and that was the end of that.

Now I'll compare Abe Lincoln to things. Mr. Lincoln is as honest as a bank teller. Abe showed so much honesty they honored him and made Lincoln logs. Many people wondered why Abraham never went to church. Also they wondered if he had a religion. Finally, one day someone asked him if he had a religion. "When I do good I feel good, and when I do bad I feel bad, and that's my religion," replied Abraham.

In conclusion, some people may not always show integrity, but people can change. If Abraham Lincoln can show integrity, I know we all can show integrity. We all need to be honest at one point in life. We all will show some integrity. Honest, it may be corny, but it's the finest force for good in the world, and it always will be. We all should do some honest good in the world.

Kevin Dunkleberger

First Place, Grade 4

Hi everybody. I hope you like this newsletter. It's about a girl named Dorothy Johnson. She is responsible, honest, and picks up stuff that is not hers. She is my best friend. I wanted to pick her because she shows integrity.

First, she is responsible. She tries to finish her work on time. Once she picked up her mess on the floor. If she dropped something she wouldn't say, "Oh, that's not mine so I'm not picking it up." When she does something or says she will do it, she does it.

Second, she is honest. Dorothy will say she wants to do something, she will do it or say never mind. When she lies she tells the truth for what she said. Dorothy will ask to help the teacher, and she will keep her word for what she said. I picked her because she is honest.

Third, she picks up stuff that is not hers. Once, she picked up a wallet and turned it into the office, and she got a piece of candy. She saw trash on the floor at lunch and picked it up. Dorothy picks stuff up when you ask her nicely. I picked her because she picks stuff up that is not hers.

I hope you like the news about Dorothy Johnson. Hopefully there are more papers about her. She is so honest and she does nice stuff. I picked her because she shows integrity. Whatever you ask her to do, she will do it.

Matthew Cooke

Second Place, Grade 4

All aboard! All aboard! All aboard the integrity train! Okay, not really. But I wasn't joking about the integrity part. I know what integrity is, who shows it, and I know how they show it. I'll tell you how.

What's integrity you ask? Hmmmm. Let me think. Well, you always have to be nice. If you don't have anything nice to say, then don't say anything at all. If you aren't nice, you should go back and apologize. You should always tell the truth. But be careful, sometimes the truth can hurt. Always say what is necessary. Never start or spread rumors. If you don't start or spread them, that's good, but try and stop them. Just remember, treat someone the way you want to be treated.

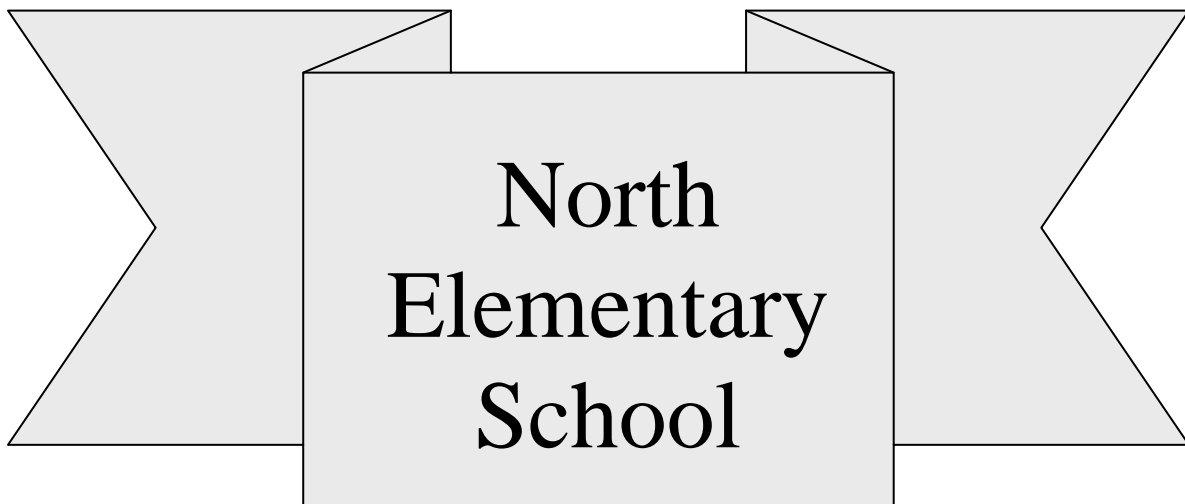
My mom, Kristina Kennedy, shows integrity. She's always nice. She taught me to be nice too. She taught me integrity. She does good deeds. That's why I love her.

My mom is always nice. She never starts rumors. She never spreads them either. She always stops them. That's how my mom shows integrity.

So, if you want to know stuff about integrity, come to me, and remember to always show integrity.

Alexandra Shultis

Third Place, Grade 4



North
Elementary
School

Grades 1, 2, 3, and 4

My mom mom and I went to the store. There was a person in front of her. She left her shirt at the counter. My mom mom gave it back to her. I think my mom mom showed integrity because she gave the shirt back to the woman.

Karishma Price

First Place, Grade 1

My brother Darren showed integrity by giving my pencil back. He told the truth about my pencil that he took it. Mom and dad were very happy he showed integrity by telling the truth.

Charlie Taylor

Second Place, Grade 1

My cousin Amanda went to the store. She found a dollar. She gave it back. That's why she is nice.

Katie Keast

Third Place, Grade 1

My dad has lots of integrity. My dad's name is Dean and he helps people. He is a good friend to other people. He has a new job.

He helps people. Sierra bumped her head on the table and daddy helped her. At the beach he saved a person that got hit by a wave. When I was crying he said what's wrong? He is a good friend to other people he goes hunting with. He loves to go crabbing. He likes to go fishing too.

He has a new job. He never calls out sick. He never stays home when he has to work. When his favorite TV show is on he never stays home and watches it because he has to go to work.

That is why my dad has lots of integrity.

Ally Vance

First Place, Grade 2

I chose Jason Voss because he always tells the truth. Once we were playing a dice game and whoever rolled six won Obelisk, Slifer, and the Winged Dragon of Ra. Then it was Jason's turn. Just then he said, "Look a Skydiver!" Then he turned the dice to six. Then we turned around and said, "That wasn't a Skydiver!" Oops, it was probably a bird. Then he said, "I rolled six! Well, I guess you get our three Egyptian god cards. No!! I don't accept them!"

We asked, "Why? I thought you rolled a six." Jason said, "I didn't. I turned it to six."

"Well, at least you were honest," we said. "Yeah, if you didn't we would have kicked you out of Yu-Gi. But what matters is that you told the truth."

Trent Sewell

Second Place, Grade 2

Wow, my mom has a lot of integrity. I think you should meet her. She likes helping a lot. I want to be like her when I grow up. She does a lot that she does not have to and keeps on doing it.

She helps in our school too. She lets teachers borrow books and resources. She is the PTO president too. My mom buys snacks and different crafts for parties. We have lots of copies of books that she gives to the school library, and she copies papers for teachers. Mom used to be the PTA president in Florida.

She works very hard as a baby nurse. She works two days a week. Mom works twelve-hour shifts, and she does not get much sleep. When she is home she works a lot around the house. She is a very good mom too. She is a very nice helper. She is a nice lady too. She tries her best with everything she does and does not give up.

One of her co-workers gave her a wooden box to decorate to give to moms that had babies that passed away. She puts things that were the baby's inside so the moms can remember their baby. My mom has already done three.

As you can see my mom has a lot of integrity. For instance she helps in the school and around the house. She works very hard. That's why I think my mom has integrity. I hope you get to meet her.

Megan Dillard

Third Place, Grade 2

Good morning Alli. Good morning Lauren. Good morning Mikey. That's the way Sister Ellen greets members of parish as they enter the church doors with a friendly hello. She is definitely a bundle full of integrity. That means she is honest and always is doing the right thing. She always tries to do her best, and if I had a say in it she is a bundle full of integrity.

Sister Ellen shows integrity in many ways. Sister Ellen gave her life to the church instead of getting married by being a nun. She also prays and cares for people all over the world. When Sister Ellen donates food, clothes, money, toothbrushes, toothpaste, blankets, and toys to the poor it brightens up everybody's day.

Sister Ellen always makes me feel great about integrity. Here are some ways Sister Ellen encourages me to come to church every weekend or holy day. She inspires me to help someone when they need a friendly person. Sister Ellen sets an example of kindness to all citizens all over the world.

Some particular times when Sister Ellen showed integrity was when she made a very important rule at church. That rule was that all children must always be with an adult to protect the children. But, there's another time also. That time is whenever you have a problem you know you can always go to her and she'll listen and see if she can fix it.

