

# R.A.C.E 2020 NEWSLETTER



Real Actions Create Equity We strive to educate ourselves and our community about effective responses to racial and ethnic biases. We raise awareness of the existence of systemic inequity. We create safe spaces for people impacted by these injustices.

**“In a racist society, it is not enough to be non-racist, we must be antiracist.” ~ Angela Davis**

## Black Lives Matter

Trayvon Martin, Tamir Rice, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Philando Castile, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and more, and more, and more... Black Americans account for less than 13 percent of the population but they are shot and killed by the police at a rate that's over twice as high as for white Americans. **This is not okay.** The horrific truth of George Floyd's murder has raised consciousness about racism all around the world among all races of people, including here on Whidbey Island.

The Black Lives Matter movement requires us to honor the humanity in each and every one of us, including Black people. It requires us to no longer turn our backs on the historic and ongoing effects of systemic racism in this country that we love. It requires us to do the hard work of dismantling racism so that we can all live free. And it requires us to face the truth that when we stand for justice for all lives, including Black Lives, there will be pushback, including here on Whidbey.

R.A.C.E. urges you to stand strong, in alignment with your values for basic human dignity and equity. The backlash will be loud, creative, and cunning, but a community standing in solidarity in our truth is a powerful force. Join us.

## Youth of Color Collective

The Youth of Color Collective has been all that we had hoped for. Prior to COVID 19, children attended regularly to socialize, create, learn and have fun together. Parents and caregivers socialized while their children played together. All experienced a new sense of pride and togetherness that supports self-esteem and well-being. Our children know that there is solid support for them. They are now more apt to stand up for themselves and others when experiencing overt racism, while we work behind the scenes to create an anti-racist community. With your support, we hope to host artists, scientists, and more... guests who will inspire our young people to know that the world is theirs. When COVID 19 allows, we want to take our YOC on field trips to explore the world outside Whidbey. Your support will help us afford them! Please email Kenesha at [klewin@readinesstolearn.org](mailto:klew@readinesstolearn.org) or let Kenesha know at 360- 221-6808 X 3143 if you would like your child to participate, or if you are a person of color and would like to be a guest presenter.



**Donations to continue our work, would be greatly appreciated**

On-line at <https://www.readinesstolearn.org/race>. Please choose the designation “R.A.C.E.”  
Check to Readiness To Learn @ PO Box 280 Langley WA 98260. (“R.A.C.E.” on memo)

# Congratulations to R.A.C.E. 2020 Equity Inclusion and Diversity Award Recipients

Stepping out into uncharted waters takes courage and commitment. We thank these South Whidbey School District (SWSD) teachers and administrators who have been among the first in our district to make a difference in the ways children and their

families understand race. They support their students to see and address racism, creating a classroom climate where all children feel safe, respected and seen. Many thanks to our community's leaders, **Jennifer Gandarias**, **Sarah Gillett**, **Laura Spear**, **Debra Davies Vogel**, **Michael Swenson**, and **Susie Richards**. Watch interviews with our award recipients and read the award letter here <https://www.readinesstolearn.org/race>



## R.A.C.E. and the South Whidbey School District

### South Whidbey Schools Creates New Equity and Inclusion Policy

The work of R.A.C.E. has raised awareness of the existence of systemic inequity in our schools. Here's a timeline of R.A.C.E. activities with SWSD students, staff, and administration

**January 2019:** Workshop-*"How to Implement Diversity in Your Lessons"*

**January 2019:** Workshop-*"Resources for Black History Curriculum"*

**February 2019:** Martin Luther King Assembly/ Black History Assembly

**February 2019:** Reading diverse book to students in the library

**March 2019:** Workshop-*Teacher Equity*,

**Spring 2019:** Listened deeply to Student Voices at SWHS, offered lessons on oppression, empowerment, and speaking truth. Supported their sharing of racism, harassment, and other concerns with School Board.

**Teacher Appreciation "Token of Love"**

**February 2020:** African American History/MLK Assembly

**February 2020:** Workshop- *"Equity, Diversity and Inclusion: what that looks like in my class"*

**March 2020:** Diversity lesson taught in classrooms

**May 2020:** Awarded six staff members the "Equity Inclusion and Diversity Award"

## R.A.C.E. and the Community

**November 2018:** Racial Justice Potluck: Invited all Racial Justice groups on the south end for the first Coalition meeting. Racial justice group leaders have been meeting quarterly since.

**Summer 2019:** Racial Justice Love In

**October 2019:** Began weekly Youth of Color Collective, attended by 26 children

**November 2019:** Restorative Practices workshop, 35 participants, 23 Restorative Practitioners after a four-day training.

**February 2020:** Black History Month Installation South Whidbey Community Center

**July 2020:** "How to be an Anti-Racist Organization", attended by 36 participants, representing 10 organizations

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