

January 2021: Volume 1, Issue 5

THE DRAGONS LAIR

The Official Newsletter of daVinci Middle School counselors

Black Lives Matter & High School Transition

BLM IN SCHOOL

What you can do to address racism beyond focusing on MLK Day and Black History Month.

SOME RESOURCES

We've included some resources for talking about the January 6 attempted coup and some ways to give back on MLK day.

HIGH SCHOOL FORECASTING

All the information we currently have for HS forecasting - dates, times, etc.

Important dates & info

January 18 - No school on MLK Day. There are many opportunities in Portland to use this day as a way to honor his legacy rather than just a "day off".

Free Parent Workshop opportunity:

Thursday, February 4, 5:30-7:

[I Didn't Sign Up for This! Practical Guidance for Parents During the Pandemic](#) with Licensed Psychologist, Dr. Amy Stoeber and Parent Mentor, Raylene Edwards. This free workshop and series will: Address concerns and create a safe space for families to process stress in their current environment; Offer tangible tools for parents to support their children and manage overwhelming stress. Click [here](#) to sign up.

Need to talk with the counselor?

Ms Shannon (A-La) - Office Hours M-Th 1:00 - 1:45, code foxleyoh

Counselor Heather (Le - Z) - Office Hours M-Th, 1:00-1:45, code: heatheroh

Click [here](#) to access the PPS virtual calming room. TONS of resources



BLM at daVinci

Thank you to the families who read our last statement. For us those weren't just words, they are a truth that must continue to be examined. As we move into MLK Day and Black history month, we challenge all of our daVinci families to examine what it means to address racism beyond just a month or a day.

As a staff we are going to read *Me and White Supremacy* and work in small groups to unpack our own whiteness. How can you dig into this work? How can the white families at daVinci address their own white supremacy in their daily lives?

If you want a daily challenge join us in the 28 days of solidarity challenge with [Subduction Consulting](#). 28 days of reflection and discussion about SOLIDARITY: What is it? How can we build it? Is there any hope for racial justice and collective liberation without truly understanding it? Click [here](#) to go to the explanation page and to opt in.

Thank you for all you do to make the world a better place.

JANUARY 6 RESOURCES AND WAYS TO BE OF SERVICE ON MLK DAY

Regardless of your politics or feelings about the president, January 6 was no doubt a scary and confusing day. It was a day most people never thought they would live to see. On top of the stressors already present with covid, these actions can increase feelings of anxiety and stress for our students. Below are some resources to help you unpack what happened on January 6 and some links to things you can do on MLK day to give back to the community.

January 6 Resources

- PBS has a great [article](#) for classroom teachers on how to address the attempted coup.
- Although not January 6 specific, this [article](#) helps identify ways to talk with students when bad things happen.
- Here is another great [website](#) that you can go through with your children on how to talk about January 6.

Ideas for week of January 18

- On MLK Day join *Don't Shoot PDX* in annual Reclaim MLK Children's March. All info can be found [here](#). Please watch the event page as this might be cancelled for safety concerns.
- *Hands on Portland* has curated a list of covid safe activities. Click [here](#) for information.
- On January 20 watch the inauguration, talk with your student about what you are seeing, reach out to either counselor if you need more support.

HIGH SCHOOL FORECASTING

Q: Wait-- I thought I already forecasted my high school?

A: Don't worry! You already did forecast for which high school you are going to.

Q: So what is this?

A: The forecasting we are doing these next few weeks is for students to choose which classes they are wanting to take their freshman year.

Q: I have my neighborhood school forecasted, but I am petitioning to get into another school. Where do I forecast for?

A: You will forecast your classes for the school you are currently registered as forecasting for. If/When you get into the other school, they will help you sign up for classes, and the previous school will close out your forecasted classes.

Q: When can I choose my classes?

A: While there are not solid dates for all of our high schools yet, please look below to see important dates for your particular high school.

High School	Important Dates
Cleveland: Check your email for video, slideshow, and forecasting form.	January 19th: 4-5pm, Q&A Session January 22nd: Last day to submit forecasting form
Grant: Will do forecasting as a group	January 19th: 1pm, Screencastify event, followed by Q&A Session January 29th: Last day to submit forecasting form
Madison: Look for email January 15th	January 20th: 12:30pm, Video Q&A session February 5th: Last day to submit forecasting form
Franklin:	Starting after January 25th.
Lincoln:	Early February
Roosevelt	TBA
Wilson: Materials will be listed on their website	Starting January 19th
Jefferson: Will do forecasting after lottery	In February
Benson: Will do forecasting after lottery	TBA
MLC	TBA