



# Inclusivity

## at Allen Creek Elementary School

February 2021

**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**

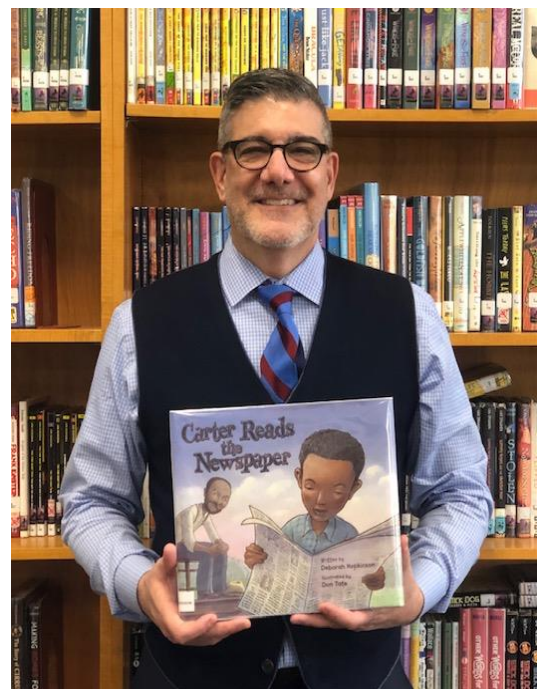
These four traits were chosen as essential to create a school environment where ideas, backgrounds, and perspectives are tied together in a caring community.

### Black History Month

In celebration of Black History Month and continuing our focus on diverse literature, Mr. Biondi has chosen the book *Carter Reads the Newspaper* for our next school-wide book study. A video of Mr. Biondi reading the book has been shared with each class to watch and discuss. In addition, a copy of the book has been given to each classroom.

### ***Carter Reads the Newspaper*** by Deborah Hopkinson, illus. by Don Tate

This picture book biography teaches us about Carter G. Woodson, the father of Black History Month. Carter was born to his formerly enslaved parents just after the Civil War. Carter's father could not read but he believed in the importance of education and being an informed citizen. Carter educated himself by reading the newspaper aloud to his father every day. As a teenager, he went to work in the coal mines and met Oliver Jones, a Civil War veteran who opened his home to the other miners as a reading room. Carter again took on the role of reader, sharing the news with the other men. After three years in the mines, Carter went on to continue his education, eventually earning a Ph.D. from Harvard. While there, a professor challenged him to prove his people had a history. This prompted him to do just that and in 1926, he established Negro History Week, which later became Black History Month.



## Other School-wide Celebrations of Black History Month

In music class, students in K-5 will be introduced to the song, "He Had a Dream." Grades 4 and 5 will also be learning about the history of ragtime and jazz.

In library class, students will be introduced to the Coretta Scott King Book awards, which are given annually to African American authors and illustrators of books that demonstrate an appreciation of African American culture. Past award winners will be available for students to check out.



## Family Discussion Ideas

You might like to have a discussion with your child about *Carter Reads the Newspaper*. Here are some suggestions of things to talk over:

- Why do you think it's important to learn Carter's story? What else do you wonder about him?
- Carter educated himself by reading newspapers. Are newspapers a good source of information? What other ways do people get information today?
- Why is it important to learn about history?
- Why do we celebrate Black History Month? Why is it important to have a Black History Month?
- What other important figures from history would you like to learn more about?

## Family Read-Aloud Suggestions

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

