



Diversity Equity Inclusion Justice

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

October 2022

GUILFORD CAMPUS
Lower School

- Crocus (Preschool) talked about limb differences, such as having one leg. They shared stories about Spanish cultures and enjoyed learning about different foods that come from South America.
- Irises (Pre-K) enjoyed the book “The Fiesta Dress” as part of their celebration of Hispanic Heritage month. Crocus and Iris friends celebrated together with a feast of fruits and vegetables from Hispanic countries. Children sampled avocados, pineapple, and jicama. Many stretched themselves to try foods they had never heard of before. Students also made an empanada with the apples the class purchased on a field trip to a local farmer’s market. Thank you to Carlos, a Crocus dad, for visiting and helping with the empanadas.
- Sunflower (Pre-K and Transitional Kindergarten) students also celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month by reading books and making quesadillas during storytime.
- The Sunrise (Kindergarten) class highlighted some of the languages the class’s families speak at home, in addition to English. Students use those languages (Italian, Chinese, and Spanish) in their Morning Meeting greetings.
- In Rainbow (grades 1-2), students read “I Am Enough”, by Grace Byers, an actress and activist who is multiracial and CODA (child of deaf adults). The book depicts

PAGE-FREDERIKSEN CAMPUS
Middle and Upper School

- In celebration of National Coming Out Day a student member of the Upper School lunch group GLOW (gay, lesbian, or whateer) made a flyer to share with the community.



- On Upper School Service Day, one service group worked in the kitchen at New Garden Friends Meeting and baked treats for a bake sale at the Fall Unity Festival. Proceeds from the bake sale went to some of our service site partners.
- 10th and 11th grade English students recently finished their unit on Native American literature. Among other things,

diverse body shapes and skin tones. It is an ode to loving who you are, respecting others, and being kind to one another. With their Galaxy (grades 5-6) buddies, Rainbow read “You Are Enough”, inspired by Sofia Sanchez, an elementary school student who has Down syndrome. It is about focusing on and appreciating what makes each of us unique and special.

- Horizon (grades 3-4) anthropologists worked on a four-week project in unit study. Each student created a diorama of how Native American ancestors lived in a particular region. They learned about what each region's environment was like, weather, landforms, natural water supply, plant life, and animals. They learned about influential Native Americans in our world today, such as Nicole Aunapu Mann, the first Native American woman to go to space. She also served as the mission commander. Horizon students also recognized Indigenous Peoples Day.
- Galaxy (grades 5-6) students learned about the history of voting rights in this country. For the culminating activity, several students are researching topics related to DEI, such as the suffragette movement and important 'firsts' in American history, such as Jeanette Rankin, Shirley Chisholm, Thurgood Marshall, and Sandra Day O'Connor.

the unit focused on uncovering Native American stereotypes and the Eurocentric views that form them, the consequences of cultural appropriation and our responsibilities to confront it, and encountering and engaging with authentic Native American voices. Throughout the unit, students participated in what Alexis Wiggins calls spider web discussions, which are completely student-led. The final spider web discussion of the unit asked students to consider the significance of the overall objectives alongside the work they were completing for their individual projects. English teacher Chris Shipman shared, “The result was the most profound, impassioned, and worthwhile discussion I have ever had the privilege to facilitate.” Students also completed projects using a variety of approaches, such as well-researched essays covering the issue of poverty and inequity on reservations to presentations on recent examples of cultural appropriation.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- Galaxy teacher Tracey Bouchard and Upper School Learning Specialist Lauren Dean attended Autism and the Predictive Mind, Absolute Thinking in a Relative World. They found this day-long session to be informative and beneficial.
- Staff Affinity Groups, focused on race and identity, began meeting in October.
- Page-Frederiksen Campus (PFC) Professional Development Day - Equity Literacy Framework: Analyzing Cases
- Galaxy teacher Neil Swenson recently read the book “Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do” by Jennifer Eberhardt.

Stay Tuned for What's to Come

- In November we will highlight Native American Heritage Month.
- Seniors Gillian, Lily, and McRae will be honored as Equity Champions at the North Carolina for Community and Justice (NCCJ) Annual Citation Award Dinner next week on Wednesday, Nov. 9. Among the work they have been doing, they plan and host Quaker Meetings focused on various topics of equity and inclusion.

