

Theme Day

By Peter & Ben

At Merriam School every year we have a tradition called Theme Day. It is twice a year ever year with all the students at Merriam. It happens with all of the students in Merriam, in a lot of the classrooms in fact almost all of them! It happens so the students learn the three Merriam core values: risk taking, persistence, and respect. Some teachers and Ed plan it every year. We interviewed Karen Sonner to tell us about the Theme Day we just had.

1. How did you think of the theme this year?
“Everyone has their own stories and are from different places so we thought it would be cool if people could tell their stories!”
2. How long have you been planning for this?
“Every June of the year before, we start planning Theme Day for the next year.”
3. Why did you do this theme?
“Different stories happen to different people, so we decided it would be cool if everyone could tell and share their stories!”
4. Who else was involved in the planning?
“This year we had a lot more people to help plan then in a long time the people were Ed, Alyson, Myrna, Kristin, Judy, Maryann Ayers, and myself.”
5. What did you want us to learn in this experience?
“We wanted to tell you that we all have differences which is okay and that we should listen to them (core value of respect). We’re risk taking by sharing them, we also show persistence is telling them or sharing them in many different ways.”

6. How did you think of the activities we did?
“Well, there always has to be a listening activity, this time it was storytelling. There also has to be a making or building something, which were the mini books. There always has to be a moving activity, which this time was the Mad Libs. If you have ideas for Theme Day you can write a letter to the Theme Day committee.”

7. How did the transitions go?
“Well, the older kids were good helpers for the little kids and it has been getting better through the years.”

The next Theme Day will be in spring and the committee will start planning in February, so if you have ideas write them to the committee and maybe they’ll use your idea!