

### KENTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

As part of our commitment to fostering social and emotional learning (SEL) in our school community, we are excited to introduce our new focus on belonging and inclusion! This means we are working to ensure that every child feels valued, accepted, and connected within our school community. We want all students to feel safe, respected, and confident to be themselves while building positive relationships with others.

Through classroom activities, discussions, and school-wide initiatives, we will help students develop important life skills like kindness, empathy, and respect for differences. Our goal is to create a school environment where everyone feels like they truly belong! Thank you for partnering with us in making our school a welcoming and inclusive place for all.

#### Here are some simple ways to encourage inclusion at home:

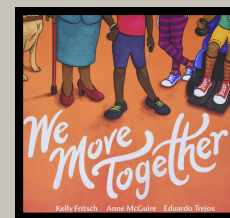
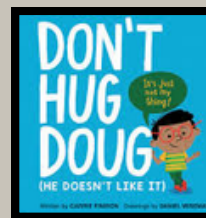
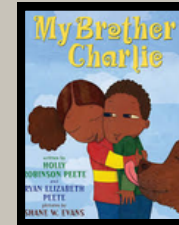
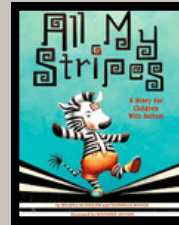
- **Encourage Open Conversations** - Having children express themselves is important.
- **Model Empathy & Kindness** - Show your child how to listen actively and consider others' feelings.
- **Practice Inclusion in Daily Life** - Encourage your child to ask others to play with them.
- **Use Positive Affirmations** - Encourage self-confidence with statements like, "You belong," and "Everyone has value."

### CELEBRATING DIFFERENCES

#### Here are some ideas to encourage your child to celebrate differences:

- **Talk About Uniqueness** - Discuss what makes each person special and why differences are great.
- **Read Diverse Books** - Choose stories with characters from different cultures, backgrounds, and abilities.
- **Explore New Cultures** - Try foods, music, or traditions from different parts of the world.
- **Use Inclusive Language** - Teach kids to speak kindly and appreciate others' differences.
- **Encourage Curiosity & Respect** - Help kids ask respectful questions and learn about others.
- **Highlight Strengths in Differences** - Show how diverse talents make teams and friendships stronger.

### APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH



### STAND OUT & BE YOURSELF

Wholehearted School Counseling

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>COLLECT UNUSUAL TREASURES</b> Like cool patterned rocks or vintage comic books.	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>TELL CAPTIVATING STORIES</b> Be the go-to for imaginative tales or spooky stories.
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>MASTER A UNIQUE SKILL</b> Juggling, magic tricks, or solving a Rubik's Cube.	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>CREATE YOUR OWN DANCE MOVES</b> Invent new steps or freestyle to your favorite songs.
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>BECOME A NATURE EXPLORER</b> Go on nature hikes, collect unique leaves, or observe animals in the wild.	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>INVENT CREATIVE SPORTS MOVES</b> Combine sports into one crazy game or make up your own moves.
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>INVENT YOUR OWN SLANG</b> Make up words or phrases that only your friends know.	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>BAKE WITH A TWIST</b> Create your own recipes like rainbow cupcakes or wild pizza toppings.
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>BE A TECH WHIZ</b> Design video games or build awesome websites.	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>BE A SCIENCE ENTHUSIAST</b> Conduct experiments at home or set up a mini science lab.
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>DRESS WITH FLAIR</b> Mix bold patterns, mismatched socks, or a funky hat.	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>DESIGN YOUR OWN GEAR</b> Customize your backpack, sneakers, or design T-shirts.
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>SHOW OFF YOUR ARTISTIC SIDE</b> Draw cartoons, paint murals, or make comic strips.	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>SHOW YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA SAVVY</b> Create a fun-themed Instagram account or make TikTok with your pet.
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>HAVE UNUSUAL HOBBIES</b> Bridlewatching, knitting, or building model airplanes.	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>GET CRAFTY WITH DIY PROJECTS</b> Make jewelry, build birdhouses, or upcycle clothes.
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>CREATE MUSICAL MASH-UPS</b> Play an unusual instrument or remix songs.	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>BE A TRIVIA MASTER</b> Know tons of facts about dinosaurs, space, or superheroes.
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>BE AN INVENTIVE DOODLER</b> Decorate sneakers, notebooks, or make mini comics.	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>WRITE POETRY OR LYRICS</b> Create poems, raps, or song lyrics that express your thoughts.

