



January 18, 2013

The Week of January 21-25 is No Name Calling Week. No Name Calling Week is held annually in schools and communities across the country. It is a week of educational and creative activities aimed at ending name-calling of all kinds and supports efforts to eliminate bullying.

At Hamilton we are going to be supporting this effort through a variety of educational events and lessons. The message behind the events will be to show the students that their words matter. We encourage you to speak to you children about the importance of treating others with respect and being kind. Additionally, please take a moment over the weekend to talk to your child about their name and why it was chosen. Understanding the importance of their given names will deter name calling and instill self-confidence. Over the next few weeks there will be follow-up classroom lesson that will focus on the importance of their name.

No Name-Calling Week was inspired by a young adult novel entitled *The Misfits*, by popular author, James Howe. The book tells the story of four best friends who grow tired of the constant teasing in their middle school, and decide to run for student council on a “No Name-Calling” platform. Throughout the week staff members will be visiting the classrooms to read *The Name Jar* by Yangsook Choi. This charming story portrays kindness, friendship and consideration of others in many different ways.

The Hamilton staff looks forward to working with families to provide a safe and caring environment in our schools and we thank you for your support of this very important initiative.