

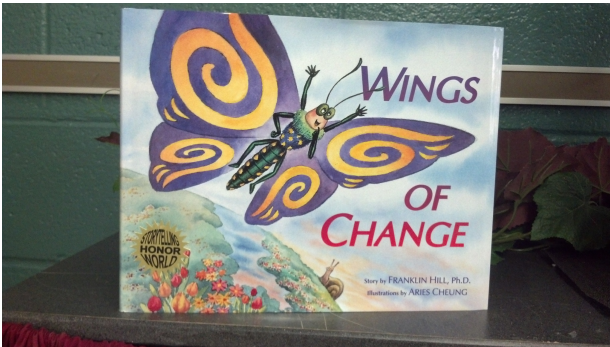
Creating a Classroom Mission Statement by Examining Texts and Discussing our Principles

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Saxe Gotha Elementary- Lexington, SC

2nd Grade (modified Grades K - 5 with possible changes of the level of read-alouds)

Day 1- First Day of School: Read "Wings of Change"

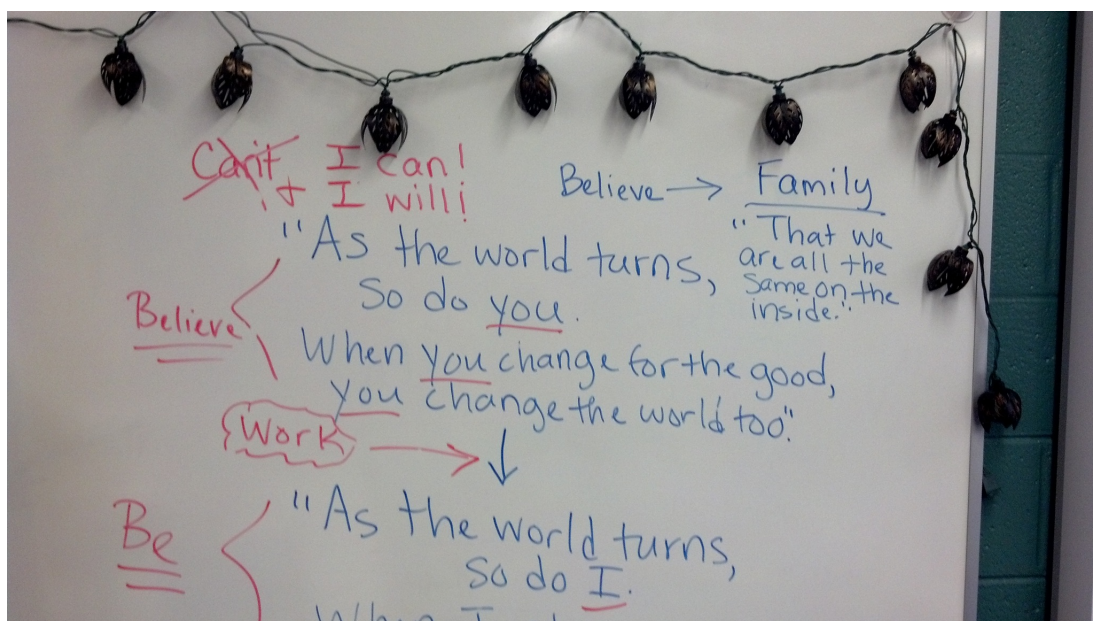


Wings of Change is the story of Anew, a contented little caterpillar who is afraid to become a butterfly. After experiencing some puzzling dreams, he turns to Faith, a wise old snail, for advice. She gently explains, "As the world turns, so do you. When you change for the good, you change the world too."

This tender, humorous story follows little Anew as he learns to release his fears and embrace his destiny. Dr. Hill, an acclaimed educational futurist, has created a dynamic medium for exploring the timeless topic of change. The luminous illustrations by Aries Cheung bring this delightful story to life. Wings of Change will touch your heart as you embrace the changes within your own life.