Sister Ellen is a loving, caring person. I can only hope to live my life just like her wonderful self. I think giving her life to the church is the most wonderful thing she can do. She is very loving.

Kayla Kennedy

First Place, Grade 3

Integrity means being truthful, honest and always doing the right thing. I know a person who shows integrity. He is my dad. His name is Steve Gaston. He shows integrity in a lot of ways. If you want to know more, you need to read on. After you're finished reading this article you will probably agree with me.

In this paragraph I will tell you how my dad shows integrity at my house. Steve usually makes a gigantic breakfast every weekend. He let me keep a stray cat, even if he dislikes cats. But he knew it would make me happy if he let me keep it. There are other ways he shows integrity, like he plays with me and helps me with my homework. Every day he tries to make my mom happy. That is how he shows integrity at my house.

Now I need to tell you how my dad shows integrity at his work. He is honest. When he says he will show up every day, he does, and on those days he works very hard. He makes sure he is on time so all of his workers get paid. Then at the end of the day he stays till all of his workers leave or come back from lunch. He goes to work on weekends and days off just so no one gets in trouble by not finishing their work even if he doesn't get paid. He helps his friends with work

at their house or on their cars. People know he will help them or tell them what they need to know.

Next, I need to tell you how he shows integrity at my church. Well, first he helps strangers. Like if their car broke down or they were lost he helps them. My dad also keeps secrets and doesn't talk about people in a bad way. He also volunteers at our church and helps people set up or clean up. That is all I need to tell you in that paragraph.

Now, I want to tell you how I feel about my dad. When my dad shows integrity, it feels like I have the best dad in the universe. It also makes me feel like I have a really nice dad. It makes me feel like I can show more integrity toward my family and friends. I wish I could show integrity and some compassion toward people I don't know or help my community. I could maybe pick up trash on the side of the road, or collect money for disasters, or something to help other people. I could be more honest to my friends and family. Perhaps I could even try to put some money in my school fund for the Tsunami. I think my dad is really helpful, and shows a lot of integrity.

Once there was a time when my dad showed integrity. Well, last year there was a huge snowstorm. Our road was covered in about 4 feet of snow. Nobody was allowed to go out to the store or anyplace in the car. It was a Monday and my dad had to go to work. So, he got on his coat, mittens, hat, and scarf and walked there. It is a three-mile walk from my house to his work. My mom was very worried about him. The amazing thing about it was that he got all of his work done and everybody got paid. That is the one particular time my dad showed integrity.

That is all I need to tell you about my dad. Remember my dad's name is Steve Gaston. He shows a lot of integrity. Integrity means being honest and truthful. It also means always doing the right thing. Hopefully you can agree with me that my dad shows integrity.

Lauren Gaston
Second Place, Grade 3

Do you want to know someone who has lots of integrity? Well, I'm going to tell you about my dad, about how great he is, and how he shows his integrity. He shows his integrity by doing the right thing and not trying to miss any days of work. He does whatever his boss tells him to do. He takes us out on the weekends or buys us stuff. He helps people by showing them where to go if they're lost. He talks to them and tries to make friends with them. Do you know that guy's name? He's Harry—just like my name!

My dad has integrity by making sure that we have stuff throughout the year. He also makes sure that he's at work by 5 a.m. My dad is always so nice to people. When they talk to him he talks to them back, and when someone's lost my dad stops and makes sure that they're okay. My dad tries to help us so we can have a nice family. He takes us out to really fun places where you can

have fun with your family, or he takes me to Chuck-E-Cheese. My dad will do anything for our family just to make us happy. He loves spending time with us. I tell him sometimes that he's the best dad ever. I'm glad to have him with me wherever I go because he's there with me.

Harry Zayas

Third Place, Grade 3

Do you know someone who has integrity? Well, I do! My very own mom has integrity. She helps my school; she is also a nurse. My Mom also helps people. I think my mom shows a lot of integrity. I hope you will too.

My mom helps my school. She is the PTO co-president. They work on things like the playground equipment. They also think about "I ♥ Smyrna School District" day. They help the school keep on running. She also is the room mom for two classes! That means she arranges parties for two classes! My mom also copies papers for the teachers. She is always copying papers! She always donates stuff for the school. I even remember when she donated stuff to the art teacher Mrs. P. That is how she helps the school.

My mom's work is helping people. She is a nurse! She does labor work. She also does delivery. That means she helps birth babies. Sometimes bad things happen and babies die. But my mom cares. She paints wooden boxes and puts things that the baby had in it like a little outfit. I think that's really special!

My mom helps people! If you ask her to do something she is able to do it for you. She also helps my grandma. Sometimes she even donates to charity. I think she definitely shows integrity!

I hope you think that my mom shows integrity. I definitely think so! She is helpful, but she never forgets to be my mom. She is the best mom ever! I am so happy she is my mom! I hope you think she shows integrity too!

Sierra Dillard

First Place, Grade 4

Integrity is being honest and trustworthy. It also means you do the right thing and you are sincere. Integrity is a core value. Dr. Kerstetter is full of integrity. She is sincere. Dr. Kerstetter is trustworthy. She does the right thing. Dr. Kerstetter is honest. She is full of integrity.

Dr. Kerstetter is sincere. She hears out all kinds of problems, such as if a family member passed away, is in the hospital, or maybe something at home. Dr. Kerstetter is a genuine person.

She is also trustworthy. If you tell her a problem she won't discuss it with anybody. She won't tell if it is real important. She will only discuss it with you. You can rely on Dr. Kerstetter to talk with. She has integrity and a lot of it.

Dr. Kerstetter does the right thing. She started a peer leading group so kids talk to kids. She also gives kids mentors to go to. Dr. Kerstetter helps kids in need. She does the right thing instead of the wrong thing to do.

Dr. Kerstetter is honest. She will tell you what you should do. If you ask her a question she'll give you an honest answer. Dr. Kerstetter won't tell a lie. She is truthful.

She is a tank full of integrity but these things are just little fishes. Dr. Kerstetter is a sincere person. You can rely on her and trust her. All this leads up to one core value of integrity. Dr. Kerstetter is full of it.

Shannon Strosser

Second Place, Grade 4

What is integrity? Integrity is being honest, truthful and always doing the right thing. Many people have integrity such as my teachers, friends, and my family. The most special person whom I have known for my entire life is my mom who has integrity like no one else.

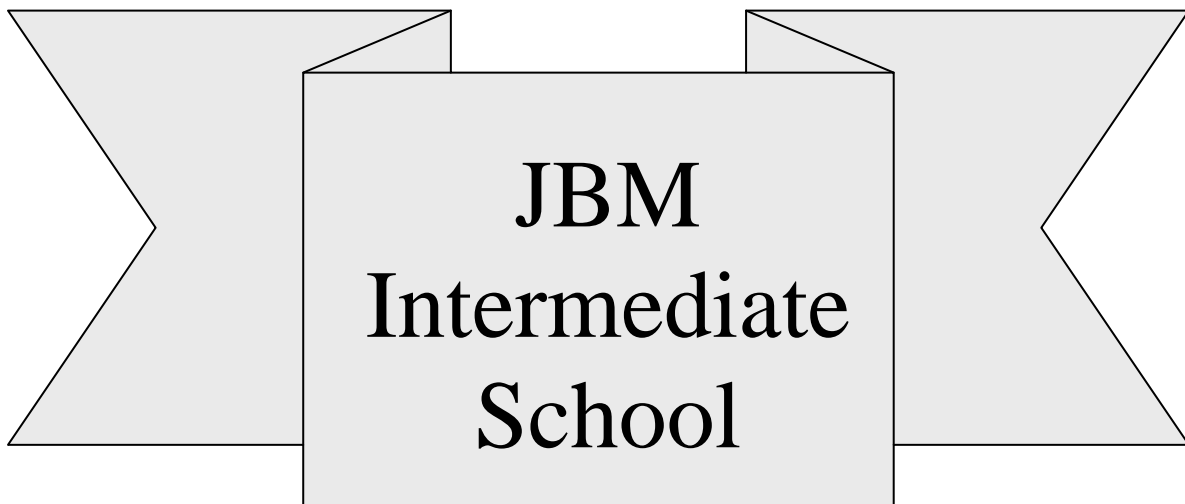
My mom has many uncountable great qualities. One of them is integrity. Throughout my life, I have never seen any dishonesty and untruthfulness from my mom. She is the kind of person that is too great to be described in words. For example, although she has a busy life, she never forgets about the poor and the helpless. She always tries to help them as much as she can. In the recent tsunami disaster she donated money to help children and families who lost their dearly loved ones.

