

Woodland Newsletter

March 2021

Message from Principal

Dear Woodland Families,

This past month, we had lots to celebrate from feeling an abundance of kindness to learning more about Culturally Responsive Teaching (CRT) practices.

During our most recent CRT conversations, we focused on the four misconceptions of Culturally Responsive Teaching. We centered our conversations based on the reading of the Cult of Pedagogy Article, Culturally Responsive Teaching: 4 Misconceptions by Jennifer Gonzalez. The following are excerpts from the article that were salient points to note:

MISCONCEPTION 1: CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE TEACHING IS THE SAME AS MULTICULTURAL OR SOCIAL JUSTICE EDUCATION. Multicultural Education is, according to Hammond, "the celebration of diversity, what we usually see in schools. While those are really noble things and critical to a high-functioning classroom and school climate, it doesn't have anything to do with learning capacity." Social Justice Education "is about building a lens for the student, really being able to look at the world and seeing where things aren't fair or where injustice exists," Hammond explains. Culturally Responsive Teaching "is about building the learning capacity of the individual student."

MISCONCEPTION 2: CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE TEACHING MUST START WITH ADDRESSING IMPLICIT BIAS. If you start there, you can't pivot to instruction. Whereas when you understand inequity by design, you can actually talk about instruction but also come back to talk about microaggressions

MISCONCEPTION 3: CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE TEACHING IS ALL ABOUT BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS AND SELF-ESTEEM. So the trusting relationship is just one part, and not the part. It is the on-ramp to the kind of cognitive high-level problem-solving and higher-order thinking we want students to do. I see a lot of people just doing the relationship piece."

MISCONCEPTION 4: CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE TEACHING IS ABOUT CHOOSING THE RIGHT STRATEGIES. The instructional shifts that will make the biggest differences don't always look "cultural" at all, because they aren't the kind of things that work only for diverse students. "This kind of teaching is good for all brains,

Hoping you are enjoying learning with us on this critical journey to enrich the lives of our students.

Sincerely,
Jennifer G. Faber

Dates to Remember

Mark
Your
Calendar

- NO SCHOOL on **Friday, March 12th** due to Teacher Professional Day.
- Silly Sock Spirit Day- wear your silliest or favorite socks on Thursday, **March 11th**.
- School Council Meeting on **Monday, March 15th at 2:30pm** via zoom. All are welcome.
- Hot Cocoa Night on **Thursday, March 25th from 5:00-6:00pm** via zoom.