4/10/17

Dear Families,

As we continue our work in making our school a safer space for all students, our staff will be reviewing some helpful materials from “[Teaching Tolerance](http://www.tolerance.org/).”  I want to share some of these resources with you so that you can see how we are supporting teachers and students to confront hate and bias at school.  Some of the materials are recently released and are incredible resources for providing some concrete guidance to educators.  Guidance includes responding to “[...everyday incidents of prejudice, bias and stereotypes](http://www.tolerance.org/publication/speak-school),” and support for teachers in “[discussing race, racism, and other difficult topics with students](http://www.tolerance.org/lets-talk).”  I think parents will find these publications helpful as well.

This spring, we’ll hold two community conversations related to responding to hate and bias at Driscoll.  We’ll release these dates soon as soon as they are finalized.  At these meetings, I hope you’ll join us in thinking through how we can better prevent and respond to incidents (even small ones) that demonstrate hate and bias.  We’ll also talk about the importance of going *beyond* prevention and response.  We’ll talk about how parents can help us honestly assess our school climate with bias and hate of all kinds in mind.

Here are links to two of the resources we’ll be working from both this spring and into the new year.  Please let me know if you’d like to take part in leading some of this work and we can work together to develop the upcoming community conversation dates and times.  I look forward to bringing as many folks as possible into this important community work that will continue into the fall of 2017.

[***Speak Up At School:  How to Respond to Everyday Prejudice, Bias and Stereotypes***, a publication of Teaching Tolerance (2016)](http://www.tolerance.org/sites/default/files/general/Speak_Up_at_School.pdf)

[***Let’s Talk!  Discussing Race, Racism and Other Difficult Topics with Students,*** a publication of Teaching Tolerance (2016)](http://www.tolerance.org/sites/default/files/general/TT%20Difficult%20Conversations%20web.pdf)