

***Home-School Connections: Home Activities***  
***Diversity and Inclusion Unit***

Your child is learning about **Diversity and Inclusion** from Harmony SEL, our social and emotional learning program. The ideas below will reinforce what we are learning in school—there are activities to play, topics to discuss, and behaviors to role-model. These are all designed to fit into your daily routine and provide opportunities to further connect with your child.

**Getting to Know One Another**

- Ask your child how it felt when he or she arrived at school, at the end of the day, and what he or she is looking forward to at school tomorrow.
- Ask if your child talked to anyone new or learned something that he or she didn't know about a classmate.

**Discovering Commonalities**

- Have a conversation with your child regarding how family members are similar and different. For example, compare whether (and how much) each of you do or don't like the following activities, and why.

Cleaning your room	Going to bed	Riding a bike
Eating (choose a food)	Taking a walk	Reading a book

**Learning from Diversity**

- Ask your child what diversity means.
- Ask your child what he or she is good at doing or makes him or her proud.
- Ask your child something new he or she learned or tried at school this week and if he or she did it with someone else.

**Building a Community**

- Ask your child what it means to belong.
- Ask your child what it means to be a community.
- Talk with your child about some of the communities or groups to which your family belongs.

An important part of this program is for students to continue discussing and practicing concepts outside the classroom. Thank you for your involvement in reinforcing at home what is being taught in class.

Dear Family,

We are starting a unit on **Diversity and Inclusion** with Harmony SEL, our social and emotional learning program. Throughout this unit, students will discover shared interests, explore how each person is unique and valued, and develop a common classroom identity.

**Getting to Know One Another** lays the foundation for a broad range of solid relationships. During this unit, students will share a bit about themselves with their classmates and work to discover what they have in common with one another. They will also learn that both similarities and differences are valued—and that we may have things in common with those who initially seem different from us.

**Learning Something New** is possible when people appreciate one another's differences. Differences allow us to consider unique ideas and think about alternative perspectives. Students will take turns sharing their own knowledge and unique skills with their classmates, allowing them to experience the benefits of interacting with, and learning from, peers who are different from them.

**Our Classroom Identity** helps students feel welcome, accepted, and connected to others. In this unit, students will discuss what it means to belong to a group and explore the elements that make our classroom a community. They will work to discover what they have in common and then cooperate to find creative ways of expressing our classroom identity.

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Thank you for your involvement. Please contact me if you have any questions about the Harmony program.

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- Your child’s classmates are getting to know one another better by sharing items that are important to them. Ask your child to discuss the items that were shared in class that he or she enjoyed learning about.
- Students are getting to know what they have in common and how they are different from their classroom Buddies. Ask your child to describe what he or she was surprised to learn about their Buddy.
- Challenge your child to find out something they have in common with someone who is seemingly completely different from him or her. This could be a relative, friend, or neighbor.
- Ask your child about favorite things he or she enjoys doing and could teach a family member how to do (hobbies, crafts, games, sports, math problems). Alternatively, seek out opportunities for your child to learn something new from those in your family or community.
- Select a meaningful item to share with your child, explaining why it is important to you and what it says about you.
- Collaborate as a family to create a name and motto. Work as a team to brainstorm a variety of ideas and then decide what best represents who you are as a family.

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**Getting to Know One Another**

- Ask your child:
  - If he or she greeted anyone at the start of school today and what they said to each other.
  - If he or she played with anyone new today and what they did together.

**Discovering Commonalities**

- Have a conversation with your child regarding how family members are similar or different. For example, compare whether (and how much) each of you do or don't like the following activities, and why.
  - Cleaning your room
  - Eating (choose a food)
  - Taking a walk
  - Reading a book
  - Going to bed
  - Riding a bike

**Learning About Diversity**

- Ask your child:
  - What diversity means.
  - What he or she is good at or what makes him or her proud.
  - If he or she learned or tried at school this week and shared with someone else.
- Discuss with your child how these qualities and experiences are similar to or different from others' and how that is a form of diversity.

**Building Community**

- Ask your child:
  - What it means to belong.
  - What it means to be a community.
  - Which communities or groups to which your family belongs.

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Dear Family,

We are starting a unit on **Diversity and Inclusion** from Harmony SEL, our social and emotional learning program. Throughout this unit, students will discover shared interests, explore how each person is unique, and build a sense of community within the classroom.

**Getting to Know One Another** lays the foundation for a broad range of solid relationships, enabling students to feel comfortable with their peers while helping them understand that everyone is important. During this unit, students will explore what it means to be a friend, and they will share a bit about themselves with their classmates. They will also learn to discover what they have in common with one another.

**Learning from Diversity** involves respecting and appreciating what makes each person unique. This fosters understanding and empathy — skills that support students' ability to form positive relationships with all kinds of people. Students will discuss how everyone has unique characteristics and strengths. They will also learn that it is OK to be different and will work with their classmates to recognize and honor their differences.

**Building Community** is important because students learn and grow best when they feel welcome, accepted, and connected to others. In this unit, students will learn what it means to belong to a community and discuss how community members should treat one another. They will explore what makes our class a community and then work together to create a visual representation to display in our classroom.

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