



DIVERSITY NEWS AT PCDS

12/2020

As 2020 closes, we must look at the progress we have made in equity and justice and not rest on these laurels. There is so much work to do, and we are pushing forward.

This month's highlight was student and faculty participation in the virtual Student Diversity Leadership Conference (SDLC) and People of Color Conference (PoCC). Six students attended SDLC; this is the maximum that a school is allowed to register.

These students and two chaperones booked rooms at the Embassy Suites Biltmore to focus on the conference. Students spent each day listening to speakers, meeting with affinity groups, and "family groups." Each evening, we would gather to discuss what was learned and what we could bring back to PCDS.

Concurrently, ten faculty and staff members attended the PoCC virtual conference. They stayed home to listen to webinars and speakers on equity and justice in teaching and learning.

SDLC students have already set up a meeting with the administration to discuss what they learned and what we can do at PCDS to further social justice.

PoCC attendees are meeting this week to share their experiences.

The Jewish Club leaders created a video explaining Hanukkah customs and traditions that was shared with all divisions. Kindergarten used that video to read books and hear how students celebrate.

Classes continue to focus on inclusivity in their daily lessons.

Fifth-grade teacher Shannon Burke learned about youth climate activist Greta Thunberg in their class. Lower School students learned the importance of helping others by donating toys to Arizona Helping Hands. The Upper School Genocide class heard a forensic anthropologist talk of her study of human remains from mass violence in Cambodia.

The faculty SEED group (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) read children and young adult books of their choice to discuss how they can use these in their classroom. Their next reading is "Caste" by Isabel Wilkerson.

The DEI office has many great books to loan if you are interested. Contact Jenny Treadway at jenny.treadway@pcds.org.