

2/15/19

## Curriculum Morning and Anti-Bias Resources

We greatly appreciate the strong turnout of parents for the curriculum morning on Saturday. The 50+ adults in attendance, in addition to the 30+ students at the puppet show and craft activity, all found the morning to be fruitful and productive. Our curriculum presentations were ambitious. We worked to share curriculum topics including:

- geography - the mapping of the earth and the study of people and place, history and story, similarities and differences
- traditional Montessori materials and lessons with a geography focus
- how our curriculum encompasses diversity
- what we have learned regarding anti-bias and how that is changing us as people and as teachers
- how we have revised materials and the curriculum with our anti-bias lens.

We were thrilled with all the support and interest from parents. While much of the discussion focused on race, we are also doing work in the areas of anti-bias regarding economic status, class, gender expression, sexual orientation, religion, learning differences, ableism, etc. Many parents were interested in how they could further their own learning in the area of anti-bias generally and “white privilege” specifically. We have several initiatives ongoing and just starting that are open to parents:

- Many of you picked up the **resource list** that we provided. It is linked and also provided below for those who weren't in attendance or didn't get a copy. Please check out the

readings, podcasts, and videos noted. They are materials that have helped us staff grow further in this area.

- There is interest in starting a **Parent Anti-Bias Training/ Book Group/Discussion Group** for parents to engage in these topics. Elizabeth Fisher (UE parent) is coordinating this, beginning with a meeting to develop the goals and structure of the group. Please contact her if you are interested in participating in this training: **Elizabeth Fisher - (802) 257-8584**
- We will be growing our school collection of anti-bias/diversity books for all ages. We will be developing more wish lists and also a lending library that will be available for families to **borrow books for children and adults**. Sarah Swank (CH parent and Hilltop alum!) has offered to lead this up. If you are interested in helping with this please contact **Sarah Swank - (202) 270-8508**

In addition to those activities, we have some school focussed activities:

- **Equity and Anti-Bias Work Group** will be re-established (formerly the Diversity/Equity Taskforce) to be an ongoing group to identify areas for improvement in diversity/equity and to measure progress. See notes from the Board below and contact Board Member, **Heather Lesage**, if you are interested in participating in this ongoing group.
- We will also be engaging interested parties in working to make our marketing and branding more welcoming and accessible. If you have ideas about this, please contact Tamara.
- And, we will be working to better address the teaching of "whiteness" and white privilege. If you are interested in working with us on this, please contact Tamara.

And, we aren't the only ones working on this topic. Rosie Wojcik (parent to children in LE and MS) alerted us to a speaking event at Keene State next week by Jennifer Harvey, author of "Raising White Kids: An Anti-racism Conversation for All". See the "Community" section for more information. We might have a group leave from the school in the Hilltop Van and maybe go to dinner afterwards! If you would like to carpool with us, contact Tamara .

## **Anti-Bias Resources - Race Hilltop Montessori School Curriculum Morning - 2/9/19**

### **Books**

Irving, Debby, *Waking Up White*

Kendy, Ibram X., *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*

Oluo, Ijeoma, *So You Want to Talk About Race*

Tatum, PhD, Beverly Daniel, *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?*

King, Ruth, *Mindful of Race: Transforming Racism from the Inside Out*

Louise Derman-Sparks and Patricia Ramsey, *What if all the Kids are White?: Anti-Bias Multicultural Education with Young Children and Families*

### **Articles**

"Equity Literacy for All" by Paul C. Gorski and Katy Swalwell

"White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack" by Dr. Peggy McIntosh

### **Websites**

Building Anti-Racist White Educators, <https://barwe215.weebly.com/>

<https://debbyirving.com>

<http://montessoriforsocialjustice.org>

<http://www.dismantlingracism.org>

### **Podcasts**

*Believed*

*Codeswitch, "Can We Talk About Whiteness?"*

*Other: Mixed Race in America*

*Radio Lab, "Border Trilogy"*

*Scene On Radio, "Men"*

*Scene On Radio, "Seeing White Series"*

## **Films**

*Harvest of Empire*

*Race: The Power of an Illusion*

*Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible*

*25 Mini Films for Exploring Race, Bias and Identity with Students*

*Deconstructing White Privilege with Dr. Robin Di Angelo* <https://vimeo.com/147760743>

## **TED Talks**

*Ngozi Adichie, Chimamanda, "The Danger of a Single Story"*

*Dass, Angelica, "The Beauty of Human Skin in Every Color"*