

PRESS RELEASE

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Memorial Early Childhood Center Teacher Saves Kindergarten Student's Life by Performing Heimlich Maneuver

Middleborough, MA - Members of the Middleborough Public School Administration recognized Mrs. Elizabeth Gunnison with a Certificate of Recognition and flowers for her heroic actions assisting a Kindergarten child in distress by performing the Heimlich maneuver.

Mrs. Gunnison, who provides daily support to the Kindergarten students at the Memorial Early Childhood Center, was performing her duties and supervising during "lunch time" on January 7, 2021. While observing students interacting, she noticed a child who looked at her and appeared to be in some form of distress. In her own words, Mrs. Gunnison stated that "I was looking directly at the student when it happened. I immediately asked the student a question and did not get an answer. I asked again with no response. At that point I knew the student was choking." Mrs. Gunnison then immediately approached the student, performed the Heimlich and dislodged a cracker which had become lodged in the child's throat.

The Middleborough Public Schools would like to thank Mrs. Gunnison for taking action and saving this young child's life. Principal Jeremy Gobeil, M.E.C.C. Principal stated, "We are so fortunate to have Mrs. Gunnison working here at our school. Her professionalism, humility and level-headedness are truly commendable and I thank her for what she did on that day and every day for our school". Superintendent of Schools Brian Lynch said, "There's certainly a reason why all staff are trained in this process by our highly qualified school nurses, but you never know how people will react when the time actually comes to put this training to use." Lynch went on to say, "As a school community, we are very fortunate to have educators such as Mrs. Gunnison teaching, caring for and keeping a watchful eye on our young ones every day in our schools. We are eternally grateful for her heroism".