Each Kindness by Jacqueline Woodson

In this beautiful book, Woodson tells the poignant story of a new girl at school who is not accepted by the other girls. When the teacher leads the class in a lesson on kindness, one girl realizes that she could send out ripples of goodness just by treating the new girl with kindness. Unfortunately, she also discovers that sometimes important lessons come too late. This is a wonderful discussion starter for young school aged children and a lovely reminder for all of us.

Other fun books about Compassion:
- **Beautiful Moon** by Tonya Bolden—This lovely book features the prayers of a young boy at night for healing and hope for all people. Preschool.
- **The Spiffiest Giant in Town** by Julia Donaldson—This amusing story follows a giant who buys new clothes but finds many other uses for them. Preschool and young school age.
- **Whoever You Are** by Mem Fox—A lyrical book showing the many ways we are all alike. All ages.
- **Because of You** by B.G. Hennessy—A sweet book about all the gentle and kind ways we can behave. Preschool.
- **South** by Patrick McDonnell—A wordless book demonstrating a most wonderful friendship. All ages.
- **Beautiful Hands** by Kathryn Otoshi—This simple book inspires children to wonder what positive things their beautiful hands can do. All ages.
- **Somewhere Today: A Book of Peace** by Shelley Moore Thomas—Simple text and photographs show how we are all connected. All ages.
- **My Friend is Sad** by Mo Willems—Another Gerald and Piggie adventure about friendship. All ages.

**Rhyme of the Month**

**Kindness**
*(Tune: I’m a Little Teapot)*
Kindness is a value full of fun.
*(Clap in rhythm)*
Kindness is simple once you’ve begun.
*(Cross hands over heart)*
Who should you be kind to?
Everyone!
*(Spread hands out taking everyone in)*
And you can show them how it’s done.

**Poem of the Month**

**Bigger Than Big**
IT’s bigger than big,
IT’s wider than wide,
IT’s deeper than deep
And there’s nowhere to hide.
It lives in the bedroom,
It’s close and snug,
It’s coming to catch you,
It’s name is...a HUG!
—Dennis Lee

Free STARS trainings are listed at [www.piercecountylibrary.org](http://www.piercecountylibrary.org)
You may register for STARS classes by clicking on the date of the class on the **Calendar** of the Pierce County Library website: [www.piercecountylibrary.org](http://www.piercecountylibrary.org)
Flashlight Fun

Cut several circles from black construction paper and number them – 1, 2, 3, etc. You can make as few as three or as many as ten – it’s up to you. Place these “targets” around the room.

Let the children take turns aiming the flashlight at these targets. Help them see that the beam of light travels from the flashlight across the room. Can you tell you where the light will shine if you point it to the right? To the left?

Turn off the flashlight and hold up the mirror. What do your children think will happen when you turn on the light? Where will the beam of light go? They’ll probably say that the light beam will shine on the mirror. Turn on the flashlight and show them how the light is reflected off the mirror to another point in the room.

Shift first the light and then the mirror to show your children how this changes where the light shines. Changing the angle of the flashlight to the mirror changes the angle that the light reflects from the mirror.

Have your children use the mirror to shift the light beam from side to side and hit the targets. It isn’t nearly as easy as it looks!

This simple experiment lets them see that light travels in a straight line, and challenges them to use that discovery to make predictions about how light will behave when directed toward a mirror.

Learning Ideas for December:

Post Office—Dramatic Play

This is a month when many people send cards and letters to friends and family. A perfect connection to create a classroom Post Office.

Gather appropriate items:
- Telephone books
- Junk mail
- Stationary
- Envelopes
- Greeting cards
- Pens, pencils, markers
- Stamps (stickers)
- Address Labels
- Brown paper wrapped boxes

Set up a table for creating the cards and letters and set up a counter for a Post Office worker. Make a “Closed” sign. Incorporate a scale and a cash register if possible.

Perhaps use the time for the children to create cards for loved ones that can be sent home.

You can find a myriad of early learning information at our website:
http://www.piercecountylibrary.org/
(in the parents/caregivers section of the Kids/Teens menu)