



## **A Message from the Head of School**

*Wednesday, June 3, 2020*

*The message below was shared last Friday with parents, Upper School students, and faculty and staff, and today with alumni, parents of alumni, grandparents, and friends. I know that our community members are hurting deeply, are frightened, and are angry.*

*Park teachers, who are themselves processing the deeply distressing news and ongoing events, are being provided the time and space to reflect, share, and gather resources that are guiding the conversations and actions within our student community. In turn, they are engaging in age-appropriate conversations with our students that build upon our enduring — and essential — commitment to equity, inclusion, and social justice.*

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*Friday, May 29, 2020*

Good morning, Park families.

I am writing to you now with a deep sense of sadness, frustration, and rage as I read about more senseless killings of black citizens of our country. My son and I have spoken of little else in the last two days, and I hope those of you, like me, who do not identify as black are listening and learning (again) about our crucial, indeed essential, role in combating racism. We who enjoy the unearned privilege of race in this society must stand up in whatever way we can. At a moment in our history when we are called upon to recognize our shared humanity, our shared vulnerability, and our shared purpose in acting in unison, we are tragically reminded that our friends, colleagues, and loved ones who identify as black or brown carry a burden that I, for one, as a white man, can never fully understand. Please, pay attention for the sake of all of our children.

Below, find a link to a set of resources shared with me by one of my former students. In an effort to take even one small step in creating a better future for your child and for all children, please review this list of resources. Discover a new text or film or testimonial that might move your consciousness or, better still, might plant a seed in your child. Those seeds we plant, whether through the curriculum at Park or in the choices you make at home, will lead to positive change. We at Park believe that our students, your children, can and will create positive change in the world. Please take an active role in this moment of grief and of pain for so many.

Sincerely,

*Dan Paradis, Head of School*

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**You can follow this link to a list of anti-racism resources:**

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BR1F2\\_zhNe86SGgHa6-V1BO-QgirITwCTugSfKie5Fs/preview?pru=AAABcnZcUw0%2ABu9f2-knWaXADeNfGV\\_3fQ&fbclid=IwAR33aYYToZpuzl8lZtFS7omNMEpWZUU2WQtsM4PVLmv4b2OKoK-WfBe-R3g](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BR1F2_zhNe86SGgHa6-V1BO-QgirITwCTugSfKie5Fs/preview?pru=AAABcnZcUw0%2ABu9f2-knWaXADeNfGV_3fQ&fbclid=IwAR33aYYToZpuzl8lZtFS7omNMEpWZUU2WQtsM4PVLmv4b2OKoK-WfBe-R3g)