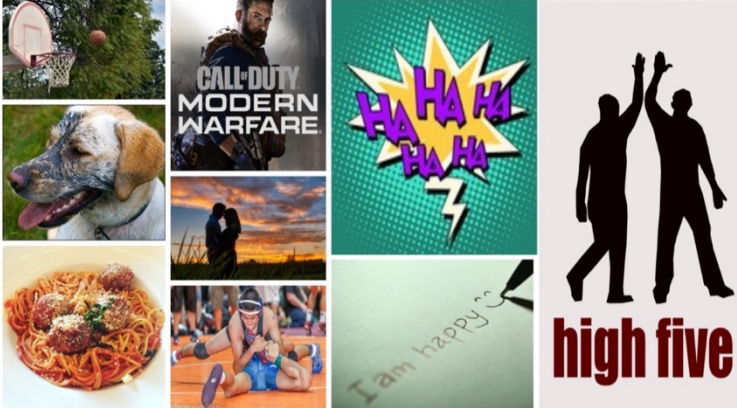


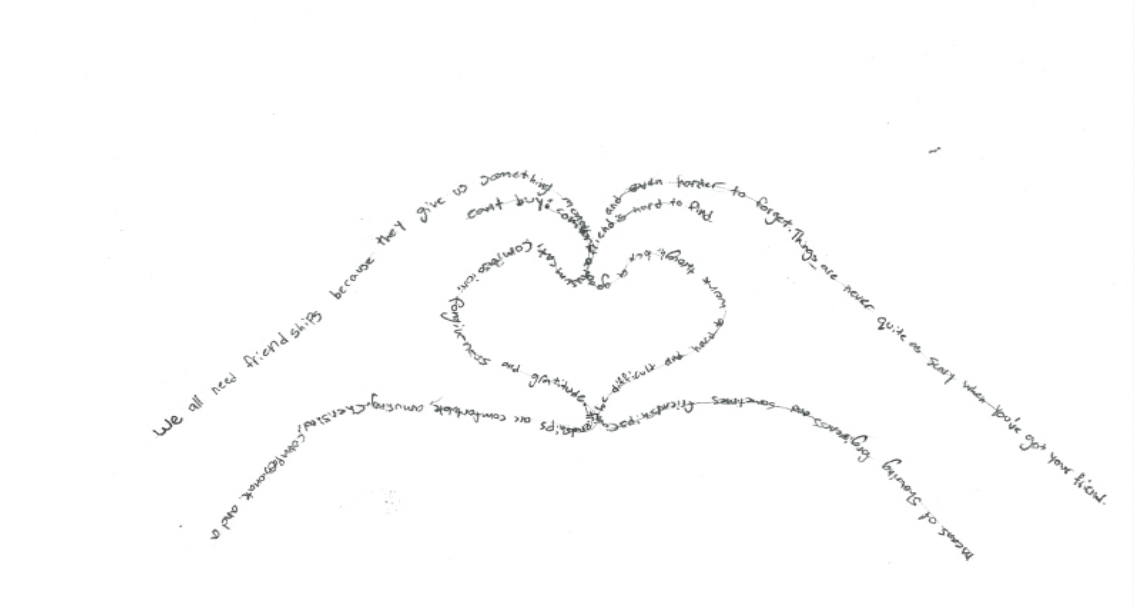
Gimaa's Allyship Poetry Contest, part of the Oakville Community Foundation's Community Classroom program, invited students to share through poetry, spoken word, or visuals what allyship feels and looks like to them. The following is the artistry that was shared.

What
FRIENDSHIP
means to me!

Nimkii King



Understanding, helpful, that is what friendship means to me,
 Caring, sharing, and loyalty, are roots to a friendship tree
 Reliable, respectful, and supportive are Earth to embrace
 Lifelong lasting friendship makes the world a better place
 Friendship makes my life full of love, happiness and grace



Tell me what is wrong
Tell me what you need
You need to work with me
You need to teach me
Teach me how to be strong
Teach me how to appreciate
Teach me how to strive
I Strive to be different
Strive to be the same
I Strive to be my own person
Strive to be like you
You are the one that is willing
And I am the one that is ready
I am ready to speak
My voice will lift up high and soar through the winds
The winds of your hatred
I will strive to be nothing like you
You criticized
You judged
And you were not willing
I am not an enterprise
And I am not your case
I unlearn your teachings
And I relearn the stories
I stand for my people
And you will always stand for yourself
I will use my intelligence to accomplish the things you've always
wanted to You will use your privilege
I am not self defined, the people say my name and
define me I work with others
I teach them
I help them
You brutalize
You judge
And you denounce
We are strangers
And I will never know you
But, we are forced to grow together
You filled with hatred
I filled with love
We will never learn to even each other out, but that's just apart of it
I will influence good on the earth and speak out for those being marginalized by your
hatred and demeaning ways
A voice of those who can't speak freely
I will learn from you and use my privilege
To help my brothers and sisters being influenced by your animosity
While you will try your hardest to break us down
It will not work
We as a nation are stronger than you will ever be
We have more power than you ever will
Everyday our love will get stronger
You with time will be silenced
All you will have in the end is the wind to get lost in
And my job will be done

Forever looking out for each other like a wolf pack.
Really listens when we have a problem.
Includes me in their games.
Eats their lunch with me.
Never makes me feel sad.
Definitely helps me when I'm feeling bad.
Share their toys whenever we play.
Happy to play sports with me everyday.
Intelligent when studying together.
Patient when waiting for each other.

