



Photo by HEATHER A. LONGWAY-BURKE | The Courant

PREDRAG "PEDJA" MISA, 11, is the Carlson Elementary Kid of Character. He's described as a leader who is always polite.

Kid of character a role model

By **CASSI CLARK**
For the *Courant*

Bright-eyed, friendly Pedja Misa, a fifth-grade student in Nina Wahl's class at Carlson Elementary, stands out as a Kid of Character.

"My idea of having good character is being nice to others, having respect — not blurting out, not hurting others or writing bad things," Pedja said at the Nov. 19 school board meeting where he was recognized.

Wahl, a regular Kid of Character nominator, describes Pedja as a great leader and recognizes his politeness and responsibility.

"From the beginning of the year, I reinforced the idea of recognizing (safety, responsibility and respectfulness) with the students," said Wahl. "If they notice someone being safe, respectful or responsible, they can write the student's name and what they did on a honeycomb and tape it on one of my walls. They love nominating each other and seeing all of the positive things they have done."

Pedja says it is those three attributes that earned him the Kid of Character award, and because he sets an example by raising his hand to speak, even when his

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classmates are being noisy.

"I can place him in any group and know that there won't be any problems with students getting along," Wahl said. "He is very good at solving problems and compromising with others. I think this is a great trait to have for a fifth-grader."

Pedja enjoys helping his fellow students with their classwork, and they seem to enjoy him as well. Tanner Schwear told Wahl how nice Pedja is and that he would never do anything bad, and the honeycomb holds many nominations for Pedja from other students.

Originally from Yugoslavia, Pedja's family moved to Clear Creek County from Lakewood this year.

His favorite subject is math, but his favorite class is gym. Pedja admits to having one B (in spelling), but "he is very responsible by getting all of his work completed to the best of his ability and turned in on time," said Wahl. That hard work pays off with A's in the rest of his classes.

Pedja spends his free time playing soccer and football and reading to his mother. "Surprisingly, I get good grades though I play video games," Pedja said at the meeting.

Former King-Murphy teacher and Education Foundation executive director Carol O'Brien presented Pedja with his award certificate, Kid of Character T-shirt, Beau Jo's gift card and sweatshirt, and a \$25 gift card. School board members then presented Pedja with a certificate of recognition and proudly shook his hand.