She also works very hard to support her children and family. She helps us, her children, with our education and the daily things that we come across in or out of school. She participates in the community activities because she once told me that helping the community is the same as helping the citizens and ourselves. She encourages her children to do the same thing. I think she has succeeded, because my big brother has already joined the Smyrna High School's National Honor Society. It is an organization that provides community service and improves the characters of students. Integrity is not about helping yourself and your family along, it's about helping people who are in need of help.

Lastly, I have chosen my mom because she has integrity along with many other positive qualities. She is kind to every person, regardless of their color or origin. She is a person who follows her heart and enjoys life.

My mom truly possesses integrity. Now you know very little of the good things she does every day. She shows kindness and compassion through her actions. She is unique.

Farhad Baqi
Third Place, Grade 4



Grades 5 and 6

Do you have a person in your life that is special to you? Is that someone honest, caring, and displays integrity? Ah! I am getting ahead of myself. Let me tell you about my special person, *my grandmother*. My grandmother's name is Crystal H. Brown. She is the principal of the Smyrna Kindergarten Center. The kids at her school have relied on her for years, and so far she hasn't let them down.

My grandmother has been a principal for about six years. She has received many letters from students telling her that they love her or that she is the best principal ever. She proves that she cares about them by being kind and thoughtful, and by showing integrity. Before her career as a principal, she was a teacher for twenty-seven years for special education students. One example that always amazed me took place several years ago when Game Boys were a new product on the market. My grandmother bought one for the class to use as a reward. The student of the week was allowed to take the Game Boy home for the entire weekend. They were never allowed to play with it at school. My grandmother kept the Game Boy on or in her desk and told the students that she knew they could be trusted to never touch it until they were chosen as student of the week. She told them that becoming a person of trust and honesty would help them learn to be a person with good character. I believe that is the same as a person with integrity. No one ever took that Game Boy home without returning it on Monday, because she demonstrated integrity and showed that she trusted all her students.

In addition to her teaching career, she is my grandmother and helps take care of me, my sister, and my cousin. All three of us have had unfortunate events happen in our lives creating this extended family. My grandmother has never lied to us or tried to cover up the truth. Sometimes the truth is not easy, but this has taught me that honesty has an important place in everyday life.

In my short eleven years of life, my grandmother has taught me many things that revolve around developing into a person with integrity. She has shown me that helping others, displaying honesty, having self respect, being loyal to friends and family, and working hard is vital to growing up to become a man of integrity.

Sevyn Thompkins
First Place, Grade 5

I hold integrity high on how I measure someone. For me, integrity means a friend, someone you can trust or is helpful. Also, people who have integrity do the right things and will get far in life with their good choices. That person to me is my Uncle Rodney. He is not really my uncle, but he is my dad's best friend since childhood.

My Uncle Rodney is a very busy man. He has a farm with lots of animals to take care of every day, and he has a very demanding job as a carpenter. Even with a very full schedule, whenever my dad needs him, he is there in a flash to help. He also helps out my grandparents when they call.

Uncle Rodney has included us in many things like a Halloween scare trail for his 4-H Club. He has invited us to Super Bowl parties, fishing trips, and all sorts of adventures. I admire my uncle because he is great to be with. When I help him at the farm, I am always energetic because of him and his family.

I have never seen him be mean to anybody. He always has many people around him because he is just really cool and calm to be around. Many people know my Uncle Rodney and say good things about him. He is a great uncle. He is like a hillbilly and loves his animals.

When my uncle was young, his family did not have a lot of money. In spite of that he has done very well for himself as a carpenter. He can build anything. He even built my house in 1986 when my parents got married. This summer I am going to ask him and my dad to make a paint ball bunker, which is something to hide behind when playing paint ball.

All of the things he has done for us have changed our lives dearly. We have a nice house, we go on adventures, and we have a back up plan when we need it. For a man who is busy, he takes good care of his family, friends, and his farm. So far how I measure someone's integrity can be judged the same way I judged my Uncle Rodney.

Justin Cox
Second Place, Grade 5

My father, Francis Wootten, is a man of great integrity. I have the utmost respect for my father because of his integrity. Often times I feel angry because he is so strict with me, but deep inside I know it is because he is trying to raise me to be a person of great integrity as well.

His level of integrity is not only based on his being a caring and loving father, but his work ethic is commendable as well. He maintains a steady job and goes to work every day. He is going to college at night so that he can further advance in his career and become a better provider. He does not spend money frivolously and he teaches me to be thrifty with the money I earn for doing chores.

My father takes good care of me and I love him very much for that. When my mother died, my father immediately stepped in and took over and has done a wonderful job! He bought a townhouse so I would have a nice steady home in a good neighborhood and be able to go to school in Smyrna!

He shows integrity in many areas in his heart, and that is why I chose him as the person with the most integrity!

Ashlyn Clark
Third Place, Grade 5

Integrity is being honest with people. It means doing the right thing. Here in the small town of Smyrna, Delaware, Mr. Prillaman, the principal of JBM Intermediate, demonstrates integrity to his students and the teachers every day.

No one really thinks about a principal and what they do. For a moment just think, they do a lot to keep a school running! Mr. Prillaman at JBM Intermediate is more than a principal; he is a friend and a person with real integrity.

Honesty is the most important trait of integrity. Mr. Prillaman is honest with his students and expects honesty back. When important events are happening in the world, he explains them and reports on it to us so we understand. Mr. Prillaman makes me want to be more honest and we can all use honesty when we get older.

Recently, at JBM Intermediate, we lost two students in a car accident. He thought about everyone's feelings and set up an area where students can talk about the accident. Mr. Prillaman's advice helps us become better people too. When he interacts with us, he treats us with respect and he listens to our concerns. Mr. Prillaman is molding us to be what we will be in the future. He makes us understand how important it is to do the right thing.

In my opinion, and probably most other students in the small town of Smyrna would agree, he is a person who has much integrity. He inspires students to make the right choices in life by being a good example. He shows us what integrity means and why it's important in the Smyrna School District.

Nicole Thompson

First Place, Grade 6

I'm sure there are many people in this world that I could write about that show integrity. But I believe that Christopher Hudson, also my Uncle Chris, should be recognized for all of the integrity that he has shown through all of the past years. Integrity basically means that you show morality, dependability, and consistency. Let me tell you those are all traits that my uncle possesses. He shows integrity in his job, in the community, and of course around us, his loving family.

In the family, my Uncle Chris shows integrity by showing consistency in always being there when we, his family, need him. But what about his job you ask? In his job he shows consistency by never missing a day of work, even if he's really sick. He fights as many fires as he can, too, to show consistency in the community even if he's eating dinner, or having a blast with his friends at a party. He always shows consistency everywhere he goes.

Like I was saying my Uncle Chris shows morality too. For example before he got his job now, he used to go to college. In college he was a member of the KA Fraternity. In that, he and his friends would do many great services, and he still helps out whenever he can.

My Uncle Chris also shows dependability. She shows it in the community because since he was fourteen, he has been a member of the Smyrna Fire Company. He's been an official firefighter though since he was sixteen years old. I think that his fellow fire fighters would, without a doubt, call him dependable. He is dependable at his job because he has worked his way up in MBNA for the past four years. My Uncle Chris also goes to other cities to teach people what he does—even people older than himself. Last but not least he has shown morality in his family by making only the right choices for our family to be happy and all right.

In conclusion, my Uncle Chris is a great role model for me. He has a great deal of integrity which makes me look up to him. He shows a great deal of dependability, consistency and morality, at his job, around our family, and in the community too.