Forever together
Respect for one another
Inspiring you to be your best
Encouraging you when you feel down
Nice to be with
Dependable when needed
Supportive during tough times
Happy memories
Incredibly caring
Playful and positive

Thank you	you are special
You are there for me.	You are always helpful
Thanks for including.	Thanks for, helping me,
Thanks to all of you	including me, you are
I feel stronger.	truly important

Thank you for helping me get up when I'm hurt
For including me in as much as you all could
For giving me incredible feedback and advice
You all really mean the world to me
Thanks for being my friends!
Thank you!

We all need friendships because they give us something money can't buy: comfort, amusement, compassion, forgiveness and gratitude. Friendships are comfortable, amusing, cherished, compassionate, and a means of showing forgiveness and appreciation. There are times when friends know more about you than you do yourself, and sometimes friendships can be difficult and hard to work through, but a good friend is hard to find and even harder to forget. Things are never quite as scary when you've got your friend.

Allyship

Thoughtful, sincere

Help, support, respect

Always aiding each other

Assist, comfort, encourage

Reliable, understanding

Friendship

I was delighted every time I said their names
Having understanding people surrounding you is awesome
However, everything's gotta come to an end
I had to say goodbye to my friends

The blankets of friendship are reliable people who make us better
They warm our hearts with valuable lessons and tranquil times
Our times united as a team left amusing memories that I will never forget
As intriguing as friendship is, its links are crucial to us so that we can live better

When we grow old, we think back to our younger and more active days
We become more empathic about other people's feelings and thoughts
And we give constructive experiences as well as lessons to people
We all hope to reunite with our loved ones later in our life or after it
Friendship allows us to look back at these moments and think
"What a life"
Friendship is a blessing

The word **friendship** means many things to me.

Fun, fearless and **free**.

All you need is one **good** friend.

Who you can **trust** there and then.

When you have **good friends** it could be a **mystery**
But no matter what happens you have a good **history**.

Friendship is what matters the most,
Even when you make a toast.

True friends are by your side
Through it all
True friends are there
To catch you when you fall.

Oh what a **joy** it is
To have a friend like you,
For giving me **strength**
the way you do.

A good friendship involves a lot of trust.
It means that your friends always have your back.
You should also always have your friends back.
Friendship also means that you make lots of jokes.
A friend is someone that you can lean on.
Friendship can also make your bond stronger.
A good friendship can also make you happy.
A great friend can make you less lonely and sad.
A great friend can make you happy when sad.
A friend can also make you smile and laugh.

Rain hit the concrete ground, soaking rocks and causing ripples in large, dark puddles. Because of all this rain, it was nearly impossible to tell when the tears started falling as well. She always had a feeling they didn't really like her. They didn't care when she cried, or seemed happy when she was. But this...what just happened really confirmed it. She sat down and wept. She didn't care that she was getting soaked. She didn't care that no one cared. She didn't care one bit. Or maybe she was lying to herself, trying to convince herself that she didn't care. Because she clearly did. Her sobs were drowned out by the sound of someone splashing through a puddle, running to her. She lifted her head and looked up at her friend. Or, she thought they were friends. "Go away" she mumbled, lowering her head. "No, wait, let me explain!" Her "friend" frantically fumbled. "No, I understand perfectly fine." She grumbled. "I mean...what they did was wrong. I can't apologize for them but I can apologize for myself. I'm sorry, and I tried to explain that what they did was wrong but I don't think they get it. They never were great friends." The friend explained. Then it was quiet for a while. Until a soft sob broke the silence. She leaped up and wrapped her arms around her friend in a tight hug. "It's ok, I'm here." Her friend whispered in a quiet, soothing voice. "I still need some time alone." Then silence. "Me too. Let's be alone together." The rain continued to fall, making ripples in the puddles, but it was no longer mixed with tears. "Ok."

So quiet, so shut
Poor Johnny at the school,
he said to them, no he fought,
To the other kids he argued he was cool.

Poor Johnny at the school,
he had no friends, he wasn't cool
To the other kids he argued he was cool,
Poor johnny at the school.

He had no friends, he wasn't cool
This was true,
Poor johnny at the school,
Someone else didn't have friends too.

This was true,
And at school, Johnny wasn't a fan,
Someone else didn't have friends too,
he walked up and said, how ya doing, fam.

And at the school, Johnny wasn't a fan
he said to them, no he fought,
he walked up and said how ya doing, fam
so quiet, so shut.

Friendship

Helpful Nice

Smiled Laughed Raced

You can do it

Hug Celebrate Helping

Strong Funny

Relationship

Friendship brings laughter
Considerate and caring
I will look after

A Golden blazer
A power motivator
A day time shiner
A remarkable warrior
A friendship giver
A funny joker

Amazing friendship.
Having friends means everything.
Take it or leave it.
The best thing to have in life.
Friendship is key to the world.

Real friendship is faithful, honest and giving.
Real friendship is talked about during Thanksgiving.
It gives us comfort and helps us have joy.
Real friendship will help us not to be annoyed.

I met a friend one summer day
He made me feel lighter than the sun
He made me laugh when he slipped on a tray

The sky was no longer gray
We have so much spontaneous fun
We played at the bay

I never wanted to go away
We loved spraying each other with a spray gun
It is always a great rambunctious day

We watch broadway
He and I like to run
We play every friday

He makes me laugh goofy on the highway
He's my favorite one
We are foolhardy in the hallway

We ride on a sleigh
He's better than anyone
We always know the way
We always enjoy everyday in may

A breath of fresh air in a house filled with smoke
You put out the fire and took time to admire the beauty that was once there
You looked past the burns, the crumbling walls, the ceiling that was slowly falling apart
You admired what the house once was
You built it back up piece by piece
Starting with the foundation
You nailed pieces of wood back into place and then rebuilt the walls around it
You nailed the floorboards back into place and then swept away the dust
You painted the walls and put new furniture in
Masking the unfixable damage that has been done
Now many enjoy staying in the house
Admiring its beauty
The beauty that couldn't be seen before you