



June 2, 2020

Dear Staff, Parents and Guardians,

As an educational institution, Norwell Public Schools stands firmly against racism and institutional racism. Recent events have exposed the pain and anguish that accompany racism nationwide. As a school community, we strive to bring people together, find common ground, and care for one another. We recognize that, as an institution, we must continuously examine how we can promote the humanity of all of our students. We work to create an inclusive community, where individuals can be heard and supported in a safe environment. We are being challenged to listen to and reflect upon the deep divides in our country.

During this time of closure, we seek to be a partner and a resource to students and families. Our students are being exposed to unjust acts, protests, unrest, and violence through media and social media. This can be confusing for students depending on their age and where they are developmentally. Our school counselors and administrators are available to listen if you have questions or concerns. We are here as a resource and to provide assistance if desired. We are gathering resources for our staff and we will make them available to the school community as well.

Below are some resources that have been pulled together. We will make these available on our website and add additional resources as they become available.

### **Families**

Children's books:

- Angie Thomas: "[The Hate You Give](#)"
- Jacqueline Woodson: "[The Day You Begin](#)"
- Marianne Celeno: "[Something Happened in Our Town](#)"
- Vashti Harrison: "[Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History](#)"; "[Little Legends: Exceptional Men in Black History](#)"

### [ADL Children's Literature](#)

- During this time of crisis and change, many are home with children of all ages. If you are looking for books to read, ADL's collection addresses issues of identity, bias and bullying. Our featured books come with discussion guides for teachers and parents.

### [ADL Table Talk: Family Conversations about current events.](#)

- [Table Talk: George Floyd, Racism and Law Enforcement](#)

How to talk to your children about racism:

- [Talking to Children About Protests and Racism](#)
- [Your Kids Aren't Too Young to Talk About Race](#)

Child Mind Institute

- [Talking to Kids about George Floyd](#)

National Association of School Psychologists

- [Understanding Race and Privilege](#)

American School Counselor Association Resources

- [Race and Equity Resources](#)

## **Teachers**

Books for teachers/ adults to read:

- Layla Saad: "[Me and White Supremacy](#)"
- Ijeoma Oluo: "[So You Want to Talk About Race](#)"

Resource for developmentally appropriate materials to address racism:

- <https://thebrownbookshelf.com/>

What to Watch/ Listen To:

- 13th (Netflix)
- NPR: [Code Switch](#)

National Association of School Psychologists

- [Understanding Race and Privilege](#)

## **Town**

All Are Welcome Committee of Norwell

- Supports Plymouth's Peaceful Community Vigil, Wednesday, June 3 at 6:30 PM
- Official letter to follow, on website
- [2020 Race Amity Day Virtual Event](#), Sunday, June 14 at 4:00 PM
- AAWC and NSTV present [South Shore Diversity Spotlight](#)

Sincerely,

Matthew Keegan

Superintendent of Schools