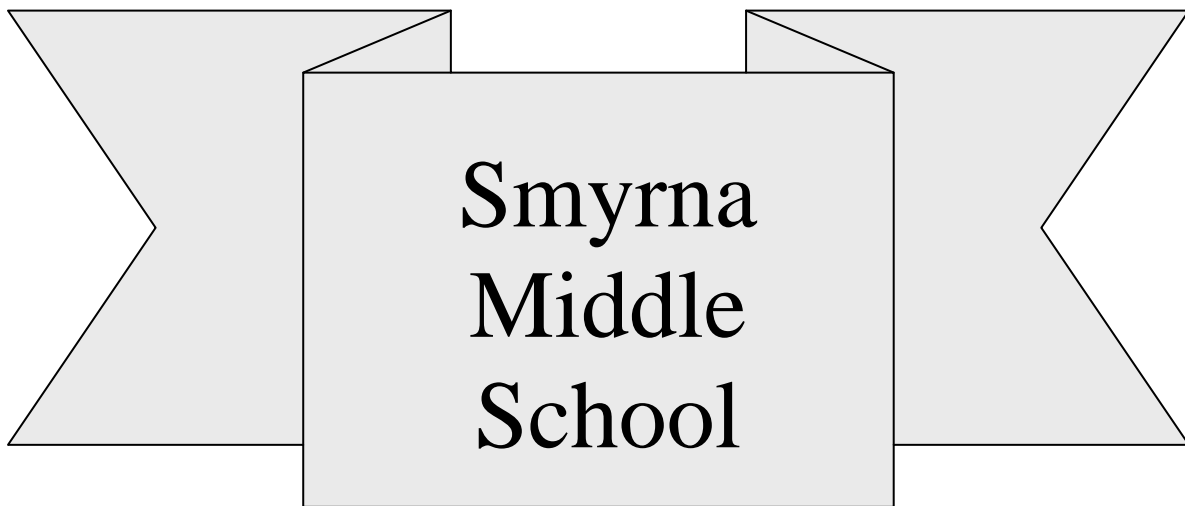
Kristen Norris
Second Place, Grade 6

There are many people in my life who I feel demonstrate integrity. The person I chose to share with you is my father, Melvin T. Miller, Jr. My dad always tells the God's honest truth. Although he is disabled and on a limited budget, he knows there are people less fortunate than himself and donates money to a number of worthy charities. He not only tries to demonstrate and pass on good values and integrity to me, but also to other kids in our neighborhood.

It makes me feel really good to know that I can always count on him to be honest, trustworthy, and an all-around guy. I solve a great deal of my own problems and questions just by asking myself what would my dad do or say.

Integrity and trying to do the right thing has always been an important part of my family. The world could be a much better place if we could all have a little more integrity and respect for each other.

Melvin Shoemaker
Third Place, Grade 6



Grades 7 and 8

As many people know, integrity is a very important quality. Integrity means to have the ability to choose between right and wrong. A person that has integrity follows the accepted rules of conduct and does the right thing. In other words, having integrity means to be the good guy, and do courteous deeds all the time. The person in my life that shows integrity is my mom.

One day, I came home from school very upset. My mom, as caring as she is, asked me what was wrong. I told her I got in an argument with a girl at school, and how she said a lot of ignorant things about me. My mom said to just ignore her. She also said not to say anything back to her because it could backfire on me. This is an example of my mother using integrity because she chose the right thing to do. That was to treat people the way you want to be treated.

In my neighborhood, there's a person that you might call a loner. Everybody doesn't really talk to this person because everybody thinks they're weird. Well, my mom looks at everybody the same way. She doesn't care how they dress, speak, look, or any other things people make fun of. My mother is extremely nice to this person and she calls this person her friend. This is yet another way my mom uses integrity.

Seeing my mom do compassionate things influences me in many ways. When I see her do something that shows integrity, I think, "Wow, what a nice person." Sometimes I feel guilty because I usually don't show integrity the way my mom does. I mean is it really that hard to tell the truth or give back someone's wallet that they lost? The reason I chose to write about my mom was because she's my role model. She possesses many special qualities that stand out in the crowd. My mom is a wonderful example of a person that shows integrity.

Before I wrote this essay, I had no clue what integrity was or what it meant. It took me awhile to understand the whole concept of it. But now that I think about it, I don't know why it took me so long to make that little light bulb go off in my head. The entire definition of integrity has been with me my whole life, and that definition is my mom.

Carrie Zaloga
First Place, Grade 7

Do you have a special person in your life that you think should be rewarded? This person probably shows integrity and you didn't even realize it. Integrity is a quality a person has if they are honest, trustworthy, level headed, loyal, and always chooses right over wrong. I had a hard time choosing whom I thought showed the most integrity, but I came to a conclusion that my Aunt Dawn Stachow was the right person. She's really not my aunt, but she is such a great role model, I like to say she is.

Aunt Dawn is an excellent person, and I think everyone should be just like her. She will do anything for anyone at anytime. Whenever she has company, she is always the first to ask if they

want a drink or if they are comfortable. If you reply “yes,” she jumps up like Dale Earnhart zooming around the racetrack to tend to your needs.

When her children are sick, she cares for them to the best of her ability. Aunt Dawn takes them to the doctor as soon as possible to avoid them getting worse. I believe Aunt Dawn is a very great aunt, friend, wife, and mother.

We all know everyone makes mistakes. Sometimes our mistakes are worse than others and we need people to help us correct our bad habits. There have been many times at Acme, when the person before you in the checkout line accidentally leaves something behind. Aunt Dawn had this experience once and accidentally took a bag of food items home that didn't belong to her. As an honest person who has integrity, she took the food back to the grocery store. The food items were promptly returned to the person(s) who had misplaced the bag. Aunt Dawn is always an honest and trustworthy citizen.

A positive person with a great attitude is the way to be. Aunt Dawn's children ask to go to the Smyrna Pool Club in the summer. Her answer is normally, “I will do my best to get you there.” She does all she can to get them there. Aunt Dawn wasn't able to get them there all the time, but she stuck to her word and tried. She might tell them “at least you could play in the air conditioning.” Aunt Dawn also always follows the proper rules. At church if she were asked to rise from her pew, go to the back of the church, and take the offerings to the altar, she would do so.

If everyone in the world were as loving, honest, trustworthy, and caring as my Aunt Dawn, the world would be a better place. Now you have a perfect example of a person who shows integrity, you can also practice this on people. You can show integrity by performing a simple task such as doing something before being asked. You could also have a harder task of choosing right from wrong if you were to find a one hundred dollar bill lying on the side of the road. Maybe you can practice having integrity and it might rub off on your friends and they might want to be just like you. It's contagious you know!

Kaitlyn Maloney

Second Place, Grade 7

Think of a dark midnight sky sprinkled with tiny specks of light and a moon like a pool of silver. Each of the little stars that cover the blackness holds a dream of someone somewhere, and the only way to grasp it is for someone to push and lift you up to grab it. That someone who is always willing to help another is my grand pop, James Tank. He sticks like crazy glue to his principles because they mean so much to him. He is probably the most straightforward, honest, and selfless person you'd ever meet. That is what makes his integrity soar high like an eagle.

My grand pop has been there for my family through thick and thin and never has stopped helping us achieve difficult tasks. Once our well pump broke and he spent all weekend fixing it for us. Despite a tough childhood, he consistently met all of the responsibilities that came his way such as caring for his family. Grand pop Tank always makes the most of what he's given. I don't think he would give a care in the world if somebody told him his ideas and beliefs were silly, because that's just how he is. My Grand pop Tank could probably teach us all a lesson on being "above board" or doing good quality work.

My grand pop has high standard virtues, which include kindness, morality, helpfulness, and love. He sticks to his principles daily by lending a hand to anyone who needs it and expects nothing in return for his help but a thank you. His assistance is not always asked for, but if he sees a need, he gives it out willingly. From changing a confused stranger's tire to helping tow a boat that is stranded in the Chesapeake, he is always there. Grand pop Tank is like the main support beam in a bridge or the stitches that make up the seams of your shirt. You don't really think about how important it is until it isn't there. He is an unsung hero.

When my grand pop likes to go camping at Cherrystone, he gives a hand to people who don't know how to park their camper or put up a tent. If someone has broken a tool or piece of equipment, my grand pop shows him or her how to fix it. He mends fishermen's crab pots and fishing poles. He has helped my dad in everything from building our 2-story addition to installing new carpet in our computer room. When big challenges come his way, he gets them done with a smile on his face and never complains. He'll always give you an honest answer to any question. Even if you ask, "Does this dress make me look fat?" the truth will come out whether you like it or not!

There is something about my grand pop's presence that makes you cheerful and happy. The truth might hurt but he will always give it to you honestly. He always follows through with his significant principles even if people may criticize him and his beliefs. All the characteristics of a person that has high integrity, such as honesty, kindness, and wholesomeness, describe my grand pop. Sometimes I wonder how I got so lucky to have him as my grand pop. He's not only my grand pop, role model, teacher, friend, and family member—he's the backbone of our family.

Melissa Hubert

Third Place, Grade 7

Integrity is a strong sense of right and wrong, moral strength and ethical completeness. I believe I have found a prime example of someone who possesses these traits, Hartford Isaiah Robinson III, my father. He plays several different roles in his life. He's a father, a brother, a husband and a human being. He expresses integrity in all of these characters.

The shoes of a father are a big pair to fill. You must first be able to take care of yourself, let alone another. My father has done a good job in raising his children. He has tried to teach us his

morals, through fairy tales at bedtime when we were young and lectures now that we are older. He had the option to send us to daycare while he would have gone to work, but he didn't believe that was the right thing to do. So he quit his job and has been a "stay at home dad" ever since (he's not domestic at all, though). We, my brother and I, have always had a stable home to live in, and we've never had to do without. These are several reasons why I find my dad a suitable father.

