

# Everybody Counts at Ballard East Elementary School



Dear Families:

This year we are introducing a new program at Ballard East entitled “Everybody Counts”. It is a program developed to teach our students an understanding of disabilities and those differences are not right or wrong, good or bad, just different and we can all be friends.

This program will run throughout the week of January 28 – February 1, 2018. The DMACC Teacher Academy students will run the program and have students learn about different disabilities through participation in a variety of activities in their classrooms. Each grade will have different discussions and activities about various types of disabilities. For example, in one grade level, students will learn about visual disabilities by participating in a trust walk.

Here is an example of the week’s schedule:

**Monday** – DMACC Teacher Academy students have discussions and rotate students through disability awareness activities for 30-40 minutes (All of 3<sup>rd</sup> and half of 4<sup>th</sup> Grade)

**Tuesday** – DMACC Teacher Academy students have discussions and rotate students through disability awareness activities for 30-40 minutes (Half of 4<sup>th</sup> and All of 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)

**Wednesday** – DMACC Teacher Academy students have discussions and rotate students through disability awareness activities for 30-40 minutes (All of 3<sup>rd</sup> and half of 4<sup>th</sup> Grade)

**Thursday** – DMACC Teacher Academy students have discussions and rotate students through disability awareness activities for 30-40 minutes (Half of 4<sup>th</sup> and All of 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)

**Friday** – Assembly

Feel free to ask your child what they learned about at school or what activities they participated in with the DMACC Teacher Academy students. Our goal is to teach students patience, appreciation, acceptance and understanding that Everybody Counts regardless of their ability or disability.

Read the poem on the back of this letter with your child as a great introduction to a fun and meaningful week of Everybody Counts at Ballard East Elementary.

Have a great weekend.

Ballard East Staff and the DMACC Teacher Academy

"Like Me"  
By Emily Perl Kingsley

I went to my dad and said to him,  
There's a new kid who's come to my school.  
He's different from me and he isn't too cool.  
No, he's nothing at all like me, like me,  
No, he's nothing at all like me.

He runs in a funnyish jerkyish way  
And he never comes first in a race  
Sometimes he forgets which way is first base,  
And he's nothing at all like me, like me,  
No, he's nothing at all like me.

He studies in a separate class  
And they say that it's called "Special Ed."  
And sometimes I don't understand what he's said,  
And he's nothing at all like me, like me,  
No, he's nothing at all like me.

His face looks kind of different from mine,  
And his talking is sometimes so slow  
And it makes me feel funny and there's one thing I know;  
He is nothing at all like me, like me,  
No, he's nothing at all like me!

And my father said, "Son, I want you to think  
When you meet some one different and new  
That he may seem a little bit strange, it's true,  
But he's not very different from you, from you,  
No, he's not very different from you."

Well I guess, I admitted, I've looked at his face;  
When he's left out of games, he feels bad.  
And when other kids tease him, I can see he's so sad.  
I guess that's not so different from me, from me,  
No, that's not very different from me.

And when we're in Music, he sure loves to sing,  
And he sings just like me, right out loud.  
When he gets his report card, I can tell he feels proud,  
And that's not very different from me, from me,  
No, that's not very different from me.

And I know in the lunchroom he has lots of fun;  
He loves hot dogs and ice cream and fries.  
And he hates to eat spinach and that's not a surprise,  
'Cause that's not very different from me, from me,  
No, that's not very different from me.

And he's always so friendly, he always says hi,  
And he waves and he calls out my name.  
And he'd like to be friends and get into a game,  
Which is not very different from me, from me,  
No, I guess that's not different from me.

And his folks really love him. I saw them at school,  
I remember on Open School Night --  
They were smiling and proud and they hugged him real tight,  
And that's not very different from me, from me,  
No, that's not very different from me.

So I said to my dad, Hey, you know that new kid?  
Well, I've really been thinking a lot.  
Some things are different . . . and some things are not . . .  
But mostly he's really like me, like me,  
Yes, my new friend's . . . a lot . . . like me.

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