



# Inclusion and Equity

## at Allen Creek Elementary School

January 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.

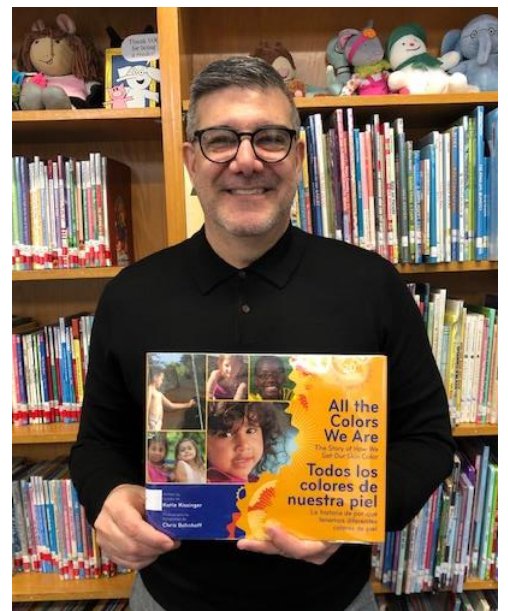
### Accepting    Cooperative    Empathetic    Supportive

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

Continuing our focus on diverse literature, Mr. Biondi has chosen the book *All the Colors We Are: The Story of How We Get our Skin Color* for our next school-wide book study. A copy has been given to each classroom teacher to share and discuss with their class.

### ***All the Colors We Are: The Story of How We Get Our Skin Color by Katie Kissinger, photog. by Chris Bohnhoff***

*All the Colors We Are* is a bilingual nonfiction book that teaches children the scientific explanation of how skin color is determined. Skin color is determined by a combination of our parents and ancestors, the sun our skin is exposed to, and the amount of melanin in our skin. It's a genetic adaptation to a person's environment. Children are naturally curious about why people have different skin colors and this book helps to answer their questions while breaking down myths and stereotypes. It also helps children to develop positive self-esteem, self-acceptance, and respect for diversity.



## Our Classroom Connection Circles

- Relationship Building
- Exploring Dimensions of our Identity
- What do we know about race?
- What do we value about our classroom environment?



## Student Reactions

*"I could connect to others."*

*"I gained more confidence and feel less scared to share something."*

*"I learned that people have different skin colors, and that is beautiful."*

## Family Discussion Ideas

You might like to have a discussion with your child about *All the Colors We Are*. Here are some suggestions of things to talk over:

- People have different shades of skin but everyone's skin is a shade of the same color. What color is everyone's skin?
- Why do people have different skin tones?
- Melanin is a pigment that forms the tones of our skin. Where else can melanin be found?
- How do you feel about the color of your skin? Why do you feel that way?
- What were your thoughts and feelings while learning about how we get our skin color?
- Did anything in the book challenge what you thought you knew?
- Discuss where your child's ancestors are from and how that relates to the color of their skin.

## Family Read-Aloud Suggestions

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

