



Charmie Curry <curryc@wellesleyps.org>

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Updates

1 message

WPS Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion <dei@wellesleyps.org>
Reply-To: "WPS Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion" <dei@wellesleyps.org>
To: curryc@wellesleyps.org

Mon, Apr 12, 2021 at 12:25 PM

Dear colleagues,

Last week marked the first day of our 21-Day Racial Equity Challenge. If you have not registered yet, we encourage you to do so here. You can visit our website, created just for the Challenge! The Challenge is one small way for us to learn about the impacts of race and racism, and how we can collectively work to accomplish racial equity in our school community, our nation and our world. There are even challenges for students - both elementary and secondary! This year, we have hit 187 participants, up from 125 last year, with more than 45 percent of participants being WPS parents/community members!

As we began the Challenge, we also invited you to join our Solidarity Campaign. In Wellesley Public Schools, we are committed to our equity mission. Equity means that we work every day to remove barriers to equity, to dismantle and eliminate all forms of bias and discrimination. Sometimes, this work puts us in the crosshairs of those who find this mission to be a threat. When we recently held a healing space for our Asian and Asian American students and faculty, we received some hateful messages. This was hurtful and disappointing. Yet, our commitment to equity couldn't be stronger; an intentional, strategic effort to ensure all members of our community can experience a deep sense of belonging, especially members of our community who have experienced (and continue to experience) marginalization.

How Can You Stand in Solidarity?

Make a short video - 30 seconds or less - explaining what solidarity means to you. Upload your video here. Please upload your videos ASAP! We want to make a video montage to display voices in solidarity.

The Office of DE&I Is Looking for Equity Facilitators for SY21-22

We are looking for 7 equity facilitators to fill spots at five elementary schools, one at WHS and one at P.A.W.S. This internal opportunity is open to all staff members. We will release the job description to all staff during the week of 4/26, and aim to fill positions prior to the end of this school year.

As part of the Office of DE&I spring office hours, we will also host an informational session for anyone interested in learning more about the role of equity facilitator.

Spring Office Hours:

April 27, 2021, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

ID: 81861169685 Passcode: J0WyBRXt

Equity Literacy Institute Coursework

There is still plenty of time to enroll in the two required courses - "Understanding Equity and Inequity" and "Learning to Be a Threat to Inequity" - in the ELI before the June 30 deadline. These courses, with a keen focus on helping us to build/sharpen our structural ideological lenses, are essential to our ability to address inequities in our community. Our students who are being impacted by inequities such as racism, homophobia, ableism, etc. need us to be equipped to respond today to their needs in order to positively impact their experiences. Courses are in TeachPoint PD or you can access them directly here.

Reach out to dei@wellesleyps.org or bailowc@wellesleyps.org for any questions!