



Forest Avenue School

“Where Excellence Begins”

Matthew J. Murphy
Principal

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FAS Character Education Calendar

Our Character Education program is infused throughout the curriculum and felt in the positive culture for learning which the entire Forest staff tries to create each and every day. Our main objective is to develop within students a regard for humanity and self-respect which can serve as a bridge between judgment and action. Character education should encompass the cognitive, affective, and behavioral aspect of morality in order for students to learn what is morally right, to care deeply about what is morally right, and to act in a moral way.

Character education is a process of developing techniques to help the student build self-respect by identifying alternate choices, developing a sense of empathy, taking risks, being made aware of behavior, and being able to predict the positive and negative consequences of actions taken. Rewards should be intrinsic.

Each month in the school year is dedicated to a character education theme. School-wide assembly programs, classroom activities, and lessons are tailored to each particular theme. Many works of literature and student texts deal with the monthly themes as well. Classroom teachers also utilize the “One Book Club” through Read Aloud to deliver lessons which emphasize social decision making skills. Below are some examples of activities that have been implemented at Forest Avenue School.

SEPTEMBER: Citizenship (Respect for Others/The Empowered Bystander)

Diversity: National Hispanic Heritage Month

One Book Club Book (Suggested Readings)

Being A Good Citizen by Mary Small.

The Juice Box Bully: Empowering Kids to Stand Up by Bob Sornson, Maria Dismundy and Kim Shaw.
Enemy Pie by Derek Munson, Chronicle Books; Tara Calahan King

- First Day – opening exercises together
- School-wide assembly (“Getting to Know You”)
- Bullying Awareness Lessons and Policy Explained to Students
- Welcome Back Pizza Party

OCTOBER: Respect (Anti-Bullying)

Diversity: Global Diversity Awareness Month

One Book Club Book (Suggested Readings)

One of Us by Mary Hynes Barry
Bully by Laura Vaccaro Seeger. Stop Picking on Me
A First Look At Bullying by Pat Thomas

- Week of Respect Activities (First Week in October)
- Violence Prevention Week
- Red Ribbon Week (Drug Awareness and Prevention)
- Fire Prevention Week – Montclair Fire Department
- Halloween Safety Assembly/Glen Ridge Police Department
- Festival of Jack O’Lanterns

NOVEMBER : Citizenship (Compassion/Empathy)

Diversity: National American Indian Heritage Month

One Book Club Book (Suggested Readings)

Ordinary Mary’s Extraordinary Deed, by Emily Pearson
Stand in My Shoes: Kids Learning About Empathy by Bob Sornson
Have You Filled a Bucket Today? by Carol McCloud, David Messing

- Veteran’s Day Activity
- Neighbors in Need Program

DECEMBER: Caring (Compassion/Kindness)

Diversity: Universal Human Rights Month

One Book Club Book (Suggested Readings)

One Book Club Book (Suggested Readings)
Old Henry by Joan W Bloss
Extra Yarn by Mac Barnett
My Secret Bully by Trudy Ludwig, Abigail Marble (Illustrator)

- Classroom activities (books, guests, activities)
- Winter Music Program

JANUARY: Respect, Recognizing Diversity/No Name Calling Week/ The Great Kindness Challenge)

Diversity: Poverty in America

One Book Club Book (Suggested Readings)

Kindness is Cooler, Mrs Ruler by Margery Cuyler, Sachikom Yoshikawa

The Name Jar by Yangsook Choi
The Invisible Mistake Case by Charise Mericle

- No Name Calling Week
- Classroom activities celebrating Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday (stories, writing)
- Hunger Awareness Month
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- The Great Kindness Challenge

FEBRUARY: Trustworthiness (Honesty/Friendship)

Diversity: African American History Month

One Book Club Book (Suggested Readings)

The Empty Pot by Demi. Making Friends is an Art! By Julia Cook
Bad Case of Tattle Tongue by Julia Cook, Anita DuFalla (Illustrator)
National Center for Youth Issues

- Focus on President's Day – Ingredients for a good leader (honesty, trust, compassion)
- Black History Month lessons

MARCH: Fairness (Honesty/Respect/Self-Esteem)

Diversity: National Women's History Month

One Book Club Book (Suggested Readings)

The Case of the Double Cross by Crosby Bonsall
The Lovables in the Kingdom of Self-Esteem by Diane Loomans, Kim Howard (Illustrator)
Say Something by Say Something by Peggy Moss, Lea Lyon (Illustrator)

- Youth Art Month
- Author Visit Day
- Read Across America Celebration

APRIL: Responsibility (Self-Worth/Self-Acceptance)

Diversity: Autism Awareness Month & Arab-American Month

One Book Club Book (Suggested Readings)

The Lorax by Dr. Seuss
Freckleface Strawberry by Julianne Moore
Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon by Patty Lovell, David Catrow (Illustrator)

- Jump-Rope for Heart
- Poetry Month Activities
- Autism Awareness Month
- Abilities Awareness Activities

MAY: Caring (Respect/Resilience)

Diversity: Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month & Jewish American Month

One Book Club Book (Suggested Readings)

The Potato Chip Champ by Maria Dismondy, Dawn Beacon

The Blue Ribbon Day by Katie Couric

The Recess Queen by Alexis O'Neill, Laura Huliska-Beith (Illustrator)

- Spring Carnival
- School Nurse's Day
- AAPI Lessons

JUNE: Responsibility (Review All Traits)

Diversity: Respect for All & National Caribbean American Heritage Month

One Book Club Book (Suggested Reading)

Pigsty by Mark Teague

Scribbleville (Acceptance) - by Peter Holwitz