BIGELOW FORJ

FAMILIES ORGANIZING FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2022
LISTEN, DO, READ, WATCH

Dear members of the Bigelow community,

Welcome to December! We hope you enjoyed the Thanksgiving break. Check out the Read & Watch sections for information that will expand your understanding of Thanksgiving. With Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa in December, make a point to explore shops and services owned by People of Color. Find shops here, restaurants here, or grab a drink at Roundhead Brewing Company in Hyde Park. This new destination is the first Latino-owned brewery in Massachusetts and owned by a Day Middle School family!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Affinity Groups

We know the power and impact that affinity spaces have in facilitating our growth and insights into important work of equity and racial justice. We are eager to support any efforts to participate in them or develop new ones. Cabot has developed affinity spaces, as well as Newton North for faculty members. If you are interested in developing affinity groups at your school, please participate in this training or reach out to us so we can support you.

AFFINITY GROUP PLANNING 101
Thursday, December 8th 7:00 -8:30 pm

Are you interested in forming an Affinity group at your school? Don't know how to start? This **90 minute, on-line interactive training** will provide you with the groundwork to start putting together a group in your school. Bring a friend so you can start collaborating right away! During this training you will identify:

1. Dynamics and purpose of an affinity group and how it can aid in community cohesion and authenticity.
2. What is necessary for a successful group
3. Begin planning next steps to form your group and leave with action plan

RSVP here

SAVE THE DATE:

Bigelow Movie Night: ***BLACK PANTHER: WAKANDA FOREVER***

Friday, February 3, 2023, 7:00-10:00 pm
Bigelow Middle School Auditorium

Please join Principal Coston, Bigelow FORJ, and our Boston and Newton families for a fun movie night. After the movie, please stay for a brief Q&A session to discuss themes in the film that reflect the world's experience of race, gender, colonialism, and identity. Pizza and drinks graciously provided by the Bigelow PTO.

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

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

LISTEN:

How to Not (Accidentally) Raise a Racist- On this episode of The Longest Shortest Time, podcast host, Hillary Frank, is joined by Dr. Brigitte Vittrup, Associate Professor of Early Childhood Development and Education at Texas Women's University to share her research on children's racial attitudes and how parents influence those attitudes with a focus on white parents talking about race with their kids.

White Guilt and Other Crazy Sh*t – On this episode of The Longest Shortest Time, podcast host, Hillary Frank, continues the conversation about race with writer Eula Biss. The episode explores "how to talk to kids about race and racism, especially when you're uncomfortable talking about it with grown-ups (and) unpacking the complicated forces inside our heads that hold us back."

DO:

Tuesday, December 6, 7:00-8:30 pm, online, free - Making the Invisible Visible: Asian Americans in Public Education hosted by Citizens for Publics Schools. "A panel of Asian American researchers, educators, parents, and former students will share their experiences and perspectives, revealing unseen and unheard difficulties that Asian Americans face in public schools." Register here.

READ:

I Take My Coffee Black: Reflections on Tupac, Musical Theater, Faith, and Being Black in America by Tyler Merritt. "By turns witty, insightful, toughing, and laugh-out-loud funny, *I Take My Coffee Black* paints a portrait of Black manhood in America and enlightens, illuminates, and entertains – ultimately building the kind of empathy that might just be the antidote against the racial injustice in our society."

Rethinking Thanksgiving Toolkit developed by Indigenous Solidarity Network.

WATCH:

Rethinking Thanksgiving: From Land Acknowledgment to Landback webinar organized by members of these organizations: Tonatierra, American Indian Law Alliance, NDN Collective, Indigenous Solidarity Network, Catalyst Project, Showing Up for Racial Justice & Resource Generation

FORJ is a group of diverse families helping our children learn about issues of power and inequality and how to stand up for racial justice. We seek to generate understanding and curiosity about the differences in our society, and to work together towards racial equity. We strive to achieve safe and welcoming environments that enhance the well-being of all people. We promote healing and connection between individuals and communities. We speak out against injustice, support our kids to be upstanders, and take action to address bias and inequity.

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.