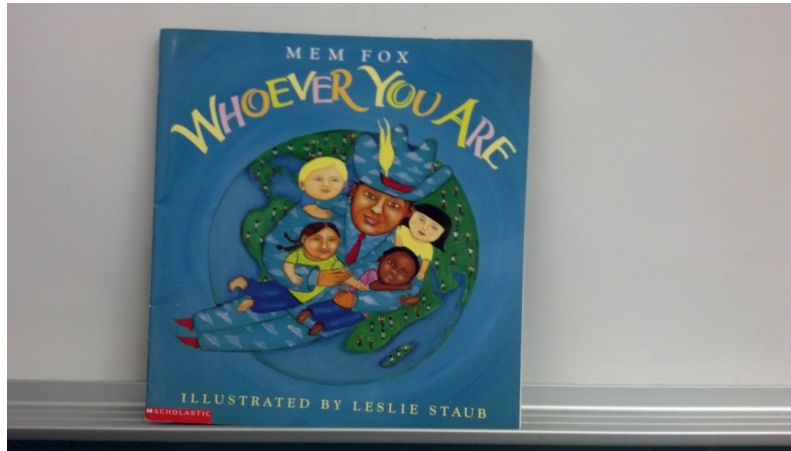
What lesson did Anew learn?

We wrote the the wise advice that Faith gives him and discussed what it means.



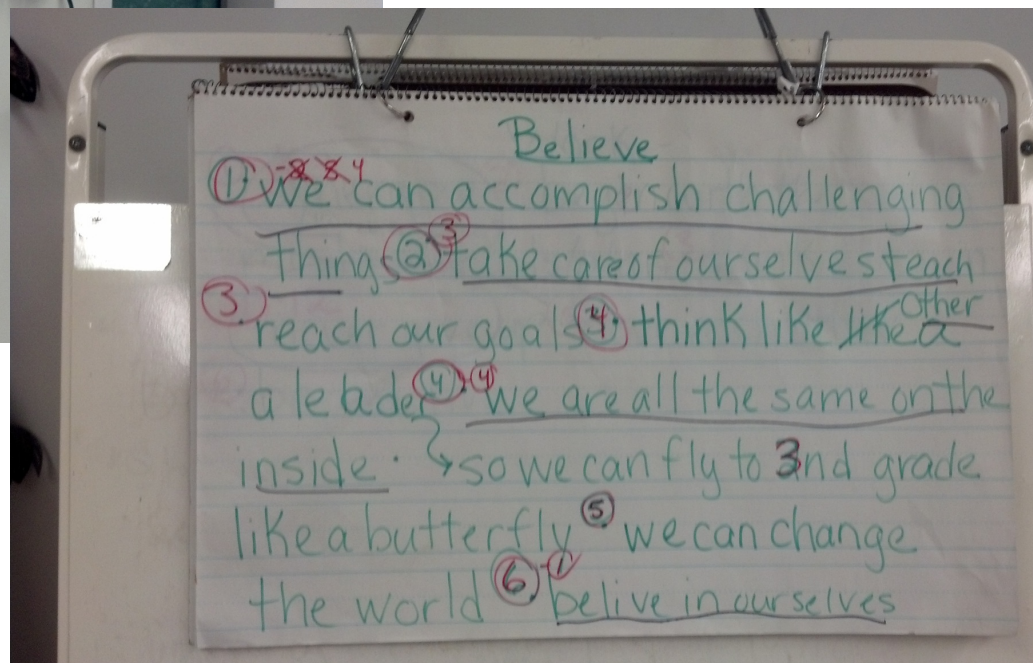
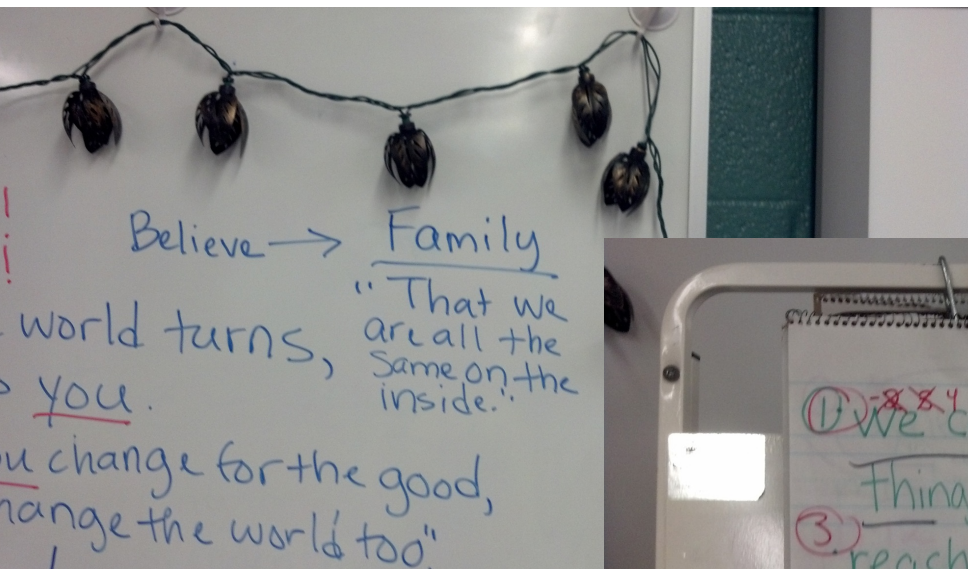
Day 2- Start the Discussion: Read "Whoever You Are"

