**National Geographic: “The Way We Are” A Telecollaborative Project Proposal**

As our Common Core State Standards for writing and social studies suggest, students in third grade should be exposed to collaborative learning through internet communication. For our students at CMES to meet this standard, we will be participating in the National Geographic *The Way We Are* global Telecollaborative project. This project involves students having ePals with students from across the nation. The ePals will be very similar to the pen pals that we previously used in instruction however; communication through email will allow conversations to be faster and more fluid which will enhance the overall project and communication between both parties. I can assure you that our students’ safety is of the utmost importance; for this reason the following safety measures will be put into place:

1. Accounts will be created for students by the teacher
2. Accounts and emails will be viewed and monitored by the teacher at all times.
   1. Level 1 security settings (the highest level) will be set on all student accounts to ensure messages are appropriate and relevant to discussions.
   2. Email messages sent and received will be reviewed by the teacher for approval before students can open or send them
3. Students will have instruction from the Digital Citizenship module prior to use of ePals collaboration.
4. Students will be expected to maintain the integrity of the program as well as the school when participating in the project.

Please review the ePals website or our class website for more information about the Telecollaborative Project by using one of the links below:

* [Classroom Project Webpage](http://cmesthewayweare.weebly.com/)
* [ePals Global Community Webpage](http://www.epals.com/project-detail.php?id=37fbcc34-11b5-4977-8daa-8a786489bb56)

My child, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, may participate in the National Geographic *The Way We Are: A Telecollaborative Project*. I have read and understand the terms for my child’s participation in the project.

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(Teacher Signature and date) (Principal Signature and date)

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(Parent/ Guardian Signature and date) (Student Signature and date)