



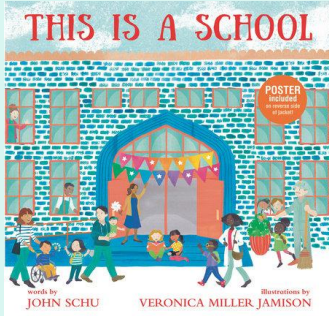
Diversity  
Equity  
Inclusion  
Justice

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

*August and September 2023*

## MEETING FOR WORSHIP

### Whole School



As part of our first whole school Meeting for Worship we listened to senior AJ read the book “This is A School” by John Schu. This book sends an inclusive and welcoming message to all community members.

[Click here](#) for a read aloud of the book presented by Dana Reads for Literacy, a non-profit organization that shares read-alouds of family-friendly children’s stories on YouTube.

## GUILFORD CAMPUS

### Lower School

- A Child’s Garden Iris class (Pre-K) discussed community, with an emphasis that all of us are in a community together regardless of differences.
- A Child’s Garden Sunflower (Pre-K and TK) class talks about how each of us are working on something and that people learn differently. When people learn differently they may need to use different tools to help them learn. They also discussed making connections with people (we can always find something in common) and how different just means "different", "not better, not worse". They explored these topics through Morning Meeting discussions, unit studies, and books.
- Sunrise (K) read a story called “Sammy Spider’s First Rosh Hashanah”. They have also been learning about how we all need different things/tools to learn and have been really excited about things that are the “same but different.” They learned that they eat some of the same foods, and some of them have similar hair color. They are beginning to look at who they are and what makes each person special and unique.
- Rainbow (grades 1-2) has had several discussions about the importance of diversity. They watched the film "That's a Family," a documentary about diverse family structures. Students had an opportunity to share what makes their families unique and special. During a Meeting for Worship with their Galaxy (grades 5-6), they listened to the story "Stand Tall, Molly Lou Mellon," which is about appreciating differences and a girl staying true to herself.
- Horizon (grades 3-4) students learned about how we all need different things/tools to learn. Learning Specialist Marci visited the class and talked about how people learn differently and how some benefit from using fidgets as tools to help with learning.
- The Galaxy (grades 5-6) class has talked about the theme of racism in their read-aloud book and discussed the use of insensitive or derogatory words used in the book and as part of their social curriculum discussions.

## *PAGE-FREDERIKSEN CAMPUS*

### **Middle and Upper School**

- Upper School Math and Science teacher Sheliah highlighted Hispanic mathematicians and scientists in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.
- In World History classes, students have studied and explored ancient civilizations to deepen their understanding of the world they live in today. They are learning what has shaped our futures and relating to the present day.
- Our new Government and Political Advocacy Upper School class, taught by Laura Mae, began the year by developing a civic mindset. They started the first unit by creating a space within their classroom communities that is not only safe but brave, where every student can feel they can share and listen to points of view and experiences that may be different from their own. This cultivates empathy and a foundation for civic life and global citizenship. In the course of this class, students will be engaged in a year-long project that focuses on learning how to advocate for policy changes and the role of active civic participation in government.
- English 9 students have discussed “Gilgamesh” as an epic cycle focusing on European culture and history. They have connected the cultural values of the time to our time.
- In English 10/11, the class is exploring diversity in depth from the Dark Ages to now and extends their learning by writing a culture essay. The essay compares and contrasts specific characteristics of the hero archetype to make an argument about what the similarities and differences reveal about how culture has changed/remained the same from the Dark Ages to now. Students were asked to consider how specific historical events/changes in the last century, like suffrage and the civil rights movement, have impacted the stories we tell and allowed our heroes today to be more diverse.
- In Spanish classes, Gwen had students choose from a list of famous Hispanic Americans to create a mini poster that includes background information, why the person is famous or influential, the most interesting fact, and what question they would ask if they could meet the chosen person.
- The Upper School Cultures and Cooking class has created diverse dishes, including Thai and Vietnamese, French cuisine, and a British breakfast
- At the Annex, our English teachers have created a display of books in the commons area that highlight Hispanic Heritage Month!

## *STAFF DEVELOPMENT*

- Over the summer, NGFS faculty chose one of three books to read and discuss with peers. Two of the choices had a DEI lens, “Grading for Equity” and “Neuroteach: Brain Science and the Future of Education”. During staff work days before school began, staff participated in book group discussions about these readings. Additionally, A small group of Middle and Upper School staff have formed a group to delve further into the tenets featured in “Grading for Equity”.
- This summer Sunflower (Pre-K and TK) teacher Courtney O’Shea took part in a Diversity in STEM research project at the University of Maryland. She was interviewed twice on how she incorporates books on diversity in her early education classroom and when/if any of them involve STEM-related topics.
- At our first whole staff meeting, we viewed a video about identity-based bullying and had a thoughtful conversation about how educators can create a safe space for all students.

## *Stay Tuned for What’s to Come*

- We are going to kick off the month of October as a proud sponsor of the [2023 Greensboro Pride Festival](#) in downtown Greensboro on Saturday, Oct. 1. Special thanks to our volunteers who will be working in the booth! One volunteer shared, “So proud that our school has a presence at this event given the nature of the discussion at so many schools around the country right now.”
- Staff affinity groups will begin meeting in October. Affinity groups seek to disrupt the status quo by allowing space and resources for groups with shared identities, especially those identities that have been and continue to be marginalized and oppressed.
- For Hispanic Heritage month, a Sunrise (Kindergarten) parent will come in to share about their Hispanic heritage.
- In October, two members of the Administrative Leadership Team, Athletic Director Dwon and Head of Middle and Upper School Tanisha, will attend the Administrators of Color Conference through the North Carolina Association of Independent Schools.