



Diversity Equity Inclusion Justice

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

April 2023

GUILFORD CAMPUS Lower School

- In Crocus (Preschool) they read “Flower Garden” by Eve Bunting.
- In Iris (Pre-K), the teachers created visual representations of diversity in classroom and calendar imagery. They recently read “How to Find a Fox” by Nilah Magruder.
- In Sunflower (Pre-K and TK), a family presented about Passover. A parent taught the class some Sign Language. During Free Choice Time students explored different music (African drums, Paris Cafe, Caribbean steel drums, Hawaiian hula, etc).
- In Sunrise (Kindergarten), the class celebrated Eid-al-Fitr with some snacks and henna. They shared a little bit of kindness with the school by making cards for the teachers at Guilford Campus. Sunrise read about Simone Biles and watched an incredible video of her completing her floor routine in Japan to “Tokyo Drift.” The class appreciated watching her talents, but were also really impressed by her story in “Flying High” by Michelle Meadows about Simone being willing to fail again and again, but never giving up on her dream to fly. Students also learned about Alia Muhammad Baker, Edith Houghton, Terry Donahue, and Elizabeth Blackwell.
- In Rainbow (grades 1-2), the class had several discussions about the ripple effects of kindness. They read “How Full is Your Bucket? For Kids”, by Tom Rath and Mary Reckmeyer. This book uses the metaphor of a bucket and a dipper to illustrate that when we choose to be kind, we not only fill the buckets of those around us, but also fill our OWN bucket! Conversely, when we choose to say or do unkind things, we are dipping into buckets. Students shared how good it feels to be a bucket filler and brainstormed ways to be kind in the classroom. Carolyn (Head of Lower School) visited the class to share puppet shows on the topic of peaceful conflict resolution. The students engaged in a discussion about how to solve problems peacefully and how to not make problems bigger by pushing. Students talked about getting help from an adult, using your words, or walking away.
- In Horizon (grades 3-4), Carolyn (Head of Lower School) shared a couple of puppet shows, a great way to talk about social-emotional dilemmas and have students weigh in on how the characters may be feeling or could respond. One scene was about what to do if you see someone treating a classmate unkindly. Students did a great job brainstorming possible solutions including saying stop, checking on the other classmate, and getting a teacher.
- As part of their North Carolina unit study, Horizon traveled to Raleigh to visit the North Carolina Museum of History. They walked through “The Story of North Carolina” exhibit, which depicts life in N.C. from its earliest indigenous inhabitants through the 20th century, featuring both well-known and everyday people who helped shape our area.
- Galaxy (grades 5-6) students learned about industrialization and workers’ rights in the late 1800s and did a simulation about a union of workers in an 1800s mill. They created interactive timelines about the experience of African Americans, Native Americans, women, and immigrants as a culminating activity in their 1800s unit. They kicked off their celebration of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month by making connections to the history of Asian Americans in the 1800s in the United States.

PAGE-FREDERIKSEN CAMPUS
Middle and Upper School

- In Middle School English, students read the novel “One Crazy Summer” by Rita Williams-Garcia. Each class held discussions regarding the plot, characters, and themes in the book. Students turned their notes into a graphic journal composed of images, quotes, and their perspectives on themes, such as speaking one’s own truth, family, and race relations in the late 1960’s.
- In Middle School History, students learned about the “Roaring 20s”, including these topics: prohibition, presidential elections, consumerism, pop culture, nativism, civil rights, women’s rights, first amendment rights, the Harlem Renaissance, and the stock market crash of 1929.
- On Friday, April 14, the student group *GLOW* (gay, lesbian, or whatever) and their allies participated in GLSEN’s annual day of silence protest. They presented their teachers with a card identifying their intent to not participate verbally in class. Students prepared for the day by making buttons and laminating cards. The intent of the annual protest is to remain silent for those who are voiceless, notably the LGBTQ+ community.
- On Friday, April 28, Margaret Rowlett from the Greensboro Earth Quakers came to the environmental science and Biology classes and shared the work and mission of the local Quaker environmental action club. She shared methods and strategies on how to mount an environmental campaign and gave a status report on how to successfully ask for climate action. They have achieved a resolution for Greensboro to be 100% carbon neutral by 2050 and a goal of Guilford County Schools to also be carbon neutral in their new construction.
- In Spanish, students discussed nature preservation and the effects of climate change in Latin America.

Stay Tuned for What’s to Come

Staff affinity groups will meet again in May, continuing discussions of race and how to create an inclusive, anti-racist environment.

On May 11, we will recognize No Place For Hate Day, with the theme “Proud to Be an Ally.”

May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.