



CITY YEAR ORLANDO

SCHOOLHOUSE NEWS, ISSUE 1

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Highlights from the Red Nose Day Team at Catalina Elementary School



JOYS

- Our team successfully completed our first event of the school year, "Letters to Your Future Self" where students created a letter to themselves that City Year will distribute at the end of the school year, and share reflections on the year
- Power greeting for our students is such a joy - students and staff join in and dance, cheer and sing along as we welcome them to school
- We hosted Banned Books Week which featured books that have been eliminated from schools across the country - we were able to engage in great conversation with students, teachers and school admin throughout the week.

STARFISH STORY - A STORY OF STUDENT IMPACT

BY NICK ROBERTS



I joined City Year hoping to make an impact in the students' lives. While true, I think the greatest impact thus far is from one I see every day. Like most students, Ben* is adorable but the way Ben lights up when he sees me is what makes him special and different than the others. On the first day of school, Ben was walking to the front door with

his mom and didn't want to let go of his mom's arm. Ben was not ready to go inside so I grabbed his hand and let him cry his way inside as we said goodbye to his mom. Our bond is special and unlike with any other of my students. Now in the mornings, when the kids are arriving, it's become a running joke with my team that I'm Ben's personal escort. At dismissal, the same is true. I walk him to his car, even if he's not in my designated area. When he sees me, no other adult exists, like I'm his safe place. I can always tell whenever he's smiling because his blue eyes always light up whenever he sees me, and it warms me up inside every time. If I'm having a bad day and see Ben, my day is instantly better. *=Student Pseudonym

AMERICORPS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Sam Justice is a proud AmeriCorps member serving on the Red Nose Day Team at Catalina Elementary School. He was born and raised in Orlando, FL. and graduated from Rhodes College in Memphis, TN with a degree in History. Sam serves because he believes in the power of educational equity. He is a proud product of the OCPS school system and after graduating college, Sam decided to commit to a service year to give back to his community. After City Year, he plans to attend law school and explore the world of professional law.

THE TEAM

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| Eileen O'Connell | Val Feijo | Sam Justice |
| Nick Roberts | Kayla Smith | Ernasia Southall |

UPCOMING DATES

- OCTOBER**
 Hispanic Heritage Month
 LGBT+ History Month
 Teach'r Treat Appreciation Event

