**Olivia B.**

**6th Grade**

**Patriotism**

What does patriotism mean to you? The dictionary states that patriotism is the love of one’s country. Everybody has a different definition of patriotism and how they display patriotism. Each person has the opportunity to show loyalty by being a good citizen.

America was born on ideas that allow people to make their own decisions. When our freedom was in danger, it was men and women without hesitation who fought to protect our country and it’s freedom. They served with courage, pride, and honor. Many men and women of armed forces lost their lives defending our nation and fighting for freedom. Even today, our military continues to protect our country and its borders from those who wish to do us harm.

Patriotism can be shown in so many ways. It can be shown through a job, through friendship, and on a day to day basis. Firefighters and police officers, for example, show patriotism by risking their lives for others’ safety. Teachers show patriotism by teaching and educating youth with their skill and knowledge. Each person should leave the environment better than they found it, knowing and understanding that the world will never be perfect.

Patriotism inspires and unites us as a nation. I feel pride and optimism for the future of our nation. On Veteran’s Day, we honor those who fought and gave their lives. We celebrate with friends and family through parades, music, and waving our flags. Patriotism allows me to show loyalty and servant leadership to our great country.