Siblings can always be obnoxious, but no matter how many times they miff him he always does for them. Just recently my Uncle Bob was building a new house. My dad, being the kind person that he is, decided he would be the contractor for the whole ordeal. Instead of just ignoring his brother's needs, he did the proper thing and helped him to the fullest extent. "Blood is thicker than water" is one of the mottos he lives by.

My mom has always loved my dad. One of her reasons for this is because is a moral and ethical person. He loves her unconditionally and never thinks twice about it.

But the most important role that my father plays is a human being. He is one of the most supportive people of the United State of America you will ever meet. After serving in the army, and fighting in Vietnam I think that gives him reason. He believes in equality, and he has been known to stick up for the underdog. He doesn't spoil himself, and he is always doing for others. He does so many things.

This is more than enough to back up my reasoning. My father is a man with much integrity.

Hank Robinson
Second Place, Grade 8

Integrity to me is someone who stands up for the right thing and doesn't do something because everyone else is. Also, someone that has integrity is someone who is always honest. The person that I know that shows the most integrity is my mom. She always tells someone the truth whether it will make them mad or happy, because if she doesn't she would have to go back later and tell them the truth anyway.

My mom is also always making sacrifices for other people, even if it isn't the best thing for herself. She will make a sacrifice even if it is someone that she just met. If she sees someone that is sick or just isn't feeling well, she will take her time to make sure that they feel better. The reason that she will always tell anyone the truth is because if she doesn't she would have to go and apologize later and that would take some pride from her. Also, if she always lied to people at her work or even in her family, she would lose respect from them and she would also lose her self-respect. I have never seen my mother lie and that is why I want to be like her when I grow up.

I have always seen her stand up for what is right and not do something just because her peers were. For example, she told me once when she was in school her classmates thought that this girl wore the same pants everyday. So one day during art class, my mom's classmates put paint on the girl's chair so they could see if she was wearing the same pants. If she was, then the paint would be on them the next day again. When the girl went up to the teacher's desk to ask a question, one of the kids went and put paint on the chair. Then my mom went up to the teacher's desk as well and pretended to ask a question. She told the girl to sit in another seat so she wouldn't get embarrassed.

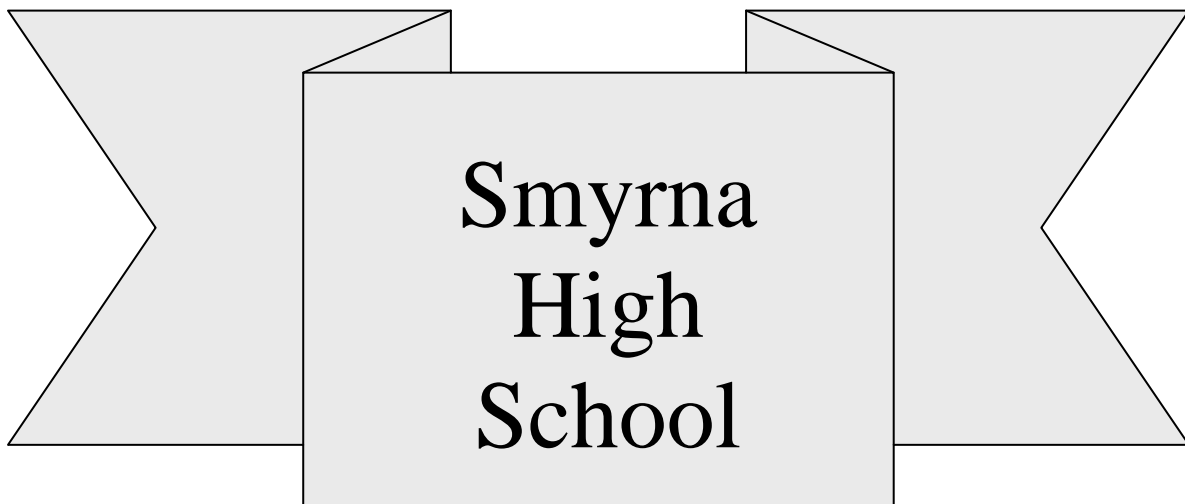
Also my mom and her sister were very close in age. Therefore, they were in the same grade. One day on the bus a bully pushed around my mom's sister. My mom stood up for her sister. Even though she got in trouble during this incident she still stood up for what was right. I think that even if it weren't her sister she would still have stood up for the person that was being picked on.

Also when she does something she does it to the fullest extent that she can. Most people do something and say it's good. Well my mom will keep going over what she did until she knows it is good. For example, she has to fill out these forms for her work, and right when she finds out she has to do it she starts it. Most people will wait until the day before to do something that is due the next day. She will also bring her paperwork home to work on when other people will only work on it at work. They say they're too busy when they're only watching television. During that time they could work on their paperwork at least during the commercial. They say since they're not at work they shouldn't have to do any more work since they have already been there for the whole day.

My mom tried to stop smoking one time and she did for about one or two years. That shows me integrity as well, because she tried to stop smoking. Doing that is a very hard task so I still think that she tried to do the right thing. She has tried a couple more times but she still can't stop because she says it is too hard. Even though she still smokes, that shows me that she really does have integrity, because she keeps trying to quit but she can't because it is a very hard task. Even though she still smokes, my mom still shows the most integrity to me and is still my idol.

Kevin Blume

Third Place, Grade 8



Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12

Integrity. Often when a person hears this word their mind drifts to thoughts of morals, honesty and values. If you were to ask the average everyday person to name someone whom to him or her demonstrates integrity, the typical response would be a family member. Perhaps it would be a mother, father, respected elder sibling or even a dignified leader of their community. Now all the named people may very well display integrity, however I would like to explore integrity in some of its finer forms. For us to take a deeper look into the real meaning of integrity, we must first glance through the transparent stereotypical form we have always known and allow ourselves to view an image of the past.

The truest and most pure form of integrity ever to inhabit the earth resided in the soul of Harriet Tubman. The year was 1820 and Harriet found herself born into the cruel life of slavery. As she was faced with the challenges and hardships of growing up on a plantation as a young slave, Harriet never once allowed anyone to crush her spirits. At the age of 15 she attempted to help a runaway slave. When her master found out of the crime she had committed, as punishment he hit Harriet over the head with a lead weight leaving her in a coma for months. Harriet never fully recovered and suffered blackouts for the rest of her life. These blackouts served, as a constant reminder of what could happen when she followed her morals and did what she believed was right. This omen would very well have left any other young woman scarred and afraid for the remainder of her life but not Harriet. She took the event and used it to her advantage as inspiration when she thought she could no longer bear the struggle of fighting for freedom and a new life.

The majority of us know the story of Harriet Tubman's destiny, conductor of the Underground Railroad, labeled as the Moses of her people. She spent her entire life secretly smuggling slaves to freedom. Harriet knew in her heart that slavery was wrong and should be put to an end, so instead of sitting back and bearing witness, she decided to take action. Harriet escaped from slavery to Philadelphia, but she didn't stop at just saving herself. Harriet decided that she was going to return to the plantation and rescue the remainder of her family. She was successful and, not only that, she was inspired by the thought that perhaps she could rescue more of her people. Why should she stop at just her family?

From the time she was 29 until her dying age of 93, Harriet risked her life each day to struggle and fight to free slaves like her. Harriet's bravery has led her to be remembered to this day as a truly influential historical figure. In all she was successful in freeing over 300 slaves, and not once did she ever resort to violence. Harriet was a kind and gentle person; no matter what the circumstances she followed her values and never allowed herself to be molded into anything other than what she wanted to be. Integrity was a word associated with her character; people couldn't change Harriet or her values, and that is the way she wanted it. For all of these reasons, in my eyes Harriet Tubman is the true meaning of integrity.

Danielle Lynn Eskridge
First Place, Grade 9

Integrity—what a powerful meaning for such a little word. There are not many people in this world that could fit the definition or line of integrity. Someone who has demonstrated integrity to me and influenced me is Mrs. Susan Broome, my mother.

She is employed at Smyrna High School in the role of school nurse. At home she has two children—a twenty-two-year-old son, Justin and a fourteen-year-old daughter, Abbey. Both of us have learned the value of integrity from her, and this reminds me of a story from when I was little and not acting with integrity.

When I was about five or six years old (old enough to realize what I did was wrong), I was shopping with my mom at Value City. I was so into baby doll clothes. Who wasn't at five years old? It must have been right after Christmas because I remember Mom telling me, "Didn't Santa just bring you that?"

