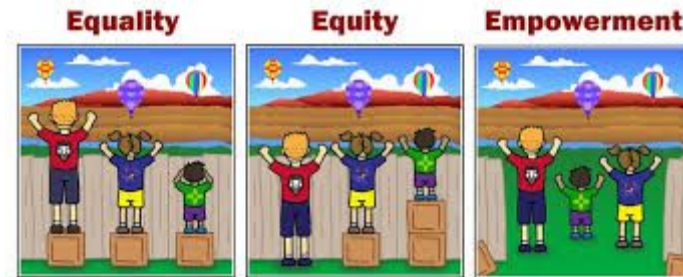


Barnstable Community Innovation School Committee for Social Justice Newsletter Volume One ~ November 2020



PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Your input matters! Please follow the link at the end of this Newsletter to complete a short survey.

Our History

BCIS' 2019/20 Equity Imperative stated, "Last year's data indicates that biases may exist that influence our teacher's perceptions of and interactions with students in the subcategories of African American and Hispanic. Throughout last year, our BCIS staff engaged in Professional Development to:

- Identify strategies to support students' unique intellectual and social development by documenting, analyzing and responding to all with equity.
- Develop strategies to identify and confront biases that may influence our perceptions and interactions with students in the subcategories of African American and Hispanic."

After George Floyd was killed, our staff felt compelled to take more significant action. We formed our Committee for Social Justice. We have met weekly since then, and have created our Mission Statement, and developed a plan for action that we have begun to implement success.

Our Mission Statement

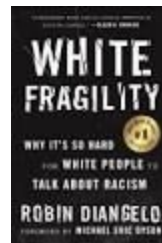
We are united as a school community in our commitment to increase our cultural competencies, ensure equity, and actively take action to eliminate racism, while providing all of our students with the best educational experience possible. Our collective will and resolve is for our students to leave this school as

happy, culturally informed, productive citizens, brilliant scholars and advocates for social justice.

Our Subcommittees

Within the Committee, there are two subcommittees: Family and Community and Teaching and Learning. Some of the actions taken by the groups thus far are highlighted below.

- **White Fragility Book Club**



Over the Summer of 2020, members of the Committee participated in the Barnstable Public School District-Wide Book Read and discussion organized by BHS Dean of Students, Hope Taylor.

White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism is a 2018 book written by Robin DiAngelo about race relations in the United States. An academic with experience in diversity training, DiAngelo coined the term "white fragility" in 2011 to describe any defensive instincts or reactions that a white person experiences when questioned about race or made to consider their own race. In *White Fragility*, DiAngelo views racism in the United States as systemic and often perpetuated unconsciously by individuals. She recommends against viewing racism as committed intentionally by "bad people". From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

- **BCIS Social Justice Landing Page with Links to Resources and Information**

● Social Justice Curriculum Development

Grade Level Teams and our Specialists Used Teaching Tolerance Social Justice Standards to develop a Curriculum Map, Units, and Lessons for Kindergarten through Grade 3, focused upon four domains:

Identity ~ September-November

Diversity ~ December-February

Justice ~ February-April

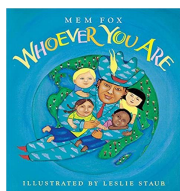
Action ~ May-June

Link to Social Justice Standards

https://www.tolerance.org/sites/default/files/2017-06/TT_Social_Justice_Standards_0.pdf

● Parents/Guardians Survey on Racism

Over the Summer, we surveyed BCIS families about racism. The information collected is being used by the BCIS Social Justice Committee to inform our efforts and actions as we work to better our school.



● Our Community Partnership

We partnered with HYSOY (Hyannis Supporting Our Youth) and our PTO to purchase individual copies of “Whoever You Are”, by Mem Fox that were read aloud in all of our classroom and given to every BCIS student.

“Every day all over the world, children are laughing and crying, playing and learning, eating and sleeping. They may not look the same. They may not speak the same language. Their lives may be quite different. But inside, they are all alike. Whoever you are urges us to accept our differences, to recognize our similarities, and-most importantly-to rejoice in both.”

Follow the link below for a digital read-aloud:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0J6tKoT53Y>

● **BCIS Staff Professional Development**

Over the past year, staff at BCIS have participated in training focused upon Racism, Equity, Implicit Bias, Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain, Key Social Justice Standards, Identity

● **Our Next Steps ~ Increasing Family Connections**

The more we can form authentic relationships and connections with all students and their families, the more we will understand. Knowing more about a student's family life can help teachers and schools, better fit that student's needs or interact more efficiently with families. The best predictor of student success is the extent to which families encourage learning at home and involve themselves in their child's education.[1]

We most sincerely hope to recruit parents/guardians, and community members who represent our diverse community, to join our committees, an/or participate

in activities and initiatives that will increase our school community's cultural competencies, to ensure equity, and to take action to eliminate racism. Through this work we will increase our school's capacity to provide the best educational experience possible for all our students.

[1] PTA, N. (2000). *Building Successful Partnerships: A Guide for Developing Parent and Family Involvement Programs*. (pp. 11-12). Bloomington, Indiana: National PTA, National Education Service.

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING THE COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Upcoming Meeting Dates: 11/16, 11/30, 12/7, 12/21
Time: 3:45-4:45

ZOOM LINK:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72451649787?pwd=cTNqc2t6Z2NtSVNmQ3ZFUU5oa1o0dz09>

BCIS PARENT/GUARDIAN SURVEY LINK

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd_opVaCd9RIVboG_IEyjAHjSxi7hgKebNpJgTKDoHcPf8QTw/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0&gxids=7757

OUR BCIS DISPLAY CASES

