



Diversity  
Equity  
Inclusion  
Justice

*A monthly update on the  
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice  
work happening at NGFS*

*December 2021*

## ALL SCHOOL

Our Whole School Holiday Meeting for Worship included songs about different holiday traditions, including Hanukkah, Christmas, Diwali, and Kwanzaa.

## GUILFORD CAMPUS

- A Child's Garden (Preschool, Pre-K, TK) students learned about winter holidays, including Christmas and Hanukkah.
- Sunrise (Kindergarten) students learned about Christmas in Mexico, Germany, & Italy. They also learned about Eid, Kwanzaa, and Hanukkah.
- As a class service project, Rainbow (grades 1-2) collected items, such as travel size toiletries, laundry detergent, and socks for the Interactive Resource Center. The IRC is a day center that provides services for people experiencing homelessness.
- Horizon students (grades 3-4) began their Countries of the World unit. In addition, all of their small group book clubs for this trimester feature main characters from immigrant families or who have different cultural backgrounds.
- Galaxy students (grades 5-6) discussed the historical importance of Marie Curie (our read aloud book) as one of the first prominent women in science.
- In Art, students participated in a discussion of what all winter holidays have in common, which is light, specifically candles, such as Menorah, Kwanzaa candles, and candles in church and other celebrations. To learn about Hanukkah, they read *Simon and the Bear: a Hanukkah Tale*, and discussed how the main character's beliefs helped him.
- On Friday, Dec. 17, the school day in December we had our Lower School Meeting for Worship outside, gathering together for the first time since March 2020. The theme of the book we read was peace and it had a wonderful message of inclusivity. We enjoyed singing songs about different holiday traditions.

## PAGE-FREDERIKSEN CAMPUS

- In MS English, students read a series of articles about the connection between Forrest Carter, author of the recent class read *The Education of Little Tree*, and Asa Carter, racist, known klansman, organizer of KKK affiliated paramilitary group, and writer of former Alabama Governor George Wallace's infamous "Segregation now, Segregation tomorrow, Segregation forever" speech. Students unpacked the meaning of two articles on Carter, researched questions formulated by students to fill in gaps in understanding, and discussed questions such as: *Does an author's background matter, and if so, in what contexts and why? Can a person with strong-held beliefs which seem to undergird much of their life change their worldview? What considerations must be taken into account when faced with Carter's deception in regard to The Education of Little Tree?*
- MS History students studied major World Religions with our unit focus shifting to the Abrahamic religions in the last two weeks. We concluded our lessons on Judaism on the final

day of Hanukkah which included a circle discussion and review game of "Onion Ball". We studied Christianity and discussed the influence of Judaism on the emergence of today's most practiced religions of Christianity and Islam.

## *STAFF DEVELOPMENT*

A Child's Garden Teacher Lorenza Wyatt and Assistant Director of Athletics Serena Witherspoon attended the week-long virtual People of Color Conference in early December. Conference highlights included sessions on belonging, identity, and building bridges. Keynote presentations included:

- Soledad O'Brien's presentation on belonging:
  - "How do you push for belonging in your community? Belonging lets you analyze the way you can do things better."
  - "Students who feel a sense of belonging feel trust...and trust leads to better learning and allows students to persevere."
- Johns Powell's presentation on structural racism, ethnicity, and democracy
- Liz Kleinrock's presentation "Start Here, Start Now: A Guide to Anti-bias and Anti-racist Work in Your School Community"

Lorenza and Serena came back with ideas for working with adults and students in our NGFS community.

## *Stay Tuned for What's to Come*

For Horizon's Countries of the World unit, each student will research a country around the world. The class will have a wide variety of countries represented. They will be learning about geography and landmarks, festivals and celebrations, and more to discover and appreciate our similarities and differences. They will also host guest speakers who have lived in

We will have our annual Whole School Meeting for Worship in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Friday, Jan. 14. Teachers at all grade levels will also teach about Dr. King during class lessons.

We are planning this year's Black History Month activities. Lessons will begin in all grade levels on Tuesday, Feb. 1.

another country for an extended period of time or have extensive knowledge of another country/culture. So far, they have guest speakers scheduled to share about Ghana, Korea, Germany, Tunisia, Canada, and Vietnam. During this unit, they will be reading aloud books that highlight appreciating and celebrating diversity.