Of course I replied, "No!" I begged and whined until I aggravated her to the point there was no way I was getting the doll clothes. So I sneaked around and found a way to keep this outfit without her knowing. I did the obvious. I stuck it into my underwear.

It worked. Right until we got out the door and Mom said, "Abbey, let's use the bathroom before we leave." I always loved going to the bathroom just to see what each one looked like inside.

When I replied, "No, I don't want to," she knew something was wrong. I had no choice and went right into the stall with her. She found the doll clothes I had buried in my pants.

She was shocked to see that I would do something like that at this age. What parent wouldn't be? Knowing her child had just stolen a baby doll outfit because she wouldn't buy it for her.

My mom had to make the choice whether to take it back or just walk out of the store with it. Before I went anywhere I was surely taught right there in that bathroom to NEVER repeat what I just did; and I knew better by the time I walked out. She, being the truthful mom, took me to the manager of the store and had me tell him what I did. This was not an easy task for a five year old to do, but a good one for what I had just done. Of course, the manager was shocked, but happy, that I told, and he understood the situation. I don't think I ever made this mistake again for a baby doll!

Out of all the things I learned about integrity this is the story that stands out the most. It seems when you learn something at a young age you just don't repeat it when you are older. It's easier not to. I'm glad I had the right person to guide me to do the right thing that day, and I still couldn't find a better person to fit the definition of integrity.

Abbey Broome
Second Place, Grade 9

Who do I think has the most integrity in my life? Well this person is very honest, trustworthy, and shows respect to everyone. She has never once in my life shown me otherwise. Also, she cares for others before herself. This person is my loving granny, and I couldn't be more proud of her integrity.

Granny has never lied to me. She would tell the truth no matter what. My father had once tried to see if she would lie. The harder he tried, the more truthful she became. Granny had once seen money fall from a woman's pocket. Instead of taking the money, she picked it up and told the lady what has happened. The woman was so thankful that my granny had given the money back to her. Also granny tells you what she thinks but puts it in a nice way so no one gets hurt. Granny is always a very honest woman.

Have you ever met that one person who you would trust with your life and everything you own? Within a year of meeting granny you would! She holds people's money and never spends a dime of it. She always gives all of their money back too. If you need her to be somewhere, count on it. Granny is always there for people. If she overhears something she doesn't go around telling it. Instead, she tries to change the subject. I would give everything to her, knowing that she would be there for me and not tell a lie about me. This is how much I trust her!

Respect means to feel or show regard for self-esteem to yourself and others. My granny has four horses and rides them often. If one of the horses is having an off day, she understands and gives the horse its space. She can also tell if a person is having one. If you would like to talk about it, she will. If not, she leaves you alone. My granny respects people and animals for their decisions.

It makes me proud to know my granny has a lot of integrity, and I know she will never lack it. Integrity has many qualities to go along with it. I am very honored to know my granny has most of those qualities.

Emily Metheny

Third Place, Grade 9

Integrity is a trait rarely found in a single person. Living in an increasingly corrupt world such as this one, to meet someone who has the ability to stay true to themselves and others is a monumental moment. When you meet a person built on the foundation of integrity it has such an impact that it makes you examine your life and your values. To know someone who encourages you to change your life for the better without even suggesting it shows what a powerful thing integrity can be. To those of you who may not understand this concept, I wish you could have only met him yourself.

Steven didn't have the cure for cancer. The Nobel Peace Prize wasn't hanging on the wall of his bedroom. Yet, there was something about him that made you believe that he had done (or was

going to do) something great. I remember the first day I met him. He had on an ancient green Philly Eagles jersey and a smile that revealed his missing two front teeth. I was in third grade, and he was the new student in my class, which was well known for its “satanist ways” (as one of our substitute teachers had nicely put it while we threw mud at her one fine recess morning). To tell you the honest truth, we weren’t the best class. Heck, we weren’t even in the top 45. But Steven was about to change all of that.

He started out as a quiet kid, and always kept to himself while he watched us terrorize our teachers from behind closed doors. One day, I guess he decided something needed to change and from then on the campaign to convert this rambunctious third-grade class began. What did he do? You might be wondering. How could he have possibly changed the lethal mentality of destruction that was forged in the heads of twenty-three, eight-year-old students? Nothing—that that is exactly what he did. Nothing.

After a while we noticed how this new kid, Steven, was doing nothing. He was never in on the pranks played on the innocent school teachers. He never laughed at the jokes whispered in the midst of an elementary lesson. He wasn’t even tempted to steal candy from the drawers of unknowing teachers when their backs were turned. Why? We didn’t know why. First, we thought he was stupid, but despite his “stupidity” his grades always seemed to be better than anybody else’s. It wasn’t until later that I realized that this new kid was diagnosed with something greater than stupidity. Something we had never come in contact with among our peers. Steven obtained trait of . . . *Integrity*.

After a while I got to know Steven. He lived in the city with his mother. His father had left them about a year ago for another woman. What was left was a closely-knit mother and son relationship. He said he liked it better that way, but I didn’t believe him. Later on he described the night his father left in detail and admitted that he missed being able to call someone Dad. He told me a promise he made to his mother the night his father left . . . “To never hurt anyone with lies and deceit because nothing good ever comes from them.” Lies are the reason why he didn’t have a father anymore. They’re the reason why he couldn’t have a dad.”

The taunting of substitute teachers gradually stopped one person at a time. I was the first one that sparked the next. The pranks ceased to entertain me, because I suddenly realized that just because something is funny doesn’t make it okay. We all compared the way Steven acted in contrast to our lifestyle, and we didn’t like the results. Sure, we had had the good, well-trusted students in the past, but there was something about Steven, something different. When I watched him sit in class and work tentatively on his assigned work, it was as if there was a manipulating voice inside my head that whispered, “I dare you to do the same.”

What changed my childish way of thinking? It wasn’t the discipline of a parent or the chastising of a teacher. I changed simply because of Steven. I was drawn to his moral character and his sense of stability in life. I was only eight years old, but I understood that this *integrity* that Steven possessed was something that I, too, should try to obtain. Steven didn’t care what others felt about him. He was guided by his own values and principles. Some of which are hard to find in an adult, much less an eight-year-old boy.

It wasn't long before our class's dreaded reputation became ancient history. We talked occasionally but were never near as bad as we had been in our past elementary lives. Teachers finally began to let their guard down and left the pepper spray home whenever they were chosen to teach our class. No one even vaguely realized exactly why we had this sudden conversion from demons to students. But I knew. It was Steven. He was the missing link in this chain of mischievous students. He was our own personal savior. Steven never really got the recognition due to him. He later moved again with his mother to some town in North Dakota, and I never heard from him again.

Steven in a way was my teacher. From him, I learned a life lesson that can be applied outside the classroom. Never follow the crowd or the norm. Pursue the dreams of yourself no matter what society may want you to think or believe; because in the end you are the one who has to live and die with your mistakes, not the rest of the world. I know Steven doesn't sound like the ideal role model for *integrity*, but he taught me something at a young age that I have yet to forget. For those of you who may not understand—if only you could have met him yourself.

Nijae Draine

First Place, Grade 10

Smash! The crystal candy dish shattered against the hardwood floor. My cousin, Shauna, and I had been playing hide and seek in my living room. As she was running away from me, she bumped into a table and knocked my mom's prized crystal candy dish onto the floor where it busted into a million pieces. When my dad came in to see what had happened, Shauna didn't try to hide it and she didn't try to blame it on me. She explained to him what happened, and that she did it and was very sorry. This is an example of how, even as a young child, my cousin demonstrated supreme integrity.

Another way that integrity was reflected in her actions occurred last summer. My mom, dad, sister, Shauna, and I were at the Harrington Fair for a day of fun, rides, and funnel cakes. We had gotten out of line after purchasing our tickets when Shauna noticed that the woman and her young son who were behind us in line were looking at ticket prices. The woman suddenly got a saddened look on her face and Shauna heard her tell her son, "I'm sorry, honey. Mommy doesn't have enough money to buy any tickets. Maybe next year."

The little boy looked horribly disappointed, and just as they were walking away to leave, Shauna rushed up to them and handed the little boy all of her tickets. His eyes became bright and his smile glistened. The appreciation showing in the mother's eyes was all that Shauna needed in order to know that she had done well.

Shauna is one of the most amazing people I know. She might as well be a walking, talking integrity billboard. She is always honest and trustworthy, even with complete strangers. She has excellent moral values, she knows right from wrong, and she always behaves herself. Shauna

and her family take great enjoyment out of helping others, even if it's as simple as handing someone an object that they dropped. Her outlook on life and its many situations is always positive, and when she walks into a room, it seems as if there is a beautiful, ethereal glow about her.

