

GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Greenwich, CT

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For Immediate Release:

GPS CELEBRATES *CARE FOR OTHERS - NAMES CAN HURT US DAY*
GHS Celebrates Names Day
Thursday, November 13, 2014

Greenwich, CT -Wednesday, November 13, 2014 – CARE FOR OTHERS - NAMES CAN HURT US DAY is one of many events organized by the Greenwich Public Schools this year as a way to promote a safe school climate by fostering social-emotional skills in our students and reinforcing the district's norms: *Be Here, Be Safe, Be Honest, Care for Self and Others, Let Go and Move On*. Greenwich High School will present the school's twelfth annual Names Day events and activities on November 13th as well. Using lesson plans developed by mental health professionals and teachers, schools across the District will participate in CARE FOR OTHERS – NAMES CAN HURT US DAY, highlighting the District Norm: "Care for Self and Others."

WHO: On November 13th, a majority of students in the Greenwich Public Schools will celebrate CARE FOR OTHERS – NAMES CAN HURT US DAY

WHAT: CARE FOR OTHERS – NAMES CAN HURT US DAY is a common initiative across grade levels to promote empathy, care for others and perspective taking. Teachers are provided with lesson plan ideas to use during morning meetings and advisory time. Students will be presented with scenarios (pictures and videos) and asked to brainstorm ways they can show care for others. Teachers will discuss the importance and benefits of caring for others in addition to ways to show care and empathy. A conversation will be held about how words can hurt others and ways to prevent this from happening. All media specialists in the district are assisting teachers by providing them with books and materials about caring for others. Students will engage in activities that are reinforcing the skills they have learned.

WHERE Greenwich Public Schools classrooms

WHEN: Thursday, November 13, 2014

WHY: The CARE FOR OTHERS – NAMES CAN HURT US DAY event is a meaningful initiative in two ways: First, it promotes empathy, care for others, and perspective taking among our students. Second, it creates an opportunity for fostering social-emotional learning and reinforcing the district norms.

HOW: Mental health professionals and teachers from many of the schools coordinated the event with the teachers, administrators and students in their respective schools. Lesson plans were disseminated structured around the theme CARE FOR OTHERS – NAMES CAN HURT US, encouraging teachers to implement them in their own creative ways.

Future events will involve parents and local community organizations as partners in this initiative, with the objective of supporting the social-emotional well being of all children in the Greenwich Public Schools.

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