

Dear Parent,

The image of an iceberg represents your leadership. The 10% above the water is your skill. The 90% below the water is your character. It's what's below the surface that sinks the ship. The Iceberg teaches ethical responsibility.

This week, your student learned about responsible decision making, which is a core competency of Social and Emotional Learning.

Responsible decision making is defined as the ability to make **constructive** and **respectful** choices about personal behavior and social interactions based on consideration of **ethical** standards, **safety** concerns, **social norms**, the realistic **evaluation** of consequences of various actions, and the well-being of self and others.

While responsible decision making may have many facets to it, we specifically learned about ethical responsibility using the metaphor of an iceberg. Habitudes are images that form leadership habits and attitudes, and the picture of The Iceberg represents your students' leadership abilities and capacity for ethical responsibility.

Ethical responsibility is the duty to follow a morally correct path. It is the ability to recognize, interpret, and act upon multiple principles and values according to the standards within a given field and/or context. We believe that ethical responsibility naturally flows out of character.

Much like ethical responsibility, we believe that the action of following a morally correct path is only part of the story—a mere 10%. On the other hand, your child's character is what powers them to live virtuous and ethical lifestyles—the 90%.

Through this lesson, we challenged your child to think through some difficult questions—What is one event or action carried out by a political figure, celebrity, or public leader that wouldn't have happened if they had been a person of character?

Your child has all the information they need to succeed, but they need you to help them interpret it. We challenge you to ask them difficult questions to keep the conversation going at home. Here are a few to get you started: Has your character ever sunk the ship? How can we learn from that experience to become ethically responsible adults? Share your answers to the questions to facilitate a conversation and help your children process what it means to make responsible decisions.

Best wishes,
The Growing Leaders Team