I don't get to see Shauna very often, but she has greatly influenced me nonetheless. Ever since I was a little girl, Shauna has taught me to be honest and to have compassion for others. I've learned not to always think of and care about myself, and she's also taught me to always try to improve myself and my personal character. She's helped me to become an all-around better person. I admire her greatly, and I hope that she's touched and influenced others the way she has me.

Integrity is an adherence to moral and ethical principles, soundness of moral character, and honesty. I don't think I'll ever meet anyone else who exemplifies this personal characteristic more beautifully than my cousin, Shauna. She shows a heartening sense of community and compassion for others. She almost never is concerned with herself, and she gets her emotional high by brightening people's lives and being an honest, upstanding citizen.

Casey Stanhope
Second Place, Grade 10

Integrity is an adherence to moral and ethical principles, soundness of moral character, and honesty. A person I know possessing these qualities of integrity is my little sister, Kendra. Although she is only nine years old, she has significantly demonstrated these characteristics of integrity throughout her life.

Kendra has wholly adhered to moral and ethical principles from the time she could walk and talk. Although my family does not attend church regularly, we still have values like any other family. You have to respect others--parents, siblings, friends, relatives, and teachers. My sisters and I have been taught to treat others how we would like to be treated, that we need to make and strive to achieve certain goals in life, and countless other things through religious beliefs, through the government and through our own personal experiences. Because Kendra is only nine, she most likely does not understand religious or political aspects of moral and ethical principles. But she does indeed show integrity through respecting anyone and everyone she talks to, by trying to be nice to everyone even if they aren't so nice to her, and by setting very high standards for herself to achieve only being in third grade. She is in the STEP program at Clayton Elementary and is extremely smart. Kendra is always reading and trying to improve herself. This shows that she has outstanding moral values; a quality of integrity.

Kendra has very good character. I remember one day when she was on the phone with her friend, and I picked up the phone by mistake and heard her friend talking rudely about a boy in their class. Kendra told her friend that, yes, maybe he wasn't always the nicest person, but that

she couldn't hate someone and spread rumors about them just because they threw a balled up piece of paper at you and didn't get in trouble for it. This shows that Kendra has great moral character and stands up for what she believes.

Honesty is another quality of integrity. Kendra is an exceedingly honest person. She never lies, cheats, or steals. My parents have a rule that since they don't get home until 5:30 each night, we aren't allowed to have kids inside the house without asking them first (and they will almost always say no). Our neighbor wanted to come and play with Kendra but didn't want to risk the chance of our parents saying no. She was trying to persuade Kendra into just letting her come in for an hour or so, and that she would be gone before they got home. Kendra didn't give in to peer pressure. She told her friend that she feels it would be lying to her parents if she let somebody in against the rules, and that she would have to call our mom and ask permission first. As it turns out, mom was feeling nice that day and said yes.

Integrity is hard to find in people these days, but I know for sure that my little sister Kendra is brimming with it. It seems as though through everything she does, one or more aspects of integrity are incorporated. I may not always want to admit it, but she has influenced me to be a better person by trying to be more honest. Throughout her life Kendra has and will continue to adhere to her moral and ethical principles, have sound moral character, and be a genuinely honest person. To find that in a nine-year-old girl is an amazing occurrence, which I believe should not go unnoticed.

Alicia Williams

Third Place, Grade 10

Who deserves to possess an extremely positive description like the word integrity? This word should not obviously be used to describe people who do "good" things due to their own self-interest. The adjective integrity should only be used for people who devote their time, money, and heart not only to their family members but also for those who need it the most. My mom is definitely one of those people who has contributed time, kindness, character, and devotion to her family, friends, and others. To put all these qualities into one word is to say that she has integrity.

At an early age I realized that my mom had qualities that were admired by many. As a teacher she worked very hard to teach students to pursue education and character. One of the events I will never forget is when her school at my home country did not have the budget to pay the teachers their salaries for three months. During that time teachers were asked to teach voluntarily without any salary. Not to my surprise she attended the school the whole three months and taught students as passionately as ever. For her the most important factor was to share her knowledge with the students who were not given a lot of attention. This is one of the many actions that she has taken towards the betterment of her community. This incident proved to me that she cared about others and sacrificed her time in order to help them.

Caring is a quality of hers that has inspired me to become just like her. My mom cares about her children, friends, and all others. She is always there for her children and helps them get through everyday life. She helps her children whether it is with homework or a personal problem. Likewise, she tries to solve problems faced by her friends. For example when they cannot find a job, she helps search for a job for them. She helps people in need by donating what she can afford. For instance in the recent tsunami disaster she donated money and supplies to help those who suffered.

“Community service is one of the most important and rewarding things a person could do,” she says, and I, as her son, totally agree with her. Helping is one of the qualities that my mom has never hesitated to do. She says that a nation or region’s progress depends upon its citizen’s accountability, and that helping the community is one big factor in achieving your responsibilities as a citizen. She has usually participated in the programs that are organized to help the community.

The qualities and attitude that she possesses prove that she exemplifies integrity. By looking at a few of her good actions, it is not hard to say that she truly is a great person. She has always helped her family, friends, and others in any way possible. She also has many uncountable good qualities that cannot be explained in words!

Ahmed Siar Baqi
Second Place, Grade 11

It may seem strange, but the person whom I think is the quintessential example of integrity is my younger sister Katie. There is something about her that just radiates truth and honesty. We may not agree on everything, but I can truly say that she is my best friend. It was through this friendship, this unique bond that we shared, that I came to realize what a wonderful person she has become, and how she strives to live her life with integrity.

Although it may appear inconceivable, my sister has been faced with much more peer pressures than I have. It was at these moments that she was able to choose the right path, while many others (including her friends) would stray, which makes it even nobler that she could reject such pressures. Before we moved to Smyrna, we lived in what one might call a “bad neighborhood,” filled with sin, corruption, and temptations. It was here where my delicate little sister was exposed to pressure to drink, to smoke, to do drugs, and to do other various bad deeds. Although I would have like to, I fear I could not shelter her from all the pressures, nor could I make her choices for her; but I was amazed to find that she did not need my help in these situations. She had found a way to turn down her peers, and adhere to her values. Katie never once gave into these temptations. She was steadfast in her beliefs.

One thing that you can definitely say about Katie is that she is honest to herself and to other people. She never hesitates to speak her mind (a quality I desire). I’ve witnessed her on more

than one occasion speak out against her peers, who were deriding others for no reason. She gave no thought to how she might be jeered for doing so, because it was the right thing to do. She's also careful in choosing her words, because she would not want to hurt a loved one. Also, with Katie what you see is what you get. She always remains true to herself. She cracks jokes if she wants. She is vociferous and boisterous if she wants to be. It's a trait I really admire—to have the courage to be yourself. I've never seen Katie act differently with a certain group of friends. That's just not her. She sees no reason in acting to impress someone.

Now don't get me wrong, I am not suggesting that Katie be canonized. However, I believe, that with all the integrity that she exudes, she's deserving of praise. There are few people in this world who have the strength to be true to themselves. It's a rare quality, so it's commendable that she lives her life this way. My little sister inspires me to live my life with integrity. I can only hope that as her older sister, I may influence her life in a way that she has influenced mine.

Jessica Macey
Third Place, Grade 11

Myrtle Dixon is a woman who has devoted six children and many grandchildren to Smyrna High School. She attends many sporting events and school activities. She is a resemblance of pride and love for her community. Every event we attend that involves Smyrna, she has her Smyrna Eagles hat and other paraphernalia with her and visible. Her appearance is one of a typical elderly woman. She is petite with short white hair, the normal aging wrinkles, and small eyes, with a look of a formal hard-working woman. However, taking a look through one's eye at her could never reveal what a remarkable person she truly is.

My grandmother displays integrity through many forms. Her top priority is always her family. From birthdays to sport and academic events, one can always count on her to be in attendance. She has a calendar just for sporting events with her wherever she goes, and calls nights before games to tell one good luck and that she will be there watching. She also devotes a wall in her kitchen to all the newspaper articles in which her family members have appeared. It is displayed right at the door, so when one walks in it's clearly noticeable. Does that show integrity?

My grandmother possesses various qualities which allow her to converse with anyone about anything. She is the kind of person who will start a conversation with a complete stranger covering any topic imaginable. One of her mottos is "one has to stand for something or one will fall for anything," because it doesn't matter the subject about which one is talking she always has her opinion on the topic. In her eyes, there is a clear line between right and wrong, and one can depend on her to tell one when they've crossed the wrong line. Does that show integrity?

