



DIVERSITY NEWS AT PCDS 2/2021

We have had the opportunity to celebrate both Lunar New Year and Black History Month in February. Our Parent Association Enrichment committee decorated the Lower School and Middle School with lanterns and panels for Lunar New Year. Special snacks were served, and we were all entertained by the dragon dancers in the morning. Lower School parents donated books on the Lunar Year to the Lower School library. The Upper School advisor groups made their decorations under the direction of Ms. Chen. They also had special snacks and lunch.

We also celebrated Black History Month. We realize that black history is not relegated to just one month, but wanted to celebrate and recognize the black culture's rich history during this time. We work to have this history in all of our curriculum throughout the year. The Lower and Middle Schools, aided by the Parents' Association, watched videos, read books, and enjoyed a special snack and lunch.

Upper School advisor groups each received a portion of the Amanda Gorman Inauguration poem, "The Hill We Climb." They are using poster boards and mixed media to represent their section of the poem. These will be displayed at the end of the month.

Professional development, albeit by Zoom, is still essential to our faculty. We have attended workshops on hiring and creating an antibias, antiracist school put on by ISAS. We will continue to offer these opportunities to our community.

The student leaders of IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Acceptance) have had a hectic month. They are continuing to research affinity groups for the Upper School and had a meeting with a PCDS parent who is well-versed in how these work. They have presented their ideas to the Upper School Administration. They have met twice with some fourth-grade girls for a pizza lunch and discussed how to be a strong female leader. They will continue these talks to help prepare them for middle school. They presented a Kahoot Black History quiz for the Upper School advisor groups. We all learned a lot about a variety of topics in Black History.

The IDEA team recently had a Zoom meeting with students at New Way Academy to discuss some ideas that they can use to begin their DEI work. We hope to be able to collaborate in the future.

The Middle School DEI team presented a workshop on how to audit your curriculum for diversity and equity at a Middle School faculty meeting. The DEI team shared several tools, and departments had the opportunity to break out and discuss what they are doing in their curriculum to promote and teach equity and inclusion.

We continue to work toward a more equitable school and welcome any thoughts, ideas, questions, or concerns.

Please note this great new resource titled "[Confronting Prejudice: How to Protect Yourself and Others](#)," published by Pepperdine University's online Master of Psychology program. There is so much great information on implicit bias, prejudice, and becoming an ally and advocate for change.