



Diversity Equity Inclusion Justice

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

November 2022

<p style="text-align: center;">GUILFORD CAMPUS Lower School</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PAGE-FREDERIKSEN CAMPUS Middle and Upper School</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For our campus Meeting for Worship in November, the student Quaker Life service group hosted. They read the book “Same, Same But Different” by Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw and led singing after silence, including a rousing rendition of “We’re All A Family Under One Sky”. ● A Child’s Garden Sunflower class (Pre-K/TK) read different versions of “Stone Soup” as they learned about comparing and contrasting stories. Students reenacted the story to make their own rendition, and many class activities connected to the story. The tale of “Stone Soup” centers around people thinking they have nothing to give, but one by one start to add one small ingredient to the pot until they realize they have created a delicious meal by sharing and working together. The class continued this idea by working together to collect non-perishable food items that they donated to a community church to make Thanksgiving meals for those in need. ● The Sunflower class also read a number of books celebrating Native American Heritage month, such as “Sometimes I Feel Like a Fox”, “You Hold Me Up”, and “We Are Water Protectors”. They did a read aloud and drum along story where the children used drums to tell the story and learn new Cherokee vocabulary. They also had a guest speaker from the Navajo tribe come and speak to their class, along with the Sunrise (K) class, about what it was like growing up on a reservation in Arizona. ● Sunrise (Kindergarten) learned about Native American culture and traditions. They read the book “Fry Bread” and then made fry bread from scratch. It was a big hit and many of the students really 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On Friday, Nov. 4, Upper School hosted Minta Phillips, a climate activist, a Quaker, and a beekeeper. Minta shared a computer enabled class about real ways to stop climate change with the Environmental Science and Biology classes. She also joined the Upper School Quaker Meeting and shared about beekeeping. ● In Middle School (grades 7-8) English, the class is reading Ray Bradbury’s sci-fi classic “Fahrenheit 451”. Students are writing an analytical essay, preparation for which included gathering information from websites regarding historical and present challenging/banning of books. The class discussed the themes of censorship, individualism versus conformity, and the consequences of technology on our environment and ourselves/society. ● Seniors Gillian, Lily, and McRae were honored as Equity Champions at the North Carolina for Community and Justice (NCCJ) Annual Citation Awards Dinner. They were recognized for their work as the Upper School Quaker Meeting Student Leadership Team where they provide weekly programming about issues of inclusion in and beyond our school community. Tanisha Jones, Head of Middle and Upper School, shared, “Gillian, Lily, and McRae have demonstrated the importance of advancing DEIJ work and raising awareness among their peers and the community. They provide and promote a culture of equity that is inclusive and allows others to be their authentic selves without fear.”

enjoyed the taste! The class welcomed a guest speaker from the Navajo Nation who spoke about what it was like growing up on a reservation in Arizona. The students were very excited to learn that fry bread was something that she made with her family as well!

- Rainbow (grades 1-2) read a book about Mary Ross and her work. Students learned that, due to her Indigenous heritage, she did not always receive the credit she deserved. The class talked about how her passion for math and the Cherokee values she was raised with shaped her life and work. Rainbow watched a Brain Pop video about the First Thanksgiving that went into detail about the Wampanoag tribe. They also sang “The 1492 Song”, which emphasizes that people were already living in North America prior to the arrival of Columbus, and read the book “Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message”.
- Horizon (grades 3-4) students read Joseph Bruchac’s “The Trail of Tears”. Students shared what they learned from their reading and thoughtful responses reflecting on how indigenous people of North America were treated during westward expansion and beyond. Horizon hosted a virtual visit with guest speaker Wahieñhawi (Hawi, for short) Hall. Hawi is Cherokee and Mohawk and shared about her Indigenous culture with the class.
- Galaxy (grades 5-6) read articles and had discussions related to Native American Heritage Month. Topics included Mary Peltola, the first Alaska native elected to Congress, the inclusion of indigenous languages in public schools.
- In Spanish classes, A Child’s Garden and Sunflower classes learned about Dia de Muertos, and each student made a *calavera*. Horizon classes learned about the differences between Dia de Muertos and Halloween.



STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- Rainbow (grades 1-2) teacher Nichole Deno is learning more about cultural appreciation versus cultural appropriation by taking part in a webinar from NCAIS.
- Six teachers from our Middle and Upper School attended a webinar from NCAIS about incorporating restorative practices into our school.
- NGFS faculty and staff met in their affinity groups to discuss race-related issues, including how to respond to bias in the classroom. Teachers used the resource *Speak Up At School: How to Respond to Everyday Prejudice, Bias, and Stereotypes*.

Stay Tuned for What's to Come

Galaxy (grades 5-6) will be reading a biography about Neil deGrasse Tyson.

Many Lower school classes will be learning about different holiday traditions and how holidays are celebrated in different faith traditions and around the world.

NGFS faculty and staff affinity groups will meet again in January.