

# News Release

## Springhurst Student Government Members Spread the Word About National “No Name-Calling Week”

**Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. January 21, 2015**— Springhurst Student Government representatives have been visiting each classroom in the elementary school to encourage their fellow students to actively support National “No Name-Calling Week,” happening January 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>. In schools across the country, students and educators are working collaboratively to raise awareness about the long-lasting and hurtful impact of name-calling and bullying and what can be done to eliminate it by reinforcing kindness and respect. Last year, Springhurst was proudly recognized by the Anti-Defamation League as a “No Place for Hate” school.

Several activities have been planned at Springhurst to support this effort:

- Student Government Representatives are presenting in classrooms and showing a video that focuses on “put-ups” rather than “put-downs,” followed by a demonstration to reinforce this concept. You can view the video by clicking here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sliERGN-134> (You’ll get the gist after the first 3 minutes!)
- Classroom teachers are facilitating activities that remind children of the benefits of positive language rather than name-calling. Parents should ask their child to share what he/she has learned. These activities are also meant to help build empathy and self-esteem.
- Families have been asked to create No Name-Calling posters and poems at home to display in the school hallways. These messages reinforce the use of positive words and behaviors such as kindness and respect and emphasize no tolerance for negative words and actions such as name-calling and bullying. This is a voluntary project. Posters are due back by January 26<sup>th</sup> and will be hung around the building to remind everyone to think before they speak and to use words that are “thumbs up,” not “thumbs down!”

“This initiative is also spearheaded by members of the Springhurst DASA/PBIS Committee and in particular 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Donna Misrok and social worker Patricia Clifford,” said Lisa Giannico Doty, Springhurst Assistant Principal. “We hope that No Name-Calling Week will help all students consider the weight of the words they use, continuing our ongoing efforts to make Springhurst a safer, healthier place for all of our children.”

Ms. Misrok and Ms. Clifford added, “While children have heard these messages from adults before, the peer-to-peer approach led by our Student Government representatives is a very effective way to get these important messages across. When children hear these messages from other children, they take on a different meaning. They can relate better. Furthermore, family involvement and commitment to these initiatives help solidify the home-school connection.”

According to Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing website  
<http://pages.simonandschuster.com/nonamecalling> "No Name-Calling Week was inspired by a middle school grade novel "The Misfits" by popular children's author (and former Hastings resident) James Howe. In it, a group of students organize a "No Name-Calling Day" at school. The first No Name-Calling Week was held in schools in 2004 and since then it has become an annual event in schools nationwide."

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**For more information, please contact:**

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