



**GLSEN**  
**NO NAME-CALLING WEEK**  
**January 16-20, 2017**

January 10, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to inform you of an exciting program Central School will participate in called **No Name-Calling Week** which takes place the week of January 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. No Name-Calling Week is a week of educational activities aimed at ending name-calling of all kinds to inspire on-going dialogue about ways to eliminate bullying in our school and our community. This week was inspired by a young adult novel entitled The Misfits by James Howe. The Misfits 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.

Central School will participate in No Name-Calling Week to continue our efforts in building empathy and teaching respect to our students. Students will work on a variety of activities to help reinforce the impact of verbal name-calling, and teach strategies for coping with and putting an end to name-calling.

I am also eager to announce in honor of No Name-Calling Week, Central School is having a **Creative Expression Contest** (details to follow). If you choose to submit a project for the contest, the deadline is January 18<sup>th</sup>.

We encourage your ideas and active participation throughout this week and hope that No Name-Calling Week will help all students consider the power of the words they use, and continue to make our school a safe place for everyone. Go on to my Teacher Website Page for additional resources on No Name-Calling Week ([www.warrentboe.org/schools/central/teacherpages/site/mkatchen/](http://www.warrentboe.org/schools/central/teacherpages/site/mkatchen/)). Please feel free to contact me about any ideas or suggestions!



Sincerely,

*Melissa Katchen*

Melissa Katchen  
School Counselor

**No Name-Calling Week: January 16-20, 2017**

## **Creative Expression Contest**

### **Kindergarten-1<sup>st</sup> Grade:**

- Draw a picture that shows how to be nice to other people at school.
- Your project can be any size, color, or material.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade-4<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

- Draw a picture, write a poem or story, or build a sculpture/object that shows how you feel about name-calling.
- You can show or talk about personal experiences in your project.
- Your project can be any size, color, or material.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

- Your project can be an essay, poem, short story, book, original music, original artwork, or any other method of creative expression.
- You must use personal experiences and observations/feelings about name-calling.
- Your project can be any size, color, or material.

***Student entries must be the student's own work.***

### **Projects due on January 18<sup>th</sup>**

**(Please give to Miss Katchen, your school counselor)**

- ✓ Use the attached "Careful Considerations" page to help influence your creative expression. **Parents:** *Feel free to use the "Careful Considerations" questions to guide you through a family discussion about No Name Calling Week.*
- ✓ Creative expression projects will be put on display throughout the school. If you choose to write a poem and would like to read it during morning announcements for No Name Calling Week, please let Miss Katchen know.
- ✓ There will be 1 contest winner selected for each grade.

## **No Name-Calling Week: January 16-20, 2017**

### **Careful Considerations**

Name calling is calling someone names with the intention to hurt, offend, or isolate them. Sometimes name calling is calling a friend names we think are funny but may actually hurt. Think about where you can see name-calling take place. In your classroom, on the bus, at gym, in the lunchroom? On social media apps like Instagram or YouTube?

Here are some questions to think about for your creative expression projects:

#### **All Grades:**

- What does name-calling mean to you?
- What are some ways you could stop name-calling?
- What could you say to someone who is name-calling?

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade-5<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

- What are the first three words that come to mind when you hear the phrase "name-calling"?
- Name three reasons why you think name-calling happens.
- Imagine you were being called a mean name or someone made fun of you. What are the first feelings that come to mind?
- Imagine you were the one calling someone a mean name or making fun of someone. What are the first words that come to mind that describe how you are feeling?

#### **Bonus Questions**

- Have you ever had your feelings hurt or been talked to disrespectfully but then heard, "I was just kidding" or "I didn't mean it, it was a joke."? How did it feel when your friend hurt your feelings?
- How do you know when a comment is mean rather than funny? How do we know when we have "crossed the line" and are no longer "just kidding" but participating in mean behavior?