What do we want our classroom to be like?



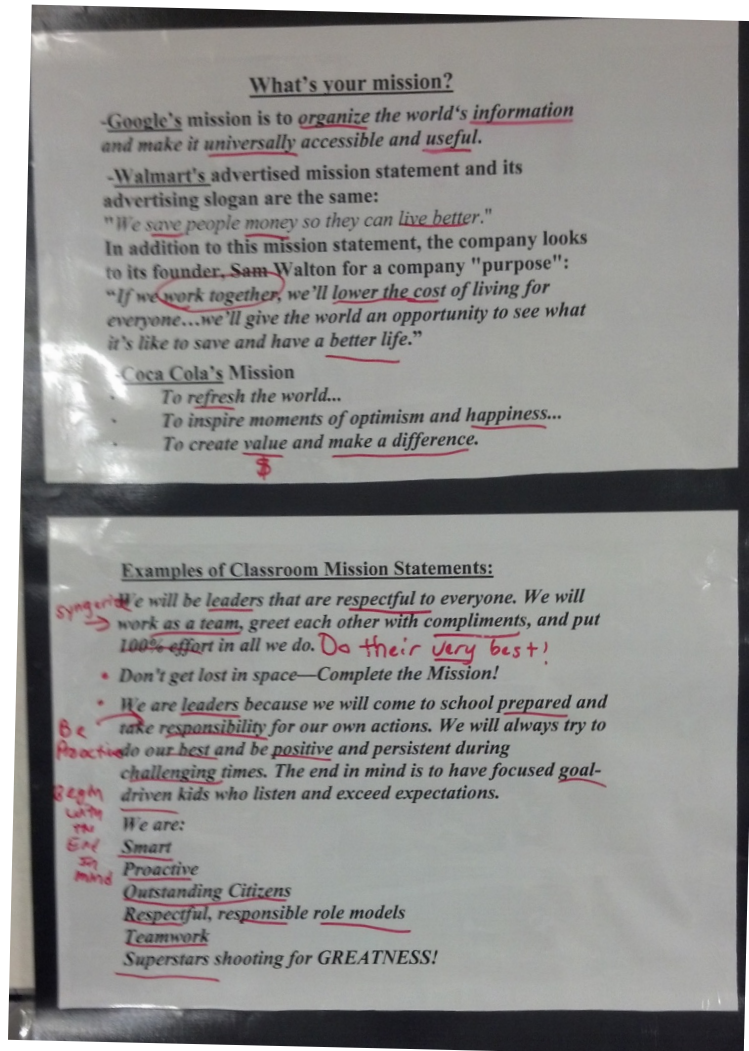
"Little one, / whoever you are, / wherever you are, / there are little ones / just like you / all over the world." So begins the Australian author Mem Fox's joyful picture book *Whoever You Are*, a celebration of the world's diverse cultures, both our similarities and differences. Leslie Staub's innovative, colorful, folk art-style oil paintings of children from all corners of the globe are bordered with photographs of hand-carved, bejeweled frames—and they all reflect Fox's message that no matter where we come from, within our hearts "Joys are the same, / and love is the same. / Pain is the same, / and blood is the same." A gem!

