

"THE STORY OF MY NAME" SCHOOL-WIDE PROJECT

Why are names so important? Every name has an origin and a meaning, and as thinkers, as communicators, as explorers of personal identity and social connections, our name is an important part of who we are. Throughout history, it is often a person's name that is taken from them by an oppressor. For example, children removed from their family and sent to Residential School were not allowed to use their traditional name, and were given either a number or another name; prisoners in concentration camps during the Holocaust were tattooed with numbers.

As part of Carisbrooke's School Plan and our participation in the Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund project, we are working together as a community of learners to share the story of our name. Preliminary work has been underway during Library lessons over the past few weeks (read aloud books and discussion K-2, and read aloud books plus research 3-7).

With parent/guardian assistance, all students are to:

1. Research your NAME using books, the internet, and dialogue with your family.

Sites that may be of some assistance:

<http://nameberry.com/>

type "meaning of (your name)" into Google

<http://www.babynamespedia.com/>

<http://www.behindthename.com/>

Try to uncover the answers to the following questions:

What is the origin of your given name?

Who picked out your name, and how did they decide on your name?

~To honour a relative or a friend?

~For religious reasons?

~The meaning is significant?

~The sound of the name is pleasing?

~The name is fairly common (it's good to have a standard name)?

~The name is uncommon or unique (it's good to have an unusual name)?

~They got it from popular culture (song, movie, TV or book character, actor, musician, athlete, artist etc.)?

Does your name have any personal or cultural meaning or significance?

Why is your name special to you?

2. With assistance, please share the story of your NAME (why it is special and important to you) on the sheet provided (copy also available on the Carisbrooke website) and return to your classroom teacher no later than Wednesday, February 20th. The accompanying photo will be provided by the school.

