

Woodland Newsletter

January 2021

Message from Principal

Dear Woodland Families,

Happy New Year! So many of us have been waiting for the calendar page to turn to this new year. May this year bring us a better sense of safety, health and community.

Although we are in a new year, our goals have not changed. We continue to be committed to the work on inequities seen in schools, our community and our nation. Weston Public Schools has formed a long-term Equity Committee that will function as a district advisory body to the School Committee and the larger WPS community. The Committee will advise the District on its strategic goals related to diversity, equity, and inclusivity and will work to support the district's programs, policies, and curricula that further that work. Our District Goals can be reviewed here:

1. Strengthen educational practices in order to promote intellectual stretch, engaged learning, equitable access, and excellence for every student, every day.
2. Foster students' well-being in order to develop their emotional resiliency and intellectual curiosity.
3. Champion a school community committed to cultural competency, trust, and mutual respect in order to prepare students to be citizens of the world.

As district faculty, we have chosen Culturally Responsive Teaching (CRT) as our professional learning goal for this year and many years to come. At Woodland, our Culturally Responsive Teaching team led by Kate Bonsignore, Carrie Dyball, Dana LaCava and Melanie Zimmerman facilitate courageous conversations amongst the faculty and staff in formal and informal settings. Our learning objective is to develop a sociopolitical lens to understand inequity and the opportunity/achievement gaps it has created.

When you hear the term Culturally Responsive Teaching, what does that mean to you? How would you describe its purpose, elements and features? How would you define equity? These above mentioned are just a few of the questions we have used to engage in rich conversations focused on the inequities and opportunity gaps we need to address. Ultimately, we hope to improve the teaching and learning for each and every student who walks into a Weston Public School.

Sincerely,
Jennifer G. Faber

*Thank
you!*

Thank you!

Thanks to the PTO and families for the delicious breakfast and cookie treats.

Thanks to all of you for your continued safety efforts that have helped us keep our schools open!

Dates to Remember

*Mark
Your
Calendar*

- NO School on **Friday, January 15th** due to Faculty Professional Day.
- NO School on **Monday, January 18th** due to MLK Day observance.
- School Council Meeting on **Tuesday, January 19th at 2:30pm**. All are welcome!