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POCANTICO HILLS CENTRAL SCHOOL

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June 3, 2020

Dear Pocantico Families:

As the nation comes to grips with the deep-seeded implications of the senseless killing of George Floyd, it is vital that we as a community condemn, not only this heinous act, but all that it represents. Racism, injustice, discrimination and hate, have no place in our society.

I can't even begin to fathom how deeply this affects our black and multi-racial families. Please know that we care deeply for all of you and are here to help. Additionally, we are aware of the emotions that these injustices evoke, and we are prepared to offer support.

When we began our remote instructional practices, Pocantico took a strong stance in our community, and coined the phrase that: "we are here to help." We are reinforcing that concept and add that we are not only here to help in the short term. We are here to help enact change. We will do this by providing educational opportunities, through the establishment of partnerships and the provision of resources. Moreover, we will do this by helping to orchestrate tough conversations and by joining with all of you in affirming that there is Zero Tolerance for racism in our school, in our community and our nation as a whole.

Below, please find some resources that may be useful in helping to begin conversations or take action:

<https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/talking-to-young-children-about-prejudice>

<https://www.tolerance.org/>

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/02/us/cnn-sesame-street-standing-up-to-racism/index.html>

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/healthy-living/emotional-wellness/Building-Resilience/Pages/Talking-to-Children-About-Racial-Bias.aspx>

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/family-life/Media/Pages/Talking-To-Children-About-Tragedies-and-Other-News-Events.aspx>

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/learn/talking-about-race>

I have said since I arrived here that Pocantico Hills CSD is a special place and that we are a community of care; once again, we are called upon to illustrate these words and meet this challenge.

Together we are strong,

Rich