People of all ages have some type of role model in their lives; whether it's a movie star, writer, or just some friend they've had for years, it is someone they admire. For me she is my role model, and that is why I chose to write about her. Many people may think that is strange, since

she is elderly and doesn't wear any cool clothes or show a neat style. Instead she is just her social self, and that is what I like about her.

She is constantly displaying integrity throughout her everyday life. She is a mother of six and grandmother to too many to count. Because she lives on a family-owned and operated dairy farm, she is constantly helping in any way possible. From waking up in the morning and cooking everyone pancakes, bacon, scrapple, and eggs, to feeding them every meal during the day. One may not think that cooking is a very demanding task, but cooking three meals a day for about fourteen people isn't exactly easy. Other than that she is always there in every situation, for any family member and is constantly involved in everyone else's lives. From 4-H to school activities one can count on her being there to support one, and not everyone can say that for his or her grandmother. My grandmother is a teacher to us all, not as an obligation, but in general to her grandchildren, children, and everyone around her of how life is supposed to be lived.

Being a part of such a large family, I have noticed that she seems to be the chief and we are the indians; she leads us all through example every day of her life. Everyone could use someone like her in his or her life because she is such a great role model. It is simply amazing how many people she has impacted during her lifetime, and I hope I can make at least half of the difference she has made in my lifetime!

Brooke Dixon

First Place, Grade 12

When I think of integrity there is one person that stands out above the rest more than anyone else. This person has been a friend, teacher, and coach in my life for many of my high school years and has shown me through everyday examples just what integrity means. He has always shown me the right path to choose whether he knew it or not. He has influenced me in my life today so that when I make a decision it will be one of integrity as well. This person is by all means an exact replica of the definition of integrity. He is adherent to moral and ethical principles, sound in moral character, and honest.

The event that comes to mind when I think of this man's integrity was back in tenth grade. It was the beginning of basketball season and there were a lot of kids trying out for the team. It was clear to me that there were a lot of kids more talented than me. They were, however, not the most ethical of people and were not considered nice to know. The coach ended up picking other people who were perhaps less talented but more ethical. He traded some talent for morally better people. To me that was a person of integrity. He made the moral decision that demonstrated his integrity.

On a day-to-day basis, this person also demonstrates integrity. He is quite possibly the most honest person I know. I can tell that he would never lie to me or to anyone. He never so much as cusses, which I give him a lot of credit for considering he is a coach. This integrity about him

rubs off on all of his players whether they will admit it or not. Not too long ago he said that a season is worth nothing to him if he has not in some way prepared us for an honest, decent life in the future.

It is clear to me that he has influenced me in my everyday life. I consider myself to be very honest in part because of his examples. Without a second thought, I have not only a better understanding of integrity but also some integrity myself. Obviously he is not the only person to thank for this, but he is still one that has given me honesty and moral values. I will hopefully retain what I have learned from him so that, in the future, I will be even a part of the person he is today.

It has been an honor for me to have known Mike Starkey. He is clearly one of the most honest, moral in character people I have ever known. Through his everyday examples and thoughtfulness in making his players better people, I have truly learned many things from him. Anyone else who ever meets him will surely walk away a better person themselves. This person is one of the utmost integrity.

Paul Gordon

Second Place, Grade 12

Integrity is defined as having honesty and upholding moral standards. Human nature makes this value almost impossible with society's encouragement of "stretching the truth" in order to satisfy what the people want to hear. Throughout my lifetime I can honestly say I have not met but one person whose integrity showed beyond the minimal standard. This person has overcome adversity and less than favorable odds while still maintaining ambitious stride and her moral character. My friend, who shall remain nameless to protect her modesty, has always put aside her own needs to help others and would not be happy unless everyone around her was happy. When asked an opinion from her, one was always sure to be given a straightforward, honest answer, even if the words were chosen at discretion to not damage one's pride.

When she was growing up, my friend was bounced around from home to home, none of them providing the love and safety she craved to know. Finally, she was returned to her mother along with her sister and brother, and it was left to her to raise them. While her mother ran out at night to be with her numerous boyfriends, my friend would do her homework, cook dinner, clean the house, and help out her siblings when needed. The entire time she never complained about the work she was given, hardly spoke a word of discontentment beyond the typical wish to live on her own, and would always bury her problems so far deep with a smile that only those closest to her would have an idea of the trouble she went through just to get to school every day.

Eventually this task had to be forsaken when she left school and pursued a full-time job. Unlike most dropouts I know, she had every intention of getting the fullest amount of education possible. She had a drive to learn and to better herself; she didn't leave just because she didn't

agree with simple rules nor was she too lazy to do the work. She moved out to live with a friend and her family, and instantaneously she began to pitch in and even voluntarily do work to fix up the house. She would spend her days installing and cleaning, and nights riding her bike to work the late shift at the local WAWA. Even when she was too tired to lift a finger, she still continued to persevere with an optimistic outlook, her mantra being “I’m better than this, things will eventually work out” whenever things began to look hopeless.

In the year that I have come to know her, I have always admired and looked up to her for being such a strong and moral person. Whenever things would look down or hopeless for me, I would always remember my friend who had far worse to deal with and still made time for the rest of us. Since then I have often taken time away from my own petty tribulations to assess others and have tried to value honesty over bending over backwards to say what others want to hear. She has taught me the value of honoring integrity and to uphold it even when things seem hopeless, and at times when it would just be easier to lie. For her example, I wish to someday repay her, but for now I can only memorialize her plight in words.

Sarah Allen

Third Place, Grade 12

HONORABLE MENTION

SMYRNA KINDERGARTEN

Kailyn Wilson
 Zachery Young
 Henter Parsell
 Marley Schurban
 Diana Usewicz
 Alexis Garnett
 Chloe Bachman
 Leah Miller
 Harry Sayers
 Julia Cox
 Elana Montejo
 Connor Dulin
 Arthur Ashe
 Lindsey Asbury
 Michael Bruno

CLAYTON ELEMENTARY

Kyle Walls	Grade 1
Jonathan Beebe	Grade 1
Sean Finney	Grade 2
Logan Wilson	Grade 2
Laura Smith	Grade 2
Daniel Gott	Grade 2
Bridgette Shetzler	Grade 2
Alexander Stubbolo	Grade 3
Chad Frederick	Grade 3
Rachel Freeman	Grade 4
Allison Niblett	Grade 4

SMYRNA ELEMENTARY

Liam Soderquist	Grade 1
Hannah Griffiths	Grade 1
Donice Brown	Grade 1
Andy Zheng	Grade 1
Jordn Keller	Grade 1
Robert Warwick	Grade 2
Kevon McKinney	Grade 2
Madison Spadafino	Grade 2
Emily Sakalauskas	Grade 2
Destyne Roberts	Grade 2
Nick Macey	Grade 3
Taylor Dixon	Grade 3
Nick Padilla	Grade 3
Brittany Klase	Grade 3
Sarah Wood	Grade 3
James Oscar	Grade 4
Jackie Holford	Grade 4
Colin Murphy	Grade 4
Charlie Stibbs	Grade 4
Andrew Gilbert	Grade 4

NORTH SMYRNA ELEMENTARY

Miranda Strickland	Grade 1
Jonathan Barber	Grade 1
Elijah Scott	Grade 1
Todd Reuben	Grade 1
Jeremy Cornelius	Grade 1
Tosha Heath	Grade 2
Austin Flowers	Grade 3
Saad Shafique	Grade 3
Robyn Corso	Grade 3
Emily Crane	Grade 3
Elizabeth Wright	Grade 3
Adilene Paneda	Grade 4
Michael Mannering	Grade 4

JBM INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Brooke Moore Grade 5
Anaya Reid Grade 5
Brooklyn Wright Grade 5
Courtney Powell Grade 5
Jenna Williams Grade 5

Molly Daley Grade 6
Tanesha Dixon Grade 6
Ericka Keen Grade 6
Bo Voss Grade 6
Zachary Pollard Grade 6

SMYRNA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Shannon Riley Grade 7
Caitlin Carey Grade 7
Shannon Carney Grade 7
Ryan Permelia Grade 7
Anna Wessell Grade 7

Ashley Lenkiewicz Grade 8
Amanda Bentley Grade 8
Katelyn Rowlands Grade 8
Susan Harrell Grade 8

SMYRNA HIGH SCHOOL

Brittany Martin Grade 9
Nicole Tracey Grade 9

Kurt Reed Grade 10
David Blume Grade 10

Katie Corso Grade 11
William Gordon Grade 11