



Empathy

at Allen Creek Elementary School

April 2019

The ACES qualities are the foundation of the culture of character at Allen Creek.

A **Accepting:**
Embracing others' differences as well as your own.

C **Cooperative:**
A willingness to work with others toward a common goal.

E **Empathetic:**
When you understand how someone else is feeling.

S **Supportive:**
Providing encouragement toward others.

Accepting Cooperative Empathetic Supportive

These four traits were chosen as essential to create a school environment where ideas, backgrounds, and perspectives are tied together in a caring community.

We've sent out newsletters describing some of the ways we have learned about being accepting and cooperative at Allen Creek this year. The next quality we are focusing on for the year is "Empathetic."

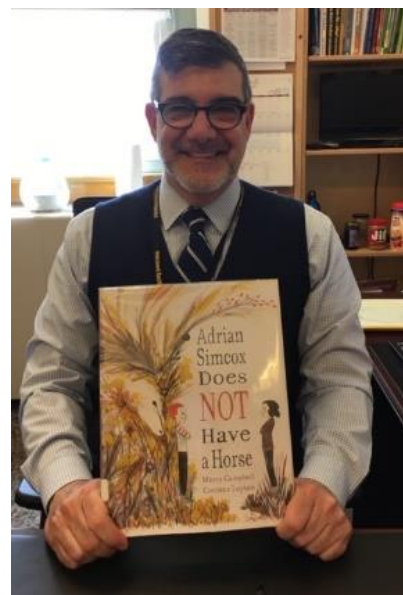
A person who is empathetic shows that they can understand how someone else is feeling or can see someone else's point of view. Empathy helps you know how your actions will make others feel and what you can do to be a better friend and classmate.

Principal's Book Pick

For this character trait, Mr. Biondi would like to highlight the book, *Adrian Simcox Does Not Have a Horse* by Marcy Campbell, illus. by Corinna Luyken.

Adrian Simcox tells everyone that he has a horse. Not just any horse, but the most beautiful and amazing horse around. Chloe does not believe him and calls him a liar right to his face. Chloe sees how sad this makes Adrian, and when her mom takes her on a walk to Adrian's house, she starts to develop a new level of understanding.

This is a moving story about developing empathy that would be perfect for family discussion.



Lessons That Foster Developing Empathy

Here are some examples of what our students have been doing across disciplines:

- Literature studies
- Reflective writing
- Morning meetings
- Vocabulary activities to develop a common language
- Activities related to “standing in someone else’s shoes”



Family Discussion Ideas

It may be helpful to have a discussion with your child about what it means to be empathetic. Here are some suggestions of things to talk over:

- Why is it important to be empathetic?
- What does it mean to put yourself in someone else’s shoes?
- What kinds of behaviors show that you understand how someone else is feeling?
- Can you think of a time someone showed empathy toward you? How did it make you feel?

Family Read-Aloud Suggestions