Discussion: We must decide what we believe?

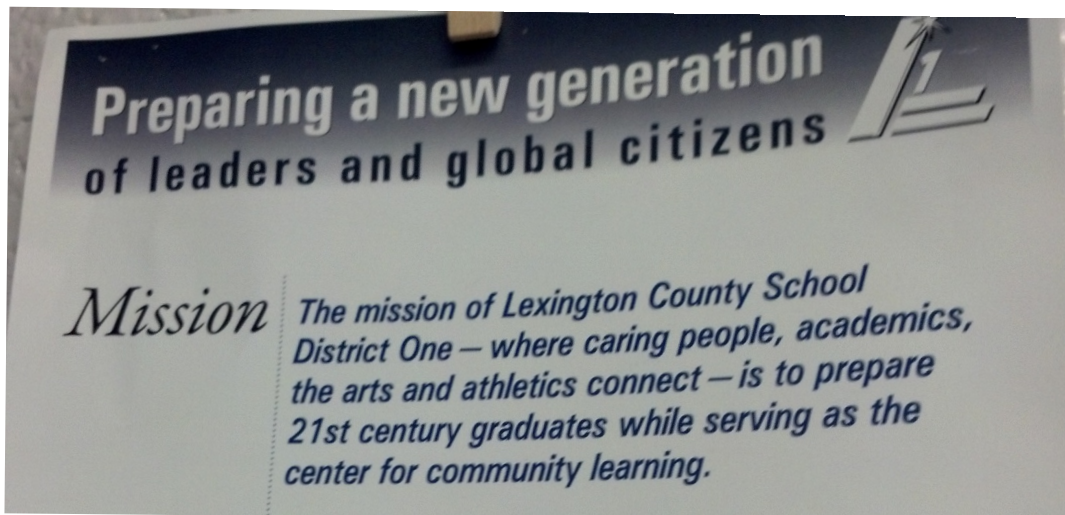


Day 3- Discussion: What is a mission statement?

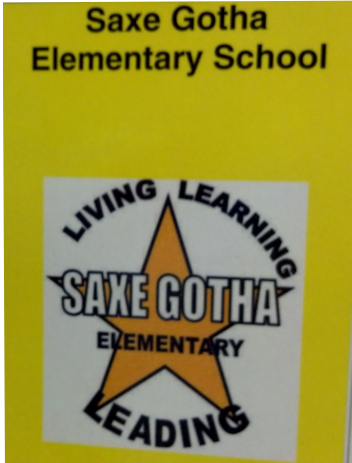
1. All Companies have mission statements. Provide examples that students will recognize.



