

To Our WEDS Community,

After sitting with our grief over the horrifying events that took place on Tuesday in Atlanta, Georgia; our school is speaking out because **we will not perpetuate silence around racism and acts of violence.**

This attack has left us heartbroken. More violence, rooted in racism, has now taken the lives of eight people: six of whom were Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) identified women. Racially motivated hate crimes have become all too common, and we have seen a steep increase in targeted violence towards Asian Americans during the pandemic. According to *Stop AAPI Hate*, almost 3,800 recorded hate incidents have occurred against people of the Asian-American/Pacific Islander community over the past year alone. We cannot allow this to continue.

As educators and as human beings, West End Day School cannot and will not accept these acts of violence as a commonplace occurrence in our community, city, and country. We recommit our pledge to you, our community, that we remain dedicated to dismantling and examining systemic racism and its detrimental effects. This loving school will always be a safe haven for our students to process these unimaginable acts that are even beyond our own comprehension. **We remain committed to teaching ourselves and our students the history and danger of oppression and to celebrate everyone for their differences and commonalities.** We will not stop this work and we hope you will join us in doing so.

We Stand Together.  
The West End Day School Team

