JUNE 2023
LISTEN, DO, READ, WATCH

It's June! Wow! I imagine everyone is getting ready for a break in the daily grind that comes with school and schoolyear activities. What a meaningful and productive year it has been for Day FORJ! Here's a year in review of all we accomplished:

- Funded and supported Urban Improv assemblies for all 6th graders.
- Supported the Diversity club at Multicultural night & provided snacks for their weekly meetings.
- Recruited volunteers & funded snacks & t-shirts for the I Am Amazing program.
- Organized & sponsored parent events after back-to-school night & a winter gathering for Day parents of color.
- Gathered support for anti-racist advocacy at the Newton School Committee hearing.
- Emailed 10 installments of our monthly Day FORJ newsletter.
- Recruited volunteers for Juneteenth celebration .
- Supported and advocated for families experiencing racism or inequity at Day.
- Organized & Funded Day FORJ outing to NNHS Lost & Found performance.

We hope all Newton neighbors will come out for the Juneteenth celebration on Monday, June 19 from 12:00-4:00 at the Hyde Playground, 90 Lincoln Street in Newton Highlands. "Juneteenth marks the national holiday commemorating the emancipation of enslaved Americans" The celebration honors and celebrates "African-American heritage and culture through food, music, dance, and story-telling." VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Sign up here for tasks big and small. Black-owned businesses who would like to sell their wares or performers of color who would like to participate, can sign up here. Click here to donate financial support for this amazing community celebration.

Enjoy this final issue of the schoolyear and scroll down for meaningful, educational, and entertaining experiences for you and your family to LISTEN, DO, READ, & WATCH.

Have a great summer and we'll see you in the fall!

-Your Day FORJ Committee

LISTEN:
Check out the Code Switch podcast for a series of "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…Code Switch was named Apple Podcasts' first-ever Show of the Year in 2020."

DO:
Thursday, June 8 from 12:00-1:00 pm, Recognizing the Influence and Economic Impact of the LGBTQ+ Community in Massachusetts, virtual event. Join WBUR reporter, Cristela Guerra, for a moderated panel discussion with leaders from government, business, and nonprofits about their work to advance LGBTQ+ rights and the role of the LGBTQ+ community across business sectors. **Click here to rsvp.**

The NAACP has issued a Florida travel advisory stating "Florida is openly hostile toward African Americans, people of color, and LGBTQ+ individuals. Before traveling to Florida, please understand that the state of Florida devalues and marginalizes the contributions of, and the challenges faced by, African Americans and other communities of color." Donate here to support the NAACP's efforts to stop the "racist assaults on DEI (Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion) programs, unrelenting attacks on Black history, and book bans erasing Black stories from public schools."

Sunday, June 25 from 10:00-2:00, Reclaiming the Charles/Intertribal Canoe Paddle**,** Charles River Canoe & Kayak at Nahanton Park. Join Indigenous Peoples Day Newton & the Charles River Watershed Association for a "leisurely" paddle along the Charles and "hear from special guest Dr. Crystal Cavalier, member of the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, Dr. Darlene Flores who will share about the sacred Taíno traditions of canoes, local Native culture bearers, & advocates from the Charles River Watershed Association."

READ:
Check out books and conversations of the Onward Book Club hosted by author, Elizabeth Gilbert, "to support a d celebrate the work of Black female authors, a group that has historically been under-supported and under-promoted in the publishing industry."

WATCH:
Click Here for a short, informative, & engaging video on the history of race & the suburbs titled Adam Ruins Everything: The Disturbing History of the Suburbs.

If you are interested in getting involved with Day 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 forj.faday@gmail.com.

Check out forj.org or www.facebook.com/FORJNewton to learn more about FORJ Newton. 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.

Families Organizing for Racial Justice (FORJ) is a group of diverse Newton 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.** We offer lectures on race and diversity, discussion groups, community events, Dynamic Diversity trainings and more. We follow the lead from our communities and help families foster inclusion in our city and schools.