2. Our District's (Lexington School District 1, S.C.) Mission Statement:

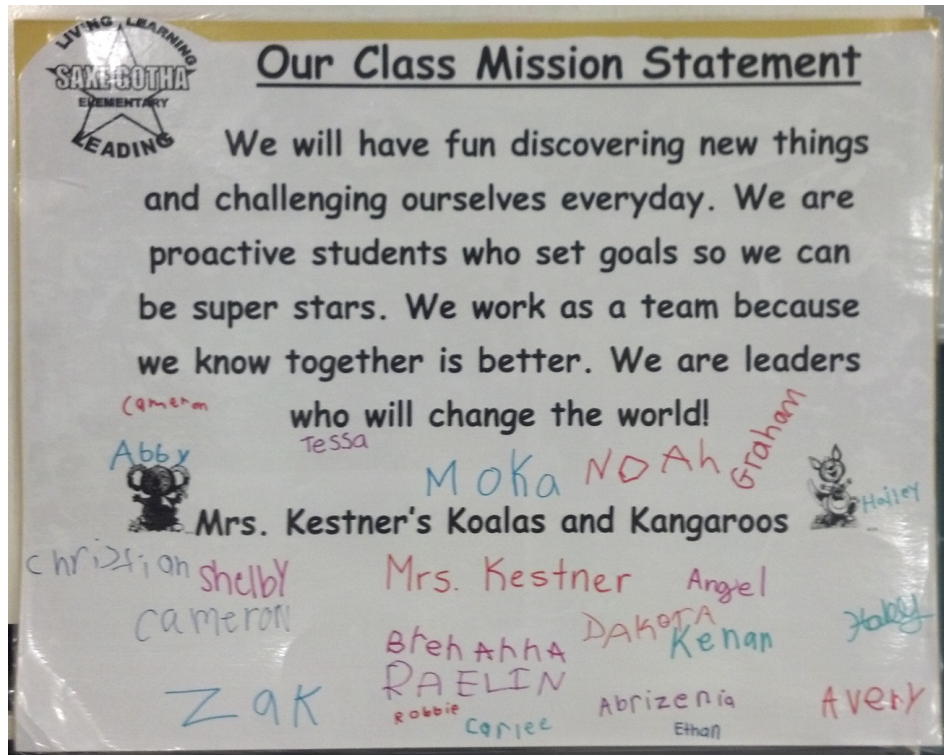


3. Saxe Gotha Elementary's Mission Statement:



**The Mission Statements of Saxe Gotha Elementary-
Creating a thirst for discovery and achievement by
developing creative, compassionate and responsible young
leaders.**

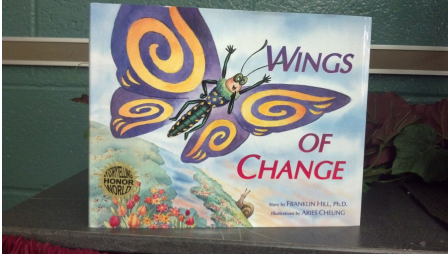
4. Examples of other classroom mission statements:



Discussion: What do they have in common?

1. Begin with what they believe
2. The work necessary to achieve the mission
3. What they want to be

Day 4- Discussion: What do we want to be by the end of the year?



Be < "As the world turns,
So do I.
When I change for the good,
I can touch the sky"

