

NORTHERN PARKWAY SCHOOL

Uniondale Public Schools
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Visit us at <http://nps.uniondaleschools.org>

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“Where Greatness Begins”

Dr. Bilal Polson
PRINCIPAL

Dr. Sheilah Jefferson-Isaac
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Ms. Iraida Bodre - Woods
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

April 23, 2021

Dear Families,

On Tuesday, April 20, 2021 the verdict for the murder of George Floyd was announced. When the news of former police officer, Derek Chauvin, found guilty of all accounts was announced they were varying reactions of excitement, sadness, anger, vindication etc. Many of us were not sure of what the outcome was going to be. My initial reaction was surprise and relief and then quickly I went back to my mindset of thinking about the work we must do as educators in name of justice. Unfortunately the murder of George Floyd is not a new occurrence...and continues to happen.

Northern Parkway School (NPS) is a place where topics such as this are discussed and shared on all grade levels. One of the things you will hear our teachers at NPS say is that we are here to let our children know that they have a voice (Jefferson-Isaac, 2021, Boardman, 2020, Vidal 2016).

We watched this trial, saw the witnesses give their testimonies and a jury make a decision. We want our scholars at NPS to be able use their voice and understand their power of choice as Darnella Frazier did with her use of a cell phone. This is the reason why this work of social justice is important to us at NPS.

We approach this work at NPS by building relationships with the scholars (Bodre-Woods, 2021, Boardman, 2020). *Morning Meeting* is a long standing practice at Northern Parkway (Jefferson-Issac, 2021, Responsive Classroom, 2016). Starting our school days with *Morning Meeting* in the classroom gives an opportunity to build community in a safe place. It is with trusting relationships and the connections made with children that allows us to approach difficult conversations.

Below you will find some resources that have been used in the classroom and that you could use at home. We invite you to share any resources that you come across or use when you are having important conversations with your families.

When we say Black Lives Matter at Northern Parkway School we say those words as an affirmation, as a healing call and an invitation to our whole school family to be in community with people of color locally and globally. As a school community, we honor the culture, history and languages of our students and their families. We will continue to celebrate the Indigenous, African, Caribbean and Latinx cultures that connect us and embrace the beauty in this blending in our community

Sincerely,




Dr. Bilal Polson

Resources for Children Teachers and Families:
Say Something Peter H Reynolds
Morning Meeting Responsive Classroom
This Book is Anti-Racist Tiffany Jewel
Anti-Racist Baby Ibram, X. Kendi
Lets Talk About Race Julius Lester
So You Want To Talk About Race Ijeoma Olua
Where Are You From Yamile Saied Mendez

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23 de abril del 2021

Queridas Familias,

El martes, 20 de abril del 2021 se anunció el veredicto en la muerte de George Floyd. Cuando la noticia indicó que Derek Chauvi, fue declarado culpable de todos los cargos, hubieron reacciones diferentes como alegría, tristeza, enojo, vindicación, etc. Muchos de nosotros no estábamos seguros de cuál iba ser el resultado. En mi primera reacción estaba sorprendido y aliviado pero muy pronto mis pensamientos regresaron al trabajo que nos toca hacer como educadores en el nombre de la justicia. Lamentablemente, la muerte de George Floyd no es una nueva ocurrencia...y aun sigue sucediendo.

La escuela Northern Parkway (NPS) es un lugar donde estos temas se comparten y se discuten en cada grado. Una de las cosas que puedes oír de nuestros maestros es que aquí le enseñamos a los estudiantes que tiene una voz (Jefferson-Isaac, 2021, Boardman, 2020, Vidal 2016).

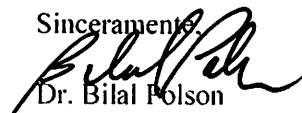
Miramos este juicio, vimos los testimonios de los testigos y la decisión del jurado. Queremos que nuestros académicos puedan usar su voz y entender el poder en sus decisiones como lo hizo Daniella Frazier con el uso de su teléfono celular. Esta es la razón por la cual el trabajo de la justicia social tiene tanta importancia para nosotros en NPS.

Nosotros abordamos este trabajo construyendo relaciones con nuestros estudiantes (Bodre-Woods, 2021, Boardman, 2020). La Reunión Matutina es una práctica de muchos años en Northern Parkway (Jefferson-Isaac, 2021, Responsive Classroom, 2016). Comenzando el día escolar con la Reunión Matutina en las clases, brinda la oportunidad de construir comunidad en un lugar seguro. Es esta relación de confianza y las conexiones formadas con niños que nos ayuda a abordar conversaciones difíciles.

Debajo vas a encontrar algunos recursos que se usan en los salones de clase y que usted puede usar en su hogar. Los invitamos a que comparta recursos que usted ha usado para apoyar conversaciones difíciles con su familia.

Cuando decimos que Las Vidas Negras Importan aquí en Northern Parkway, decimos estas palabras con afirmación, como un llamado a la sanación y una invitación a toda nuestra familia escolar de estar en comunión con personas de color localmente y globalmente. Como una comunidad escolar, damos honor a las culturas, historias y lenguajes de nuestros estudiantes y sus familiares. Siempre vamos a celebrar las culturas Indígenas, Africanas, Caribeñas y Latinas que nos conectan y abordamos la belleza que existe en esta mezcla de comunidades.

Sinceramente,


Dr. Bilal Polson
Director

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