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NEWS RELEASE

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GOVERNOR VISITS CHERRY HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL; EMPHASIZES HER "MANY FACES, ONE FAMILY" INITIATIVE

Gov. Christie Whitman today visited the Johnson Elementary School in Cherry Hill to read a book to a first grade class and to emphasize the significance of her "Many Faces, One Family" campaign to encourage a greater understanding of and appreciation for all people.

"Our appreciation and respect for each other and for New Jersey's diversity are further reasons why New Jersey is a great place to work, live and raise a family. My Many Faces, One Family program helps boys and girls and moms and dads remember to be nice to everybody, no matter what color they are, or how they look, or how they talk," the Governor told the students at a school assembly.

"It means being nice to people who are different from you. It means being nice to kids in class and in school because we are all part of one big family," Gov. Whitman said.

"Sometimes kids and adults, too, are not nice to other people. They may call them names, or pick on them because they don't look the same or talk the same. And what happens? The person who's been picked on feels sad, and then he or she may then be nasty to other people," Gov. Whitman said.

Following her talk, the Governor presented the school with a "New Jersey: Many Faces, One Family" flag.

"I hope you will fly it proudly here at Johnson Elementary School. But even better, I hope this flag will remind all the boys and girls here - every day - that even though we have different faces, we should be nice to each other because we are part of the same human family," she said.