BIGELOW FORJ

FAMILIES ORGANIZING FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2023
LISTEN, DO, READ, WATCH

Dear members of the Bigelow community,

Happy Spring!

Ramadan Mubarak (Have a blessed Ramadan) to those who celebrate! **Ramadan** (3/22/23-4/21/23) is a holy month of worship, study of the Quran, prayer, and fasting. It begins on the evening of **March 22nd and ends on the evening of April 21st**. For more information, please visit this link: https://ing.org/resources/for-all-groups/calendar-of-important-islamic-dates/ramadan-information-sheet/

Happy Nowruz to our Persian/Iranian neighbors who celebrated the Persian New Year from March 20th to March 21st. Please see below to learn more about this holiday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Thank you to all the students, families, teachers, and Principal Coston for making **Bigelow Movie Night** a success! On the evening of **March 10th**, nearly 70 people attended the viewing of ***Wakanda Forever*** when they also enjoyed a fun Kahoot game, pizza, and popcorn. In addition, themes in the movie of race, gender, colonialism, and identity were briefly introduced.

On the night of **March 28th**, the **NPS School Committee unanimously rejected** the *Improve NPS petition* to create a Guiding Principles Advisory Committee for NPS. The School Committee listened to 3.5 hours of more than 100 comments by in-person and online speakers.

Speakers included students from NSHS, the ACLU, a NNHS ACLU student, several juniors and seniors at the high schools, recent Newton High School alums, and a group of three

4th grade students from Franklin Elementary School who represented affinity groups and clubs!

Please click here to read the Boston Globe article about this vote.

New Word Alert! **"Misogynoir"** (noun): A term referring to misogyny directed toward Black women. The term was coined by **Moya Bailey** in 2010 to address misogyny directed toward Black transgender and cisgender women in American visual and popular culture. The concept of misogynoir is grounded in the theory of intersectionality, which analyzes how various social identities such as rce, gender, class, age, ability, sexual orientation, and gender identity interrelate in systems of oppression. To learn more about Moya Bailey, please click here.

Please scroll down for additional meaningful, educational, and entertaining experiences for you and your family in LISTEN, DO, READ, & WATCH!

Margo Michaels and Jeanne Choe-Arrieta
Co-Leads, Bigelow FORJ

LISTEN:

NPR's Podcast: **Code Switch**, described as the "fearless conversations about race that you've been waiting for. Hosted by journalists of color, our podcast tackles the subject of race with empathy and humor. We explore how race affects every part of society — from politics and pop culture to history, food and everything in between. This podcast makes all of us part of the conversation — because we're all part of the story." *Code Switch was named Apple Podcasts' first-ever Show of the Year in 2020.* Click Here to Listen.

DO:

Donate or volunteer with Newton Neighbors, Inc. to help, welcome, and connect with neighbors. The mission of Newton Neighbors is to facilitate community connection, mutual aid, and access to resources and supports for all people who live, work, pray, play and/or learn in Newton, MA and other local communities. Check Out Newton Neighbors Here!

READ:

Learn more about the Persian/Iranian holiday of Nowruz by clicking here. The United Nations says Nowruz "promotes values of peace and solidarity between generations

and within families…contributing to cultural diversity and friendship among peoples and different communities."

WATCH:

Storming Caesars Palace: Documentary **based on the book** Storming Caesars Palace: How Black Mothers Fought Their Own War on Poverty **by Annelise Orleck, "the film challenges the pernicious lie of the "Welfare Queen," and highlights the visionary leadership of low-income grassroots organizers whose courage, tenacity and dreams could not be quashed, against all odds."** *Storming Caesars Palace* was nominated for Best Documentary Feature and won the Shine Award for a first-time filmmaker at BlackStar Film Festival in 2022.

The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.: Six-episode, 2013 documentary exploring African American history from 1500-2013, which earned was an Emmy, Peabody, Alfred I. duPont-Columbia baton, and the NAACP Image award.

If you are interested in getting involved with Bigelow FORJ to help build an anti-racist community or if you'd like publicize any future events, recommend videos, movies, podcasts, or books, please email bigelowforj@gmail.com.

To receive the monthly, district-wide, FORJ email that includes information about lectures on race and diversity, discussion groups, community events, and Newton Public Schools updates, please email forjnewton@gmail.com.