

# Emmons School

A Note from the Interim School Counselor  
Miss LaBella (609) 893-8141 ext. 1044

## Character Education Newsletter

January 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

This month at Emmons School, we are working on the character trait of **Service**. **Service** is using our hands, feet, and hearts to honor and love each other. Martin Luther King Day of Service is approaching. Students and staff will be visiting Aspen Hills Center. **Service** is also one of our 5 core values. Each month, the students have one character education trait that they are supposed to work on in order to receive an award and a little prize. Last month, we worked on Integrity. Below are some helpful hints on what you can teach your child at home about **Service**.

In addition, this month we acknowledge **No-Name Calling Week** the week of January 21-24. **No Name-Calling Week** is a week to end name-calling and bullying in schools. **No Name-Calling Week** was inspired by a young adult novel entitled "The Misfits" by popular author, James Howe. The book tells the story of four best friends trying to survive the seventh grade in the face of all too frequent taunts based on their weight, height, intelligence, and sexual orientation/gender expression. Motivated by the inequities they see around them, the "Gang of Five" (as they are known) creates a new political party during student council elections and run on a platform aimed at wiping out name-calling of all kinds. The No-Name Party in the end wins the support of the school's principal for their cause and their idea for a "No Name-Calling Day" at school. To eliminate name-calling, Emmons students will be participating in activities during the week focused on the topic of name-calling. There will also be a spirit week to help promote no-name calling!

### Service means to...

- Be helpful to others
- Doing your share
- Cooperating with others
- Getting involved in the community
- Volunteering your time



### Children's Books on Service

- The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein
- The Mitten Tree by Candice Christiansen
- A Castle on Viola Street by DyAnne Disalvo
- How to Heal a Broken Wing by Bob Graham
- Angelo by David Macaulay
- One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference by Katie Smith Milway
- The Spiffiest Giant in Town by Julia Donaldson
- The Kindness Quilt by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace

## No-Name Calling Week (January 21-24)

### Tuesday, 1/21

**“Head to toe against name-calling”:** Wear silly hats and socks to show how we are head to toe against name calling!

**Pledge Activity:** Students will sign the “No Name-Calling Week” pledge where they promise to not name call and will treat others with respect.

### Wednesday, 1/22

**“We are on the same team against name-calling”:** Wear a sports jersey to show how we are all a team against name calling!

**Share and Brainstorm Activity:** Students will share stories in their classrooms of name-calling and brainstorm ways to eliminate name-calling in school. Discussion prompts will be provided to start the conversation.

### Thursday, 1/23

**“It takes an army to fight name calling”:** Wear camouflage or military inspired clothing to show how it takes an army to fight name calling!

**Poem Activity:** Students will be read poems about name-calling, which they will discuss as a class. Students will then be encouraged to write their own poem on the topic of name-calling. Students may also draw a picture about name-calling. This activity will allow students to identify and describe their emotions around name-calling.

### Friday, 1/24

**“Be a Superhero against name-calling”:** Wear your superhero gear to show how you act super and stand up against name-calling!

**PAWS-itive Name Card Activity:** Students will have the opportunity to call each other nice or positive names by filling out a name card shaped as a paw. Name cards will be collected and hung near the guidance office to show how we call each other positive names at Emmons School! A list of positive names will be provided to help students.