

Dear Glencoe Families,

In light of everything that has been going on in our country and city this past week, I feel compelled to communicate with you before our newsletter at the end of the week. What has been transpiring in our country is heartbreaking. The death of yet another black male in our country, at the hands of a white police officer has left me sleep deprived, saddened and angry. I realize, as I write this that I am speaking from a place of privilege, not because of where I was born, how I was raised, or how hard I may work but purely due to the color of my skin. Today's world allows us to see some of these overt acts from all over the country through television and social media sites. However, there is so much more subtle racism, implicit bias, prejudice and outright acts of hatred that people of color endure every day that white people may not even recognize or notice.

As a white woman, I recognize that I have the privilege to decide if, when and how I want to talk about race. I am also aware that staying silent or not talking often enough to my family, friends, colleagues and students about race, justice and equality contributes to the problem. As a white woman in the field of education I feel even more compelled to speak out and speak up for our students and families of color who may not feel safe to do so, especially at this point and time. We are all responsible for effecting change and for doing something to dismantle the systemic racism that prevails in our country, state, city and community.

We say Glencoe is an inclusive community that cares, collaborates and perseveres and we teach and honor the acts of inclusion that we witness. But inclusion isn't just including or inviting others to be in a community. A true inclusive community takes acts of courage and moments of speaking up and standing with those who are oppressed or are made to feel less-than. To be an inclusive community that cares and collaborates we must educate our students (and ourselves) so we understand the true meaning of justice, equality and inclusion and the acts that must be taken to make these a reality in our current world.

As educators, we have the duty to examine our own biases, listen to those who are impacted, make sure our youth are taught about the history of race and systemic injustices and actively support social justice movements. If we were in our school and classrooms this week, our students would be talking to us and to each other about what is happening in our world right now. They would be asking questions and sharing their thoughts and fears about Covid-19, the deaths of people like George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor, police brutality, Black Lives Matter, protests, riots and city curfews.

As teachers, we would be holding class meetings, reading books and allowing students to dialogue, to speak up and protest in their own ways what is happening in our world. These conversations are not always easy, but they are important and necessary. It is not too early to have conversations about race and injustice with elementary children. On the contrary, I would say it is imperative to have those conversations. I applaud children and their willingness to ask questions and speak for what they believe to be true no matter who is listening. Our children are curious and wise and I believe, it is our job as adults to give them the knowledge and tools they need to help make the world a much better, stronger and more just place.

I understand that our families of color or families who are raising children of color, do not have the privilege to wait or not address these issues because they live them each and every day. I invite you, if you haven't already, to start talking to your child about these challenging topics. If your child hasn't been exposed to anything that is happening lately, you may want to start by reading some children's books as a catalyst for the conversations. If you are someone who is not sure where to start or how to respond to your child when they are asking you

questions about race, inequality, injustice or any of the other topics that may arise, I have listed some resources for you below. There are plenty out there so this is in no way an exhausted list. Just a place to get started.

**Resources:**

[Are Your Kids too Young to Talk About Race](#)

[A Kids Book about Racism](#)

[Talking with Children about Tragic Events](#)

[Talking with Kids about Protests](#)

[Resources for Talking to Kids About Race, Racism and Racialized Violence](#)

[A White Families Guide for Talking About Racism](#)

[Embrace Race](#)

[The Conscious Kid](#)

**Children's Books:**

[Black Books Matter](#) found on Conscious Kids website

[Embrace Race](#) - book list

[Juneteenth](#) for Mazie by Floyd Cooper

[Kamala and Mayas Big Idea](#) by Meena Harris

[Muslim Girl Rise](#)

[Mixed Me](#) by Taye Diggs

[Get Up, Stand Up](#) by Cedella Marley

[Say Something](#) by Peggy Moss

[Under My Hijab](#) by Hena Khan

[Same Difference](#) by Calida Rawles

[Be a King](#) by Carole Boston Weatherford

[Something Happened in Our Town](#) by Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins & Ann Hazzard

[The Other Side](#) by Jacqueline Woodson

Warmly,

Lori Clark

Glencoe Principal