



MESSAGE FOR FROST PARENTS FROM MR. BRENNER

Dear Frost Parents:

Recent tragic events in Minnesota and other communities around the country highlight the ongoing challenges we face as a nation with racial inequity. As our Superintendent Dr. Stavem mentioned in her [Monday message sent to families](#), we are working as a school district to acknowledge systemic racial inequities in our schools, to honor student voice, and to reflect on how we can make things better. At Robert Frost Elementary, our mission is to provide safe, inclusive learning environments for all students in our diverse community. This is an ongoing process for our staff that involves reflection, training, and review of our practices. It's a work in progress, with the goal of making sure your children feel safe and connected at school. I acknowledge that we have more work to do, and we are committed to continuous improvement to support all our students and families.

As a school, our role is teaching students, which includes discussing complex current events in developmentally appropriate ways. In our country discussing race is often viewed as difficult, uncomfortable, and something to be avoided. However, current events are demonstrating the need for us all to have the courage to have these conversations, as avoiding the topic doesn't make racial inequity go away. As our children watch what's occurring in cities around the nation and in our communities, they will have questions as they try to understand and connect with their own experiences. It's important to understand our children's perspectives, to address their feelings, and to help them understand the issues at play.

As a parent, I understand that it can be hard to approach some topics with our kids. It's important to remember that it doesn't have to be perfect, and that it's ok to feel discomfort. Finding a place to start the conversation can lead to an ongoing dialogue with your child, giving you the chance to "get it right" as you go. Below are some resources that parents can use to learn more about issues of race and social justice and to help support conversations with your children. I encourage parents to take a look and to find what might resonate with your family's experience and values.

- 100 Race Conscious Things You Can Say to Your Child – Conversation Starters <http://www.raceconscious.org/2016/06/100-race-conscious-things-to-say-to-your-child-to-advance-racial-justice/>
- NPR: How White Parents Can Talk About Race <https://www.npr.org/2020/05/31/866426170/raising-white-kids-author-on-how-white-parents-can-talk-about-race>
- Your Kids Aren't Too Young to Talk About Race: Resource Roundup <https://www.prettygooddesign.org/blog/Blog%20Post%20Title%20One-5new4>
- Teaching Tolerance: Teaching About Race, Racism and Police Violence <https://www.tolerance.org/moment/racism-and-police-violence>
- Seattle Public Libraries Race & Social Justice books for kids K-5 <https://www.spl.org/books-and-media/books-and-ebooks/staff-picks-for-kids/race-and-social-justice-books-for-kids-k-5?page=2>
- National Association of School Psychologists resources for talking with students about violence, race and privilege <https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and->

[publications/resources-and-podcasts/diversity/social-justice/understanding-race-and-privilege](#)

- Coming Together: Standing Up Against Racism Sesame Street Town Hall on CNN this Saturday morning 6/6/20: <https://www.cnn.com/SesameStreet>

At Frost Elementary we do not take for granted the fact that you put your most loved ones in our hands. We take great pride in being able to serve our diverse students and families and are always looking to improve our practices to better serve you in days to come.

Toby Brenner
Principal, Robert Frost Elementary School

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