

Emmons School

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

Character Education Newsletter

January 2021

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. **Service** is also one of our 5 core values. 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 18-22. **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 18-22)

Monday, 1/18

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day-School Closed

Tuesday, 1/19

“Take a vacation from name-calling”: Wear your Hawaiian shirt or best vacation shirt!

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

Share and Brainstorm Activity: Students will share ideas about name calling and brainstorm ways to eliminate name-calling in school. Discussion prompts will be provided to start the conversation.

Wednesday, 1/20

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

“Get Along Monsters: Don’t Call me Names!” Video: Students will watch this video about name calling.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cal-FwN7cig>

“Think Before You Act” Activity: Students will discuss what it means to think before you act when choosing to name call or bully others. Then, students will practice the STOP, THINK, and DECIDE strategy with given scenarios.

Thursday, 1/21

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

Creative Expression Activity: Students are encouraged to draw a picture/write a story to show how they feel about name-calling.

“Stay SAFE!” Discussion: Students will discuss the four ways to stay SAFE if being called names or bullied.

Friday, 1/22

“Be You!”: Wear clothing to express your individual self because you are special and unique!

“I AM” Activity: Students will respond to the prompt, “I AM...” Students can complete this activity either as a class discussion or writing prompt. Think about how you are unique and one-of-a-kind! Think about what you would like others to know about you that they may not already know!