



Dear Families,

Over the last week the tenor of our national conversation has changed. All along, the systemic racism that led to the most recent examples of racial violence has been part of our daily lives, through the ways our institutional structures hold some people back, reward others unfairly, keep us apart by reinforcing implicit bias, or do physical harm to people as they have in the way COVID has inequitably wreaked havoc on people of color. For me, these current examples of murder and senseless brutality have shaken me, forcing me to again be aware of the unfairness of my safe zone as a well-meaning white person, to once again confront the realities of all that must change for us, and for our children, to be able to together build a world that values and honors the true personhood of each member of our community.

My thoughts are on the horror of the murder of George Floyd, the atrocities of the publicized racist actions and rhetoric by police and other individuals, and the power of the protests that have followed as many have taken their voices and their anger to the streets. My thoughts are also on you, our families. It is so essential to who we are at Miquon that we stand together, supporting one another. What hurts one of us hurts all of us. We stand with our black and brown families and loudly proclaim that Black Lives Matter.

As a staff, we have spent the week sending links to helpful articles, videos, and resources lists back and forth, many of them shared by our longtime teacher Jeri Bond Whatley, who has long done and helped white people do anti-racist work (even during her sabbatical year). I hope one outcome for all of us will be steps we can take to further our impact, individually and collectively.

I can start by committing myself to some steps I can take here at Miquon. I will:

- make space for black voices in our community by stepping back and letting others lead the conversation.
- lend the weight of my privilege to amplify the voices of others, without speaking for them.
- remind myself and others to look from perspectives broader than our own.
- look for ways to empower people of color within our community.
- do my own work, continuing to learn perspective, skills and understanding,

and not ask others, particularly people of color, to do the work for me.

- take a risk, whether physical or emotional, to say and do the things that are needed to help us move forward collectively.

Miquon's Diversity, Equity, and Action Committee, known as the DEA, asked to have this statement shared:

The Diversity, Equity, and Action (DEA) Committee and Miquon Family Organization (MFO) unapologetically declare that black lives matter, today and every day. In partnership with the school, we aim to lift up those members of our community most directly affected by racism in both its individualized and systemic forms and would like to offer opportunities for people to come together, both in community and in anti-racist work. The DEA seeks your input about the best ways to do so. Please join us at the next DEA meeting on Wednesday, June 10th at 7 pm. Contact [Rachel Reynolds](#) or [Miriam Rock](#) for the zoom information or to share ideas.

In addition, on Tuesday we became aware of Montgomery Commissioner Joe Gale's [racist and inflammatory press release](#) and we have already contacted [our other elected officials](#) and the [Whitemarsh Police Department](#) to request their help in assuring us that they are our partners in condemning hate and protecting our community from hate. We will continue to pursue this matter, and we will continue to share our actions and communications with you. As our country undergoes yet another reckoning of the costs of more than 400 years of structural inequality, we are committed to doing the work of [our tenth tenet](#): being upstanders and agents of change. We will continue that work throughout the summer and next year.

In sorrow and solidarity,
Susannah

The Miquon School
2025 Harts Lane
Conshohocken, PA 19428

See what's happening on our social sites:

