



June 7, 2020

Dear Friends,

It's been almost a week since I last wrote you about racism, our school's anti-racist position, and a few steps forward we can take as a community. Since then, it's become clear to me that I need to say more.

This morning I attended a prayer vigil at St. John's Church, walked the fence line in front of the White House, and participated in a rally for justice and solidarity. I experienced an atmosphere of determination and unified purpose, and a shared collective hope that maybe this time the world will listen. As a well-educated, professional white woman I am aware of my privilege. I am also aware that my privilege affords me an opportunity and a responsibility to advocate for and effect change. Many of you share similar privileges. As we reflect on them, let's ask ourselves, how are we working to bring change? Are we educating ourselves? Are we fighting for equity and social justice? Rudolf Steiner intended Waldorf schools to be transformative forces for social renewal. It is time for us to manifest this intention in tangible action. Black lives DO matter. Dismantling the systems and dismissive attitudes in which racism is imbedded is essential. We must continue and perpetuate the difficult but essential work of supporting equity and social justice for the oppressed and marginalized.

Our WWS Committee for Diversity, Equity, and Social Justice has drafted a statement, which I have included below. Please read it. The Committee and I are committed to this anti-racist work. If you would like to join us, please send me an email. There is much to be done.

In peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer".

Jennifer Page
Faculty Chair and Head of School

The **WWS Committee for Diversity, Equity, and Social Justice** joins with protesters across the world demanding an end to systemic anti-Black racism and the murder of Black people in the hands of the police. Our Committee's mission weighs heavily in this moment. We remain committed to the important work of lifting up marginalized voices. This work rests on undoing the many ways in which whiteness is privileged in our society—whiteness, as James Baldwin noted, being a metaphor for power, for who and what is deemed to hold worth, and hence influence, for whose lives, histories, and experiences are prioritized, seen, and heard.

We ask our community to join in these efforts as we continue next year creating spaces to deepen our own learning and in advocating for institutional transformation around equity and social justice at WWS. A hub for social justice resources will soon be available on our school

website. In this moment as we stand with Black Lives Matter, we offer here these supportive tools in the ongoing critical work of anti-racist practice:

1. *Talking about Race*, a new portal offered through the National Museum of African American History and Culture <https://nmaahc.si.edu/learn/talking-about-race>
2. *75 Things White People Can Do for Racial Justice*, The Justice Initiative <https://conta.cc/2U80jf5>
3. *An open letter to my nonblack friends: My life matters more than your comfort*, Washington Post, June 3rd <https://www.thelily.com/an-open-letter-to-my-nonblack-friends-my-life-matters-more-than-your-comfort/>
4. *Interactive Webinar for Anti-Racist White People*, offered in **July** by *Raising Race Conscious Children*. Register here: <http://www.raceconscious.org/2020/05/interactive-webinar-for-white-people-on-june-21st-and-june-28th/>
5. Listen to Ibram X. Kendi, on how to be an Anti-Racist <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/unlocking-us-with-brené-brown/id1494350511?i=1000476611079>
6. Listen to *Seeing White* podcast series <https://www.sceneonradio.org/seeing-white/>
7. Read *Q&A: How to Talk to Kids About Black Lives and Police Violence* <https://www.npr.org/2020/06/04/868600478/q-a-how-to-talk-to-kids-about-george-floyd>