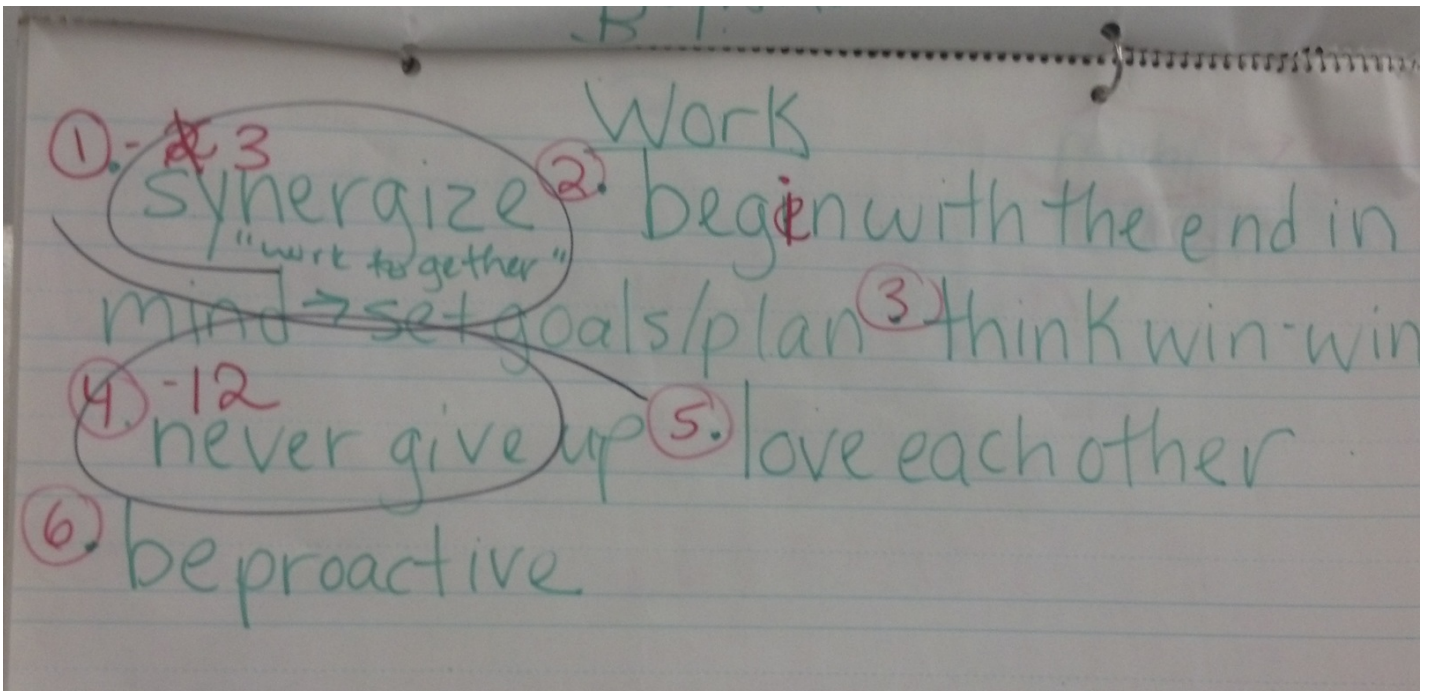
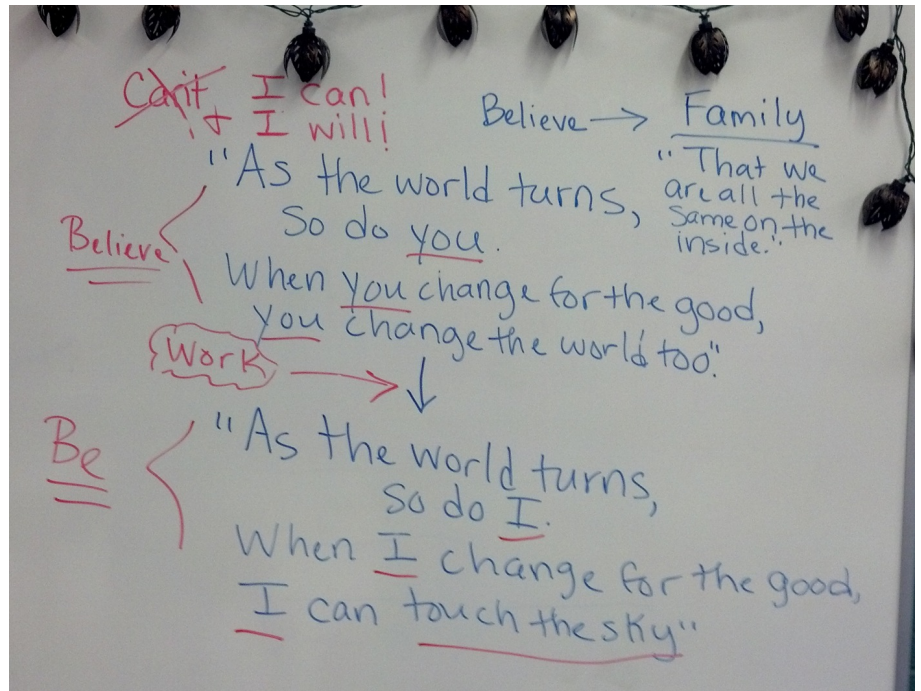
Be reach/ → goal
• a butterfly that can touch the
sky⁻³ / sun⁻¹ / clouds / ★⁷
• We will be butterflies that
can reach the stars!

* They decided to go back to Wings of Change. But, let them lead to there own "be".

See above: "We will be leaders who will change the world!"

