

Week of Information and Action in Support of Black Lives

What's this about?

In honor of Black History Month, and in support of Black lives, members of the Whittier PTA's EDI Committee have collaborated to provide resources for our community.

- We hope this week's content will encourage you to engage with these conversations.
- This week's activities are rooted in the [13 Black Lives Matter Guiding Principles](#).

Tips to get the most out of these resources:

- [Engage at the level that works for you and your family](#).
- [It's never too early or too late to start these conversations](#)—kids might not “get it” right away but it's important to do the work anyway.
- While families may be at different points in their understanding/learning, we hope everyone finds value in these resources.

Monday: Diversify Our Narrative

Information:

- [#diversifyournarrative](#) is a student-led movement that seeks to include more diverse, anti-racist textbooks in our schools to work toward racial justice, educational equity, and community power.
- Diverse representation in books, in news sources, and on screen helps people learn about and have empathy for others' lived experiences that may be different from their own.

Suggested Action: Explore three new Black artists, activists, creators, or influencers. [Click here](#) for a list of resources to diversify your narratives.

Invitation to Reflect: Look at the bookshelves in your house. How many books do you see with a Black protagonist; where their skin color is not the book's subject; where the plot doesn't center on civil rights or US history; where they are simply the main character in a story?

Learn More: We invite you to use the resources below to better understand the importance of a diverse narrative, and to add diverse narratives in your home.

- [Family Resources in support of Black Lives Matter \(curated by the Whittier Racial Equity Team on padlet.com\)](#).
- Explore a new local media outlet like [Converge Media](#), [South Seattle Emerald](#), or [The International Examiner](#).
- [Read a book that offers a new perspective](#).

Tuesday: Know the History of Redlining in Seattle and King County

Information:

- [Redlining](#) is a discriminatory housing practice that became public policy in the 1940s and 1950s as the Federal Housing Administration guaranteed home loans on the condition that no homes be sold to African-Americans.
- This policy has had lasting effects in Seattle and King County that help to explain why [Whittier is the least diverse school in SPS](#).

Suggested Action: Watch this short (90 seconds!) video from KCTS9 about the history of redlining in Seattle. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBQE5rrWDfA>

Invitation to Reflect: With your child, read about the SPS boycott of 1966 on [Blackpast](#) or at [Seattle in Black and White](#), then talk about it. What does a boycott mean? Would you ever boycott something? What has changed in Seattle schools since this boycott? What is still the same?

Learn More: We invite you to use the resources below to learn more about Seattle's history of redlining.

- [Why is Seattle So Racially Segregated?](#)
- [What Seattle's Redlining History Tells Us About Wealth Today](#)
- [The Deed to Your Home May Contain Racist Language. Here's How to Fix It.](#)

Wednesday: Celebrate Black Excellence in Seattle

Information:

- Seattle has a rich history of Black excellence - musicians Jimi Hendrix and Quincy Jones, artist Jacob Lawrence, community organizer Odessa Brown, and more recently chef Eduardo Jordan, Dr. Ben Danielson, and author Ijeoma Oluo to name but a few.
- Learning about Black excellence in Seattle expands our knowledge of our own community and who we might traditionally think of as leaders.

Suggested Action: Off the top of your head, write down 3 - 5 Black Seattle luminaries (people who inspire or influence others). How many can you name? Want to expand your awareness? Take time to do a quick search and add more names to your list.

Invitation to Reflect: Think about your own ethnicity or ethnicities within your family. Do you see leaders who look like you within our city? How would it make you feel to see no one who looks like you or your children in roles of leadership or who are celebrated for their achievements?

Learn More: With your family, choose a Black Seattle luminary to learn about today! Click on any linked name to learn more.

- Listen to music by [Ernestine Anderson](#), [Jimi Hendrix](#), [Evan Flory-Barnes](#), [Shabazz Palaces](#), or maybe even [Sir Mix-A-Lot with the Seattle Symphony](#).
- Read a work by [Colleen McElroy](#), [Ijeoma Oluo](#), or [August Wilson](#).
- Celebrate Black culinary excellence with a virtual dance party via [The Soul of Seattle](#).

Thursday: Elevate Black Futures

Information:

- From the [Movement for Black Lives website](#): “Black Futures Month celebrates Black people, art, culture, joy, and organizing in service to our bold vision for Black liberation.”
- This movement calls us to look beyond Black History Month and to work year-round toward a future that will provide freedom and equality for everyone.

Suggested Action: Visit online magazine [Cassius](#)’ Black History Month feature, [Young Black Icons](#), which celebrates young artists, activists, organizers, and students who are leading the way to a better future for all of us.

Invitation to Reflect: What would it mean for your family to live in a world that provides freedom and equality for everyone? What is something you can do together to work toward that kind of future?

Learn More: Dive deeper into Black Futures or celebrate Black joy with a new TV show or movie.

- [Listen to a conversation](#) with Kimberly Drew & Jenna Wortham, co-editors of [Black Futures](#).
- Watch National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman recite one of her recent poems:
 - [The Chorus of Captains](#)
 - [The Hill We Climb](#)
- [28 Films to Watch During Black History Month That Aren't About Black Trauma](#)
- [25 TV Shows About Black Life and Joy — Plus, Where to Watch Them](#)

Friday: Show Up for Black Lives

Information:

- Showing up for Black lives isn’t something to do for one day, one march, or one action.
- We can show up every day in how we spend our time and money, how we choose to act or react, and how we use our voice to support and affirm our Black family, friends, neighbors, and communities.

Suggested Action: Support a Black-owned business or a Black-led organization.

- Order takeout from one of these [Black-owned restaurants](#).
- Get a ticket to a virtual event presented by [CD Forum](#) or [Wa Na Wari](#).
- [Support these local Black-owned shops](#).

- FREE: like and share social posts from Black business owners, creators, and organizations that you follow.

Invitation to Reflect: Talk with your family about how you can show up for Black lives. What does that look like in your home? How do you want to use your voice?

Learn More: We invite you to use the resources below to keep reading, learning, growing, and showing up!

- Do you like the [Story Pirates](#)? They have [great resources](#) to help you show up for Black lives all year long!
- Bookmark the Whittier Race & Equity [resource hub](#) or the EDI Committee's [Anti-Racism](#) and [Equity, Diversity and Inclusion](#) learning resources.
- Sign up for a book club focused on books that support Black lives. Stay tuned for a new Whittier book club soon!