

To: Our Richfield Families
From Mrs. Haldy

Dear Richfield Families,

I have struggled with sharing my heartfelt sorrow and distress regarding the continued social injustice, racism and mistreatment of minority persons in our world. I had decided, embarrassingly, that I would not publicly address this appalling part of our society. I told myself that I would not be telling anyone anything that they don't already know about the struggle in our world to make black lives matter. So, my plan was just to continue to do my best at school. To persevere in our efforts. To teach the importance of acceptance of each other and all people in our school community and beyond.

However, a few days ago in a conversation with my seven-year-old grandson who, in response to hearing a news clip regarding a protest, said the following:

“But Nanny, why are people being racist? Didn't they read Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's I have a Dream speech? Maybe we just need to make 6 or 7 more I have a Dream speeches and make everyone read them so they won't be mean and racist anymore. I hope we do this.”

This seven-year-old reminded me that every voice in support of social equality counts. He reminded me that it is so important for me to speak my mind, to support movements to end discriminatory practices and to do my part to aid in the necessary, over-due, critically important, changes in the way our society treats people of color.

I am now choosing to speak my mind in support of our students and families and to do my part to erase any evidence of these misjustices in our school. I am pledging to you that at Richfield Public School Academy we will aggressively resume the courses and lessons for teaching acceptance and tolerance of all of our students. That we will always advocate for equality for your child. That we will continue to show all of our students love, understanding, respect and support. That we will nurture their hope for a more equitable society. At Richfield Public School Academy we will persist with teaching your child the skills,

and give them the tools, they need to be advocates for themselves and their beliefs. We will help them become change agents for their future world, a world in which there is a shared belief that black lives matters, that everyone has the right to assume acceptance and equality. A world where senseless killings and mistreatments become a thing of the past. A world where we all read, believe and abide by the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

A world where we all believe in the hope that seven-year-olds so freely express.

Standing with you in support of change,

Mrs. Haldy
Superintendent