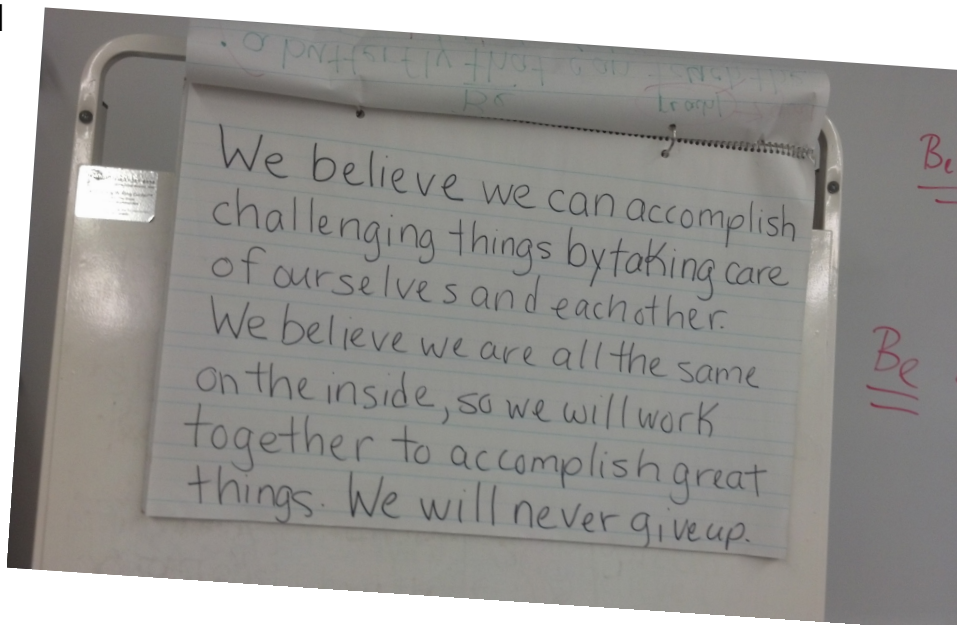
Day 5- Discussion: To "Be" something you have to do the work?

1. Decide what we believe.
2. Decide what we want to "be".
3. **Then, the work!**



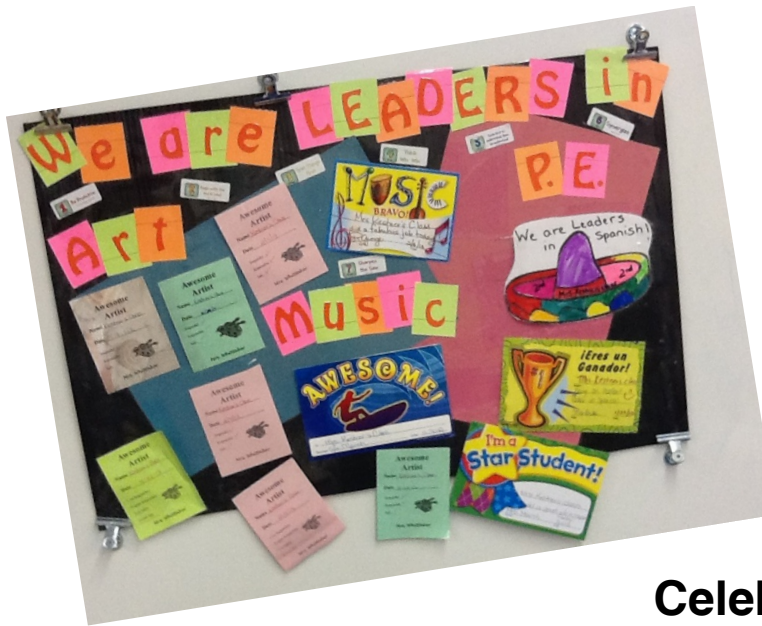
* The red numbers are our class votes. We decided together what to include in OUR Mission Statement.

In collaborative teams they used the votes to help them write their part of our mission: **Believe, Work, or Be.** Of course.... more discussion, more thought, and revision!



Our Wildly Important Goal!





Celebrate Our Hard Work and Achievements!



