

January 7, 2021

Dear Princeton Day School Families,

In these challenging times, we want to partner with you, as always, to support our students and our community. The events yesterday in the Capitol have added another stressor in this already difficult period. This may cause feelings of worry, confusion and anxiety for our children and for all of us. It is a hard time to be physically distant, but as a community we will continue to mutually support and console each other and discuss ways for positive change to occur.

Today during school we will offer a range of developmentally appropriate forums to assist students in processing these events. Our faculty and staff will talk with students, monitor their reactions and work to help them feel safe and heard. Our counselors are available for any student who requires support. If you would like to speak to a counselor, email us at the address below and our faculty will also direct students to counselors as needed.

Below are some resources offering guidance on speaking to children of all ages about violence, race, politics and traumatic events.

Talking to Children About Race and Violence In America

Talking to Children About Violence (NASP)

Talking Politics with Your Kids, Advice for Parents

Helping Children Cope with Frightening News

Anti Defamation League- Helping students make sense of things that they are seeing and hearing about in the news

Please feel free to contact any member of the Student Services team if we can be of assistance:

Samantha Dawson, Ph.D., <u>sdawson@pds.org</u> Director of Counseling and Learning Specialists/Upper School Candy Shah, M.D., <u>mshah@pds.org</u> Medical Director Cloey Talotta, Psy.D, <u>ctallota@pds.org</u> MS School Psychologist Elizabeth Loughlin, <u>eloughlin@pds.org</u> MS Counselor Ashleighann Young, Ph.D, <u>ayoung@pds.org</u> LS School Psychologist Nina Keller, <u>nkeller@pds.org</u> Head Nurse

Sincerely,

Samantha Dawson, Ph.D. Director of Counseling and Learning Specialists