

Latest news and bulletin updates

Marla Posey-Moss & Adam Sheingate

### Happy Fall, Y'all!

#### Previous meeting highlights:

Welcome to a new year together with the Parent Diversity Committee (PDC)! The PDC is an extension of the Parents' Association (PA). The PDC seeks to inspire, encourage and guide RPCS families in embracing and celebrating our common humanity and the inherent worth of all people through the discussion and ideas related to DE&I in a respectful, collaborative manner and showing of support for the efforts and activities of the RPCS Office of DE&I. The committee's efforts are focused on fostering unity, education, awareness and consideration of our community members and their needs.

We hosted our first Parent Diversity Committee meeting on October 6, 2021, in the Trustee Seminar Room on campus and via Zoom for those wishing to attend remotely. It began with a warm welcome from the Head of School, Caroline Blatti. Mrs. Blatti reaffirmed the critical work of the DEI office and the PDC and spoke to her excitement to see parent/guardian involvement.



November is a time to celebrate the rich and diverse cultures, traditions, histories and to acknowledge the significant contributions of Native Americans.

The latest updates to get you through the day

### Previous Meeting Highlights cont'd

Executive Director of DEI, Dr. Tawanda Owens, described upcoming plans for her office and discussed the office's focus on the ABCs of DE&I (Awareness, Belonging & Community). There will be more to come about this topic. We also met, virtually, the inaugural Assistant Director of DE&I, Lisa Norton. Mrs. Norton spoke about her enthusiasm to be a part of the RPCS community and foster a great partnership with parents/guardians. We then broke into smaller groups to discuss ideas for future PDC events and broader hopes and expectations surrounding the support of the DEI office at RPCS. We were grateful for the participation we received from parents/guardians who were able to attend and tasked everyone to bring another parent/guardian with them to our next meeting, which will be held on December 1, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. Further details regarding the location and Zoom link will be communicated closer to this date.

We hope you enjoy this new communication format we are implementing. Our goal is to remain connected with parents/guardians when we are not meeting physically/virtually.

The newsletter will be published at the beginning of the months when we are not meeting in person, i.e., November, January, March, and May. This resource is a great way for you to stay abreast of and engaged in the work of the PDC and DE&I office. That being said, we are always open to your feedback and ideas.

If you have any information, you'd like to share that may help us grow as a community, please send it to [rpcsparentsassociation@gmail.com](mailto:rpcsparentsassociation@gmail.com).

Thank you in advance and again, welcome to a new year!

**Your kids watch you for a living. It's their job; it's what they do. That's why it's so important to try your best to be a good role model.**  
—James Lehman

EmpoweringParents.com

### A next meeting ask:

Each One, Reach One

December 1, 2021 at 6:30pm

We are seeking greater attendance for the PDC and could use your help. We ask that you encourage another parent/guardian to join you. Next meeting bring a friend or two! ☺

### Will you [join us?](#)



### BIPOC Business

Support with Care

November - December

The DEI Office will be supporting the [Baltimore American Indian Museum](#) both personally and professionally. Each month we support a different business. See more below.

Dr. Tawanda Owens & Mrs. Lisa Norton

## The latest breaking news of the day

The latest updates to get you through the day

What an exciting start to a new year together with you, the new chairs of the PA and PDC! We are excited for this year together. We want to provide some highlights of DEI campus events, lessons, professional developments, and workshops and the like for you to be aware of. We just wrapped up a month celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month (NHHM). NHHM is celebrated from September 15<sup>th</sup> - October 15<sup>th</sup> to recognize the achievements and contributions of Hispanic Americans who have inspired others to achieve success. Students were able to have meaningful class discussions, engaging student guest readers, well-researched “Did You Know” table tents and carefully considered bulletins around the campus for students to learn, grow and celebrate NHHM.

The DEI continues to support both personally and professionally Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), or Small Family-Owned Businesses monthly. These businesses are owned and or operated by folx, who might identify *differently*. Our initial focus is the Maryland area first, with possible expansion to other states. Each month, we share a business of choice to support for the month, and if you choose to support them, it would be much appreciated. Last month (September 15 – October 15), we supported [Taco Fiesta!](#) Taco Fiesta offers a wide variety of well-prepared food with “fresh, authentic Mexican ingredients” that’s sure to have you coming back for more! It was a great way to stay connected in the community and support a current RPCS family too!

RESOURCES for YOU:

These resources are provided to stay engaged on your journey within DE&I. While all these resources may not work for you, select one and *try it on to see how it fits*. Our goal is to offer information that could reach and stretch you in ways that strengthen your awareness. See what you think:  
[30 Everyday Phrases that Perpetuates the Oppression of Indigenous Peoples](#)  
[How to Start the Conversation about Racism Podcast](#) (14:12)  
[Talking to Kids about Racial Equality](#) (4:42)  
[How to Respond to Disability Curiosity from Kids](#) \$2.99  
[Under My Hijab](#) (\$18.95)



Every small step in the right direction counts. Start the walk. – Dr. Owens



US Students enjoyed reading books to LS students. Seeing oneself reflected in books, professions and in real-time matters. Both students and teachers enjoyed these readings.

The scoop of the day:

This month, the Middle School hosted a virtual author visit with Newbery Award-winning author [Linda Sue Park](#). Ms. Park is the author of many excellent books for young readers, including the 2002 Newbery Medal winner *A Single Shard* and the New York Times bestseller *A Long Walk to Water*. Over the summer, our Middle School students were asked to read one of three of Ms. Park’s books, *Prairie Lotus*, *The One Thing You’d Save*, or *Forest of Wonders*. Many of Ms. Park’s books wonderfully highlights Korean and Korean American history and culture. Her most recent titles are *Prairie Lotus*, a powerful work of historical fiction, and *The One Thing You’d Save*, a series of interconnected poems. She is also actively involved in the non-profit and grassroots organization [We Need Diverse Books](#). During her visit, Ms. Park described her research and writing process for several books and encouraged students to ask of historical accounts, “Who else was there? Whose stories are missing?” We are grateful to our wise librarians, Suzanne Fox and Bev Edwards, for choosing Ms. Park as a visiting author.

## The latest breaking news

### Intentional Professional Development for Teachers

This summer, all RPCS faculty read the book *Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain* by Zaretta Hammond. Lisa Norton, Assistant Director of DEI, and Sara Rollfinke, Director of Teaching and Learning, will lead three sessions with each division throughout the year. The first session was an intentional step building on *Awareness* and Discovering Our Cultural Frame of Reference and discovering what it means to be a “Warm Demander.”

The faculty have been fully immersed in learning and growing together as they cultivate their sense of *Awareness*. This year and beyond, the DEI Office will center developments on what we call the ABCs of DE&I – **Awareness, Belonging, and Community**. As we move through the year, we will take a close look through the lens of *Awareness* in all that we do. We will examine our *Awareness* of self, others, and our community and welcome you to join us. Let’s grow together.



Photo by Sonya Sones

Ms. Park is a dynamic speaker. MS students were so engaged and offered many questions to Ms. Park. She provided valuable tips and life lessons encouraging students to keep pushing for their dreams.