



Morning Announcements

Incorporate these weekly messages into morning announcements to regularly promote a socially inclusive school climate. Classroom teachers can follow up by guiding a group discussion about each announcement and having students write or draw a response in their journals.



September: Friendship and Acceptance

Week 1: I'm excited because this month we're going to learn about friendship. Did you know that smiling at someone is a great way to start a friendship? A smile shows that you are friendly, and it can also make someone feel good. Try it this week. Let's make some new friends!

Week 2: Listen carefully to this quote: "The only way to have a friend is to be one." That's from a poet named Ralph Waldo Emerson. This week I'd like you to think about ways you can be a good friend. Try these ideas and pay attention to the results.

Week 3: September 18 is National Respect Day. When you show respect to someone, you act in a way that shows you care about them and accept them for who they are. This week I challenge you to try extra hard to treat others the way you would like to be treated.

Week 4: Did you know that people don't need to be alike to be friends? Students can be in different classes, look different, and act differently. Just think how boring it would be if everyone were alike!



October: Say "No" to Bullying

Week 1: October is National Bullying Prevention Month. A bully is mean to another person. Bullying is never okay. If you see someone being bullied, tell an adult right away.

Week 2: Have you ever felt left out at recess or during lunch? It's not a good feeling. This week I challenge you to reach out and be a friend to someone who is left out. Remember, smiling is an easy way to help someone feel better!

Week 3: This quote makes me think about bullying. Listen carefully and see if you understand why: "Wrong is wrong even if everyone else is doing it. Right is right even if no one is doing it." (St. Augustine)

Week 4: If everyone treated others with kindness, there would be no more bullying. This week, I challenge you to do something kind each day.



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November: Perseverance



Week 1: Have you ever heard the word *perseverance*? It's a long word that means trying your best to accomplish something even if it is difficult. This week think about times you needed to work extra hard to reach a goal. If you encounter a challenge, use *perseverance* to get through it.

Week 2: Some people need perseverance to solve math problems, or to read, or to write a great story. Some people learn fast and other people need more time. Remember, everyone can learn and succeed!

Week 3: Last week we talked about using perseverance to complete schoolwork. Did you know that athletes need perseverance, too? Even famous athletes need to work really hard to get better or stronger or faster. Showing perseverance helps in many aspects of your life.

Week 4: The harder you work for something, the greater you'll feel when you achieve it. Think of a time you accomplished something that was difficult. How did you feel? Remember that feeling the next time you're faced with a challenge.



December: Leadership



Week 1: All students can be leaders. Being a leader means setting a good example, helping others, and doing the right thing. This week keep an eye out for students who set good examples. Think about things you could do to be a positive role model.

Week 2: Sometimes leaders help people by doing small things that make a big difference. For example, a student leader might invite a classmate who is all alone to join a game at recess. Look for ways to help others this week.

Week 3: When someone says they look up to a person, that means that they admire him or her. This week think about someone you look up to and why. What's one great trait that they have? Is that a trait you might have, too?

Week 4: Listen to this saying: "Be somebody who makes everybody feel like a somebody." That quote is from the YouTube sensation known as Kid President. Think about a time someone made you feel good about yourself. Wouldn't it be great if you could make someone else feel the same way? Try it this week.



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January: Individuality

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Week 1: There is no one at school, in our city, or even in the world just like you. This week think about what makes you unique, such as the way you dress, your favorite foods, and what you like to do on the weekends. You are unique!

Week 2: Piglet from *Winnie the Pooh* by A.A. Milne is quoted as saying, "The things that make me different are the things that make me ME." Think about this quote and what it means to you.

Week 3: Do you like basketball? How about kickball? Reading? Computer games? The activities you enjoy make you who you are. Students' different interests make our school stronger and more diverse!

Week 4: This week, say something positive to someone about a trait that makes them unique. Maybe they're always smiling, they're very helpful, or they're fabulous at jumping rope. Let them know that you value their uniqueness!



February: The Power of Teamwork

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Week 1: There's a big football game coming up. (Add information about the Super Bowl teams.) Now's a perfect time to talk about being a fan. Some people show support for their favorite team by wearing team colors, waving a pennant, or cheering for them. Think about ways you can show support for students who participate in sports.

Week 2: Athletes on a team have different roles, but they work together toward the same goal. Think about your favorite sports team. How does teamwork make them stronger?

Week 3: The letters T, E, A, M spell the word *team*, but they also stand for "Together everyone achieves more." Think about how we can apply that saying to our school. What can you do to make our school a true team?


Week 4: Teamwork isn't just for sports; it's for classrooms too. Sometimes students team up to do a project or everyone pitches in to meet a goal. See how many things you can think of that are easier or more fun to do as a team.





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March: The Power of Words



Week 1: Did you know that words are powerful? Some words make people feel good. Even short phrases such as "Great job!" and "Way to go!" can make a huge difference to someone. Think about a time someone's words made you smile.


Week 2: Here's a great thought for the week: "It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice." That quote is from John Templeton, a man who donated money to help others. Look for ways that you can follow this advice.

Week 3: Some words, such as mean nicknames, are extremely harmful. The hurt they cause can last forever. Remind people that teasing isn't funny, and it isn't kind. Be sure to use people's real names unless they tell you a nickname that they like better.

Week 4: This week's challenge is to use only positive words. Don't say any put-downs. I'm sure you and the people around you will have a happier week!



April: Encouragement



Week 1: Do you know what *encouragement* means? It means giving someone support or hope. Picture someone running in a race who is so tired that he doesn't think he can keep running. The people on the sidelines call out, "You can do it!" That's encouragement. This week look for encouragement in your classroom, in PE, and other places at school.

Week 2: People encourage others in many ways. They might give a thumbs-up, smile, or say, "Keep trying; you're almost there!" See how many ways you can think of to encourage someone.

Week 3: Here's a challenge for you: This week demonstrate an encouraging attitude. Keep an eye out for anyone who seems discouraged. Be ready to say or do something that will cheer him or her up and inspire them.

Week 4: This quote makes me think of encouragement. Listen carefully and see if you can tell why. "Never get tired of doing little things for others; sometimes those little things occupy the biggest parts of their hearts." What does that tell you about encouragement?





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May: Taking Action

Week 1: This month we're going to talk about making a difference. That means doing something that helps people. Remember this quote from former President John F. Kennedy: "One person can make a difference, and everyone should try."

Week 2: In 1962, a woman named Eunice Kennedy Shriver did something that made a big difference. She held a summer day camp in her backyard for people with special needs. That led to the start of Special Olympics, now a worldwide program!

Week 3: Before athletes participate in Special Olympics, they say this oath: "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me brave in the attempt." This week think about why athletes and others should be brave.

Week 4: Eunice Kennedy Shriver is honored each year on July 20. It's a day for people to celebrate the work she did to make a difference for so many people. Remember Mrs. Shriver as you think about ways you can make a difference.

