



For Immediate Release

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Warren T. Jackson Elementary School Mixes It Up for Tolerance.

Atlanta, GA: On Tuesday, November 13, the second through fifth grade classes at Warren T. Jackson Elementary School are taking part in a nationwide campaign called *Mix It Up Day*, an event that encourages children to step across social boundaries that sometimes separate them from interacting with others within the same classroom, grade level, and school. Its purpose is to promote tolerance and glean a better understanding of those who are different and as such, may be “separated” in other ways beyond logistics, including race, gender, age, or even physical characteristics like weight.

During lunchtime, Jackson students will be asked to “take a new seat” so they can meet and interact with new people and make new friends. Lunch tables will be labeled by month, and children will sit at the table of their birth month. There, they will have an “interview” sheet to prompt conversation about each other. When they return to class, teachers will have a review period where students can recap their experience and share information about their new friends.

This event is just one of many exercises that supports the International Baccalaureate (IB) program for which Jackson Elementary is an officially recognized IB World School (currently, there are 116 World Schools in the US; 388 in throughout the world). Key to the IB curriculum is character education, where the following attitudes are explored: Tolerance, Respect, Empathy, Appreciation, Enthusiasm, (LAURA, what else?).

“At Jackson, we encourage our students to be risk-takers, and that often translates to stepping outside the comfort of one’s circle of friends to meet and get to know someone new and potentially very different. Along with our excellent academic curriculum, we see this “real-world” education as pivotal in developing stronger, more respectful and open-minded individuals,” noted Dr. Lorraine Reich, Ed. D, Principal. (LAURA: The quote can be from you or Dr. Reich; I’ll need correct title of either, and feel free to embellish the quote as well).

Mix It Up Day will be taking place around the country this Tuesday. Last year, more than 10,000 schools participated in the event.

The Mission Statement for the International Baccalaureate Organization: To develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the IBO works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programs of international education and rigorous assessment. These programs encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.