

Monthly School Assemblies

As you may know, Willett Elementary School has school assemblies the first Thursday afternoon of every month. These assemblies focus on a specific character trait and allow our school to acknowledge special events and student accomplishments on our campus. Each month, one primary and one intermediate class prepare presentations for their assemblies regarding the trait. Parents are always welcome to attend the assemblies. 1st – 3rd is from 1:50 to 2:20 and 4th – 6th is from 2:25 – 2:55.

Our September assembly focused on Responsibility. Officer John Wilson from Davis Police Department came to our school and talked about being responsible to the students. Our October assembly focused on Respect and Mr. Blacker and Mrs. Cook's classes did wonderful presentations on being respectful of others. The content of Mrs. Cook's class presentation is below. Assembly topics are included in the Who's News calendar. Mrs. Weber-Johnson purchased library materials that focus on the various traits for teachers to use as follow-up lessons and also for students to check out in the library.

Assemblies are a wonderful way for our students to feel connected to Willett and feel part of our community. Hootie the Owl will be at this week's assembly for his first official introduction to our community! Ask your children about the assemblies and follow up at home with the focus traits each month.

Mrs. Cook's class presentation:

RACE:

In the world are people of many colors. They range from very, very light to very, very dark and may be brownish or reddish, or yellowish in tint depending upon where in the world they live. Along with different colors, people look different. Some people have round faces with straight black hair, others have tightly curled hair and longer faces. These differences are racial, and they add to the variety of looks we have on our earth. Don't be afraid to talk to people who look different from you. Get to know them. Be respectful and learn about them . . . from them. You may find a new close friend there where you haven't looked before.

CULTURE:

Along with looking different, many peoples act differently. They observe different holidays, eat different foods, wear their hair differently, or perhaps wear different clothing from you. When you see someone observing a different culture than your own, step up and be respectful. Ask them to share about the things that make them different and let them know how much you appreciate learning about them. Perhaps you can even taste some of their unique foods.

LANGUAGE

Many different languages are spoken at Willett Elementary. It's part of what makes us special. You may come across someone who is speaking a language foreign to you. Be respectful. Ask the

person what language it is. Listen to it, to the rhythm or the musicality of it. Perhaps, if you ask politely, you can learn a few words that you can say, too, in this new language.

DISABILITIES Many people around us have disabilities. Some are physical and are visible, for example, you can see people in wheel chairs or others who use a white walking stick, but some disabilities are invisible. These people might have difficulty reading because of dyslexia, or trouble writing because of dysgraphia. Some people have processing problems that make it hard to remember the things they are learning. Be respectful. Always be considerate of people who take a little longer taking a test or who may read aloud slowly. Perhaps you can ask them if they could use your help. Reach out to these people in an understanding way.

RELIGION

The students at Willett represent many, many religions. Some kids are Buddhists or Sikh, some are Hindu or Christian, some are Islamic, and so on. It may be hard for us to understand the beliefs of others when we have strong beliefs of our own, but making an effort to understand other ways of thinking shouldn't be scary. Always be respectful. Ask others what they are doing and why. When you understand others you are less fearful of them.

Our class plays music at lunchtime as a way to celebrate our differences. Listen and enjoy.

GENDER

Sometimes people unknowingly treat boys differently from girls or vice-versa. They choose boys first for athletic games, for example, or always ask a girl to take notes. This is because we treat boys as better at sports and girls as better at handwriting. Be respectful. Look at all students as people who are more alike than different. Always try to treat everyone equally and include everyone in a fair and unbiased way. You'll have more fun while being respectful!

SKIN COLOR

Have you ever really looked at people's skin color? Our world is filled with the most beautiful shades of skin color: we have everything from very light to very dark . . . and we have shades of reds and golds and creams and tans and browns. When put side by side, our skin colors contrast and enhance and complement each other. In fact, it is only when they are mixed all together that we can appreciate the beauty of all of them. So, remember to be respectful. Don't judge a person by the color of their skin. Instead, appreciate our color differences and how fabulous we all look when we are all put together.