

June 8th, 2020



Hello TEACH Families and Staff,

Again, as a school community, we find ourselves at a crossroads. In addition to all we are going through with Covid-19, the recent tragic events are also weighing so heavy on all our hearts, with the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and many more injustices. We have been bombarded with graphic images of communities hurting and in pain. This affects us all, staff and families included. Racial injustice is not limited to other parts of the country. This is experienced in our own community.

We, at the TEACH Program, stand against racism, hate, and other discriminatory acts. This is an opportunity to learn about our community and surrounding communities and the history of bias and racism in our country, while revisiting our school values. There are many ways to help, but you can have the biggest impact by simply talking with your family and friends about what is happening. If we were in classrooms, we'd be having these conversations.

The images from across our nation are hard to understand, but we must recognize the importance of coming together to raise children who demand equality and lead with kindness in their hearts and actions. There will be questions, comments, ideas, worries, and concerns. At the end of this letter is a compiled list of Race, Equity and Social Justice Resources for both children and adults to encourage discussions surrounding these topics.

As young as three years old, children are encouraged to participate in thoughtful dialogue - respectfully articulating their thoughts and opinions while listening to and learning from the perspectives of others. This respectful exchange of ideas while honestly addressing history and current events are essential skills for our future generations.

As a school community, we will continue to learn more, be better for our students, be louder for all, and practice love. We are deeply committed to coming together to build a better tomorrow. Should you have questions, concerns, thoughts, or ideas, or desire to engage in meaningful dialogue further please let me know. You are in our hearts and in our thoughts. We are stronger together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lyn".

Lyn A. Snow M.S.ABA CAGS BCBA/LABA
Principal/Director
TEACH Program
Haverhill Public Schools

Race, Equity, and Justice Resources

Below you will find a list of resources to encourage race, equity, and justice discussions. Some of the books for adults and parents address discrimination and racism at an adult level. This list is not exhaustive.

Books for Children:

[How to Read a Book](#) by Kwame Alexander and Melissa Sweet

[We Are the Change: Words of Inspiration from Civil Rights Leaders](#) by Harry Belafonte

[Ayobami and the Names of the Animals](#) by Pilar López Ávila

[Freedom on the Menu: The Greensboro Sit-Ins](#) by Carole Boston Weatherford

[The Dead Bird](#) by Margaret Wise Brown

[Something Happened in Our Town: A Child's Story About Racial Injustice](#) by Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins, and Ann Hazzard

[Mixed: A Colorful Story](#) by Arree Chung

[She Persisted](#) by Chelsea Clinton

[Last Stop on Market Street](#) by Matt de la Peña

[Just in Case You Want to Fly](#) by Julie Fogliano

[Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History](#) by Vashti Harrison

[Little Legends: Exceptional Men in Black History](#) by Vashti Harrison

[Teach Your Dragon About Diversity](#) by Steve Herman

[The Color of Us](#) by Karen Katz

[The Snowy Day](#) by Ezra Jack Keats (any book by Ezra Jack Keats!)

[Let's Talk about Race](#) by Julius Lester

[These Hands](#) by Margaret H. Mason

[A Kids Book about Racism](#) by Jelani Memory

[Say Something](#) by Peggy Moss

[All Are Welcome](#) by Alexandra Penfold

[Josephine: The Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker](#) by Patricia Hruby Powell

[Another](#) by Christian Robinson

[You Matter](#) by Christian Robinson

[We're Different, We're the Same](#) a Sesame Street book

[Layla's Happiness](#) by Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie

[The Skin You Live In](#) by Michael Tyler

[The Day You Begin](#) by Jacqueline Woodson

[The Other Side](#) by Jacqueline Woodson

[Windows](#) by Julia Denos

Additional Children's Book Lists:

[27 Books To Help You Talk to Your Kids About Racism](#)

[31 Children's Books to Support Conversations on Race, Racism, and Resistance](#)

[33 Books Featuring Black Heroes and Characters That Every Kid Should Read](#)

[50 Children's Books that Celebrate Diversity](#)

Books for Adults:

[The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarcerations in the Age of Colorblindness](#) by Michelle Alexander

[Blindspot: Hidden Biases of Good People](#) by Mahzarin R. Banaji and Anthony G. Greenwald

[How Does it Feel to be a Problem?: Being Young and Arab in America](#) by Moustafa Bayoumi

[I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness](#) by Austin Channing Brown

[The Fire Next Time](#) by James Baldwin

[Between the World and Me](#) by Ta-Nemisi Coates

[White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism](#) by Robin DiAngelo

[An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States](#) by Roanne Dunbar-Ortiz

[Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America](#) by Michael Eric Dyson

[Raising White Kids: Bringing Up Children in a Racially Unjust America](#) by Jennifer Harvey

[Good Talk: A Memoir in Conversations](#) by Mira Jacob

[Have Black Lives Ever Mattered?](#) By Mumia Abu-Jamal

[How to be an Antiracist](#) by Ibram X. Kendi

[Stamped From the Beginning: The Definite History of Racist Ideas in America](#) by Ibram X. Kendi

[When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir](#) by Patrisse Khan-Cullors and Asha Bandele

[Mindful of Race: Transforming Racism from the Inside Out](#) by Ruth King

[This Book is Anti Racist](#) by Tiffany Jewell

[The Guide for White Women Who Teach Black Boys](#) by Eddie Moore Jr., Ali Michael, and Marguerite W. Penick-Parks

[So You Want to Talk about Race](#) by Ijeoma Oluo

[An African American and Latinx History of the United States](#) by Paul Ortiz

[Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning](#) by Cathy Park Hong

[Citizen: An American Lyric](#) by Claudia Rankine

[The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America](#) by Richard Rothstein

[Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Be a Good Ancestor](#) by Layla F. Saad

[Just Mercy: The Story of Justice and Redemption](#) by Bryan Stevenson

[Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria and Other Conversations About Race](#) by Beverly Daniel Tatum PhD

[America's Original Sin](#) by Wallis

[The Fire This Time: A New Generation Speaks About Race](#) by Jesmyn Ward

[The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration](#) by Isabel Wilkerson

Online Resources:

[Anti-Racism Resources](#)

[Race by Age](#)

[Southern Poverty Law Center](#)

[Teaching Tolerance](#)

[We Need Diverse Books](#)

[White Privilege Conference](#) - Founded by Eddie Moore Jr.

[Your Kids Aren't Too Young to Talk About Race: Resource Roundup](#)

[Discussing Hate and Violence with Children Helping Students Make Sense of News Stories About Bias and Injustice](#)

[Talking to Children About Tragedies and Other News Events How to Support Your Child's Resilience in a Time of Crisis](#)

[Responding to Children's Emotional Needs During Times of Crisis](#)

Other Resources:

[How to Talk to Your Kids About Race](#)

1. Don't wait.
2. Educate yourselves first.
3. Make diversity a fact of life.
4. Start young.
5. Be aware of how conversations may be internalized.
6. Abandon colorblindness.
7. Seek out diversity.
8. Use your resources.
9. Commit.

Teaching Your Toddler to Be Anti-Racist

- Read books that feature families of all backgrounds.
- Actively participate in challenging your own racial biases.
- For white families, teach your child how to listen to BIPOC stories.
- Talk about white privilege and social inequities.
- Don't make excuses for relatives. Hold them accountable.
- Help children recognize that they don't have all the answers.

