



June 2, 2020

To the Princeton Day School Community,

I had planned to write to you this week, to thank you for the commitment and support you have given our collective work of the last ten weeks. Now, the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, along with events across our nation and in the heart of some of its great cities, call to us to act and respond. As eager as I am to write that first letter, it will have to wait.

This is the week of celebrations at our school. This morning we honored the fourth grade, tomorrow the eighth, and on Friday our seniors. As we honor all they have done, so we look forward to all they will do: Commencement, after all, is but a beginning. As we regard the world into which they will walk, we may grow unsure of the welcome they will receive in a world that, for this moment, seems inhospitable. At times, I have struggled to find the words to guide them and the courage to do so.

We've witnessed an upheaval in our country, through which many believe the common truths with which we strive to live and raise our children—equality, hope, generosity, understanding, justice—are in peril. People of color find that the nation they love resembles a foreign land. United in a fight against a virus we cannot see, we find ourselves instead at war with one another.

But as our community has responded so well to this horrible virus, so must we unite to vanquish the viruses of racism, injustice, bigotry, and hatred, scourges on the land and people we love. We call upon those who lead us to wrest advantage from this chaos. Those leaders who remain silent at this moment must find their voices. Those leaders who seek to divide us must find the wisdom to bring us together. Those who seek mercy, justice, and equality—whether they hold an office or carry a placard—will lead us to the place we seek: an America renewed.

As we have done often in times of confusion and strife, the Princeton Day School community will find strength in what unites us: hope, resilience, and the dedication to the children we serve. In that

pursuit, we've begun conversations with students in the Middle and Upper Schools, through advisory and our many affinity groups. Today we paused our Upper School schedule, so that students and faculty could participate in Blackout Tuesday. At tomorrow's meeting of the Community and Multicultural Development Team, we will consider ways to broaden the support of parents and students. Tomorrow will also bring the first meeting of the Black Faculty affinity group. There is much more to come. There is so much more to do.

As the faculty continues its work with our students through the close of school Friday and beyond, the school has collected a catalog of resources for parents. Compiled by Director of Counseling Samantha Dawson, Sandy Wang, Renée Price, and Trixie Sabundayo, each of them will help guide and inform the important conversations to come.

Lower School

<https://www.apa.org/res>

<https://www.embracerace.org/resources/supporting-kids-of-color-in-the-wake-of-racialized-violence-part-one>

https://www.tolerance.org/sites/default/files/general/beyond_golden_rule.pdf

<https://thehumanist.com/commentary/white-people-can-work-racial-justice>

Middle School and Upper School

From the American Psychological Association:

<https://www.apa.org/res/parent-resources>

<https://www.apa.org/helpcenter/kids-discrimination>

A Lesson Plan for supporting Middle and HS students:

<https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/diversity/social-justice/social-justice-lesson-plans/talking-about-race-and-privilege-lesson-plan-for-middle-and-high-school-students>

Supporting Marginalized Students in Stressful Times:

<https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/diversity/social-justice/supporting-marginalized-students-in-stressful-times-tips-for-educators>

<https://www.embracerace.org/resources/supporting-kids-of-color-in-the-wake-of-racialized-violence-part-one>

On this day, as our youngest students finished their school year and threw open the doors to summer, we must do everything in our power to ensure that they are safe and welcomed, wherever they wish to go and whatever they choose to be and become.

To the community I love, I pledge my support to each of its members. With my faculty colleagues, please know that I stand ready to help in any way I can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PJS', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Paul J. Stellato
Head of School