



Inclusion and Equity

at Allen Creek Elementary School

September 2019



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

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

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

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

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

Accepting Cooperative Empathetic Supportive

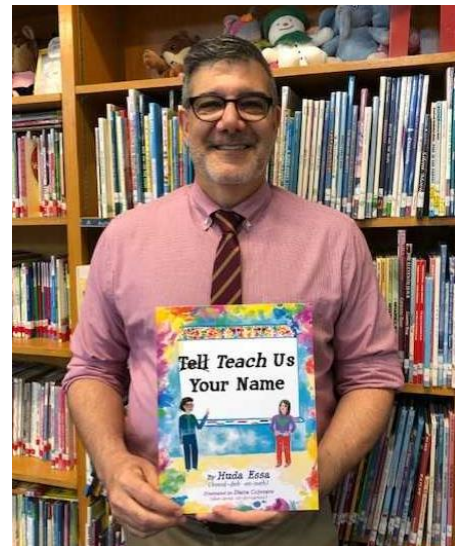
These four traits were chosen as essential to create a school environment where ideas, backgrounds, and perspectives are tied together in a caring community.

As part of our ACES character education, during this school year we plan to focus on a variety of diverse literature. Mr. Biondi will be selecting a book each month and giving a copy to each classroom teacher to share and discuss with their class.

For the month of September, Mr. Biondi has chosen the book *Teach Us Your Name*. Huda Essa, a former teacher, wrote this story to empower children to teach others how to pronounce their names correctly.

Teach Us Your Name **by Huda Essa, illus. by Diana Cojocaru**

The main character in the story, Kareemalayaseenadeen, hates her name. It's too long and nobody ever knows how to pronounce it. She can never find a bracelet or keychain with her name on it and she's never heard of anyone having the same name. When her teachers and classmates make up their own pronunciations, she's too shy to correct them. She even starts going by a nickname because it's easier. But one day on an overseas trip, her grandmother explains to her the meaning of her name. She tells her that if she hates her name, she is hating a part of herself. She suggests she guide the students on the proper way to say her name. Returning to school, Kareemalayaseenadeen does just that.



This book teaches us to.....

Show respect to others' names and identities in schools by pronouncing students' names correctly.

Understand why it is important to learn about different identities.

Spread the word about the importance of respecting others' names and identities.



Student/Teacher Reactions

"We had a great discussion about our first and last names and why it's important to help others say it."

"Each child stood up and taught us his/her name. We first broke it into syllables and then put the chunks together."

"We heard stories of family and culture."

Family Discussion Ideas

You might like to have a discussion with your child about *Tell Us Your Name*. Here are some suggestions of things to talk over:

- Why is it important to show respect for all people?
- Why is it important that we learn about differences?
- What types of things should we learn about others to better understand them?
- Why did the main character say it was easier to just let people say her name incorrectly?
- Why is it important to get someone's name right?
- Do you know the meaning of your name? Do you know why you were given this name?
- Have you ever had someone say your name wrong? What did you do? Why?
- Why is it important that you teach others how to say your name correctly?

Family Read-Aloud Suggestions

Here are a few others books you may want to read and discuss as a family:

