

Dear Project Cornerstone Community,

We live in challenging times, to say the least. Not only are we dealing with a virus pandemic, but the recent killing of George Floyd reminds us how we still have so much more to do to address the long history of injustices and issues of systemic racism against the Black community that continue to plague our country.

As a parent, I am always considering how to talk to my kids about what's going on. What *do* we tell our kids who are watching this? How do we show up? What are our actions and words teaching them? We may also be struggling to manage a range of strong emotions.

While I don't have all the answers, I do know that we must take responsibility in honestly and openly acknowledging and listening to what is going on. Then, we must seek to educate ourselves because it is through learning that we will become more intentional in our actions to defeat racism. As the song goes, we must 'teach our children well' because it is with future generations where hope lies.

I find that going back to what Project Cornerstone stands for and cares about helps me to be grounded and offers some guidance on what to do. At Project Cornerstone, we invest in youth. We strive to not just teach, but to instill values like equity, social justice, empathy, and compassion woven into the fiber of every young person's being.

We invest in young people to build caring, inclusive, and safe schools and communities, and we know it can be done! We've seen the tremendous impact it can have on young people when they grow up with positive relationships, skills, and guiding values and principles.

Starting with ourselves and our own families is one intentional step on a path to end systemic racism. I believe if we invest in our youth, they will be a part of the solution. We encourage you to have conversations with your children about race and racism. If you're not sure where or how to start, you can do so by finding a book, or sharing in a movie that address this issue, or just ask your kids what they are feeling and then listen. Listen with your eyes, ears, and heart.

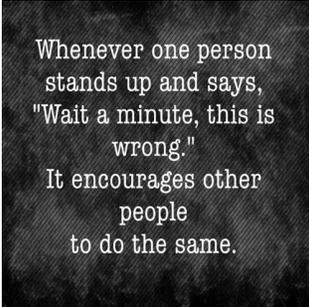
We have put together some resources you can find on our Facebook page, or on our Virtual Resources website, including a special Project Cornerstone lesson on race and racism using Ruby Bridges' books:

- Ruby Bridges lesson
 - <https://www.ymcasv.org/virtual-resource-center/project-cornerstone-virtual-resources>
- Online Resources
 - <https://www.ymcasv.org/virtual-resource-center/project-cornerstone-virtual-resources>
 - Scroll to the *Social and Emotional Learning* section for books, websites, and articles addressing race, racism, and more.
- Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/projectcornerstone/>

Wishing you peace and hope,



Ziem Neubert
Executive Director
Project Cornerstone



Whenever one person
stands up and says,
"Wait a minute, this is
wrong."
It encourages other
people
to do the same.

Connect with us

