Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

Rumor has it that an article describing discrimination at View Ridge is coming out in KUOW soon. We don't know the details of the event or article, so we can't comment specifically. Regardless of what the article says, however, the truth is that it happened on our watch. It is our responsibility, as a community, to address racism, ableism, and bullying at View Ridge in their many explicit and implicit forms.

Our Goals
We are looking to change collective policies and culture, as well as individual hearts and minds. We are working to open forums for our community: educational forums for white parents to address racism in their own sphere, and support forums for families of color to share stories and find community. We will develop a community charter centered around anti-racist values. We are actively changing the culture, so that when staff, parents and students speak up - they are heard. We will help connect resources for teachers and families looking to decolonize their curriculum, values, and homes. We are here to advocate for families who are being discriminated against at View Ridge. We hope to work toward restorative justice in our community.

It is our mission and responsibility to provide an inclusive, equitable space for all kiddos at View Ridge, regardless of race, gender expression, ability, religion, socio-economic status, or cultural background. We invite you to join us at our virtual EquiTeas:

EquiTea on Wednesday, December 2nd at 7:30 PM (all are welcome)

Agenda: "We Have Work To Do"

1. Opening Statement: Regardless of what happened, we are all complicit, and we are here to create a space of healing. This is not a place to point fingers or argue details. Come to listen first - then there will be time for questions, ideas, and concerns.

2. Goal of this Meeting: How do we acknowledge this trauma in our Community? How do we change and grow?

EquiTea on Saturday, December 5th at 10:30 AM (specifically for parents and families of BIPOC and/or biracial students)
Agenda: "We are Listening"

1. Opening Statement: This is a safe space to share your stories, ideas, and concerns.
2. Goal of this Meeting: How do we support each other and create a community connection?

Let us create a safe space to listen, learn, and grow. Please come with an open heart and an empathetic ear. 

Please email for more information. Link to the events.

**District Meeting with our School Board Representative**

Join Seattle Council PTSA for the District 3 Meeting with SPS School Board VP, Chandra Hampson.

When: **Dec 9, 2020 07:30 PM Pacific Time**

Register in advance for this meeting here.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

**Special Education Community Forums**

Join Seattle Public Schools to share your experiences during pandemic period. All sessions will be facilitated, and language supports will be available. If interested in participating, please email the Special Education Department for SPS.

- Vietnamese & Chinese Bilingual Family Community: Friday, 12/4, 6:30-8:00pm.
- Spanish Bilingual Family Community: Friday, 12/11, 6:30-8:00pm.
- Native Indian & Pacific Islander Family Community: Friday, 12/15, 6:30-8:00pm.
- Black Family Community: Tuesday, 1/12, 6:30-8:00pm.
- Somali & Oromo Bilingual Family Community: Friday, 1/15, 6:30-8:00pm.
- BIPOC Family Community: Tuesday, 1/19, 6:30-8:00pm
- Amharic & Tigrinya Bilingual Family Community: Friday, 1/22, 6:30-8:00pm.
- All Special Education Families: Tuesday, 1/26, 6:30-8:00pm

**Reminders, Updates, Etc.**

- The **Coat Drive** is still going on. Please bring new or gently used coats to Library Check-out.
- Please support our virtual **Giving Tree** this year. More information.
- Please coordinate with your room parents for **Teacher & Staff Holiday Giving**. If you do not know who your room parent is, please email Tracy Osheroff.
- **VRE Apparel** is on sale now! Check out the selection and place your order by 12/2.
- **Principal Meeting** will not be held this week, but will resume again next Tuesday at 9:15 am. Meeting link coming soon.
- Please join us for the **PTA Board Meeting** next Tuesday 12/8 at 7:00 pm.
The Otter Know is published during the school year once a week on Tuesday, with an Otter Know Update on Friday if needed. Articles for the Otter Know are due the Thursday before the Tuesday publication. Articles can be sent through the website, or to the Communications Committee.