



Diversity Equity Inclusion Justice

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

March 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"> ● In March, we had a campus Meeting for Worship focused on the topic of physical disabilities and how spaces can be accessible to include everyone. Galaxy student Sam Applebaum helped prepare and lead Meeting for Worship and shared about her bat mitzvah project related to this topic where she taught free all-inclusive Zumba classes. ● Our book fair was a big success and resulted in new books for classrooms and the Lower School library. While making choices, we prioritized fiction and non-fiction books representing a variety of racial groups and individuals. Examples include the Jada Jones and Mindy Kim early chapter book series and biographies of Kamala Harris and Lin-Manuel Miranda. ● A Child's Garden (Preschool) teachers have been making an effort to read books featuring more diverse characters. Examples include <i>Over and Under the Pond</i> and <i>Jabari Jumps</i>. ● Sunrise (Kindergarten) teachers provided daily movement breaks, making intentional choices to include videos that incorporate diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds. ● Rainbow (1st and 2nd grade) read <i>The Invisible Boy</i> and talked about being inclusive during a buddy Meeting for Worship with Galaxy (5th and 6th grade). They also watched the video Ada Twist, Scientist. ● For Women's History Month in March, in their daily morning meetings, Horizon (3rd and 4th grade) featured a slide with a brief biography and picture of an influential, inspirational woman. The women included were very diverse in their professions, ethnicity, and in other ways. Teachers also displayed a wide variety of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Middle school history learned about government safety nets and public goods in their Economics unit. They ended with discussions on the PBS documentary "<i>Poor Kids</i>" which follows three children and their families living below the U.S. poverty threshold. ● Upper school Chemistry students hosted visitors from Guilford College and North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. All of the students were sent home with kits to test the pipes and water in their home. This is a part of the Crowd The Tap initiative to find the remaining lead pipes across the United States. The kit includes a magnet, a penny, and a bottle for collecting tap water. The magnet and penny were for students to test their in-home pipes and their service line, if they could get to it. They then tested their water samples. For more information on Crowd the Tap you can visit the website: http://crowdthetap.org/about/ . ● Spanish 2 researched African and Central American animals and learned about the efforts El Salvador is making to preserve sea turtles habitats. ● Spanish 3 worked with short readings about Barcelona or Madrid. Each reading focused on a historical or cultural aspect. ● MS History Teacher Danielle led a meeting for worship focused on the idea of Peace. Students listened to a letter written by a Russian Quaker named Boris Fedyukin from the Friends House Moscow. In one powerful part of his letter, he states, "This morning, I pray God to protect as many people as possible in Ukraine, that He take them under His shield. In a time of force gone mad, I hope that the power of the Holy Spirit, that which dwells in each of us, may give each of us the strength and forbearance to

women's picture and chapter book biographies. During individual class Meeting for Worships, we read aloud a few picture book biographies about influential women, including Audrey Faye Hendricks and Sonia Sotomayor.

- Galaxy (5th and 6th grade) focused their discussions during Morning Meeting on Women's History Month. They made connections between their conversations around systemic racism and sexism and learned about important women trailblazers, with a special focus on women pioneers in the healthcare field since that is the theme for the year.

stand against the madness. I believe that, in each person, there is that of God, and that each person is deserving of life. The people of Ukraine are deserving of life, of peace and of freedom." Students reflected upon this letter and the ideas of Peace & Hope. Students and staff were provided sidewalk chalk for them to use to express their thoughts, art, and messages of peace.



STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- Galaxy (grades 5-6) teacher Neil Swenson and Lower School Learning Specialist Marci Richardson attended an NCAIS neurodiversity conference. Sessions included Multi-Sensory Literacy and Executive Functioning. One great take-away concept was that "routines (strategies, formulas, etc.) help create automaticity freeing up the mind by reducing cognitive engagement."
- Sunrise (Kindergarten) teacher Erin Wenger attended a workshop about creating a learning environment that fosters each and every one of your students' agency, especially students of color and historically marginalized groups.
- Horizon (grades 3-4) teachers Sherrie Harmon and Meg Coscia attended Chelsea Clinton's *She Persisted* children's book event at Salem College. They enjoyed listening to Chelsea Clinton share stories of brilliant, inspiring women who have changed the world.
- Middle School Learning Specialist Cheri Durham attended a cohort with Learning Specialists in Friends Schools. They collaborated around the queries:
 - *What about being a learning specialist in a Quaker school is unique?*
 - *Using the context of our Quaker school mission, how do I frame my work?*
 - *How can we use testimonies of equity and equality in learning support?*
 - *Our learning support is sometimes very complex. How do we balance that with simplicity?*
 - *Shifting from virtual learning to in-person or hybrid learning.*

Stay Tuned for What's to Come

In Galaxy's Integrated Studies unit on Mexico, they will be discussing some current events, like immigration, with a social justice lens.

Staff affinity groups will continue in April. Affinity groups give us an opportunity to talk about issues/challenges that are important to us in an environment with people who have similar racial or ethnic backgrounds. The April session topics will include culture, racism, and institutional racism.

We are looking forward to our Out of the Garden service project that will be held at our upcoming Unity Festival on April 23. The project will support the organization's [Operation Backpack](#) food assistance program. Special thanks to Horizon teacher Sherrie Harmon for organizing.