



June 10, 2020

To the Princeton Day School Community,

The campus is still this afternoon as members of the Athletic Center construction crew have left for the day. On Saturday, members of the Class of 2020, together with their parents and members of the faculty, participated in the Panther Parade. At the start of the week, we learned of the untimely passing of long-time member of the faculty, Pete Higgins. By week's end, in cars painted and festooned with signs, seniors and their parents made their way through the circle, past Behr House and Baker Field, exiting at the School's north entrance. In the days before, fourth and eighth graders marked the end of their years through virtual closing exercises. The senior class and their parents gathered for the Baccalaureate celebration and, two days later, virtual Commencement.

At the same time, a great national movement continues to unfold, as thousands have taken to the streets to decry a tide of racism and intolerance that blights the land. They rally around the names and stories of three taken too soon—George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery—and the memory of many others who sought—but were denied—the justice they deserved. They call upon those in power to look into their own hearts, so that they might root out the racism, intolerance, and hatred that lingers in the institutions they lead.

From within our own community have come messages of support and expectation, as alumni, students, parents, and faculty have urged our School—have urged me—to do the same within our School. They have challenged us to do more than we have ever done. They have challenged us to listen. I accept and embrace those challenges.

At the start—and at the heart—of our work are stories of members of our community who self-identify as Black—students, parents, faculty, and alumni—or are parents of Black students. To understand their experiences, our School's leadership must hear those stories. Beginning Thursday, June 11, we will hold the first of five town hall meetings with parents and students who self-identify

as Black or are parents of Black students. For each, I will be joined by Board Chair Rebecca Bushnell '70 and members of the Board of Trustees; division heads Dr. Sandy Wang, Renée Price, Trixie Sabundayo, and Chris Rhodes; Community and Multicultural Development Team Chair Anthony McKinley, and other members of School leadership. With these Zoom-based calls we will encourage parents and students who self-identify as Black or are parents of Black students to share their experiences at Princeton Day School, so that my colleagues and I can understand those experiences more completely and take steps to fulfill our School's promise to all of its members. They are scheduled as follows:

Thursday, June 11

**Parents in PreK-Grade 6**

Monday, June 15

**Students in Grades 7-12**

Tuesday, June 16

**Parents in Grades 7-12**

Wednesday, June 17

**Students in Grades 5 and 6**

Monday, June 22

**Alumni**

Each town hall will begin at 7:00pm and last for one hour. We will schedule additional meetings as there is community interest in doing so. In the coming days, I will add alumni town halls to this list.

**Zoom links are included here** for each town hall meeting. **Additional access information** (phone-in access information, etc.) **will also be available through the Parent Portal.** To access the Parent Portal, click on the [Login to Inside PDS](#) link here. This link also appears on the top of the [pds.org](http://pds.org) homepage.

In the coming days, I will share a longer list of the steps we are taking, as we strive to do a better job to become a better, more welcoming school. Our commitment to this work will be measured out in years, not in days. It will be a sustained, enduring school priority. It will include the entire community,

not just a few of its members. It will stretch from our youngest students to the members of the Board of Trustees.

Thank you for your continued support of our School, as together we strive to demonstrate our respect for every member of our community.

Sincerely,

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

Paul J. Stellato  
Head of School