

Good Afternoon Brooks Families,

I am writing today because my heart is heavy. This has been a troubling week for our country, and I cannot remain silent.

As an individual who's been entrusted to educate youth of all colors, cultures and backgrounds, I am troubled by the racism that exists in our world and am compelled to seek to understand it and work to interrupt it.

One of Wake County's Core Beliefs states, "The Board of Education, superintendent, and all staff value a diverse school community that is inviting, respectful, inclusive, flexible, and supportive." I could not be prouder to be a part of the Brooks community, where we embody this belief. Our Brooks family is incredibly diverse, and we consider that to be a gift, as our children can learn from one another every day.

I recognize that children and families may be struggling to process the current events in our country and for that reason, I want to share a resource that you may choose to access. On Saturday morning, June 6th at 10:00 am, CNN and Sesame Street will present, "Coming Together: Standing Up to Racism. A CNN/Sesame Street Town Hall for Kids and Families." If you're interested, you can visit this link to learn more about this upcoming programming.

As a staff, we are dedicated to teaching and loving ALL students. We take the job of educating your children very seriously. Day in and day out, we strive to teach academics, but also to prepare students for the real world by teaching them citizenship, inclusivity, respect and empathy. We know that our children need these skills to be prepared for the bright future that lies ahead of them.

In closing, I will leave you with a few of our staff commitments:

- We are committed to being positive models for our students and our community.
- We are committed to promoting positive change and recognize that in order to promote change, we must be the change.
- We are committed to loving your children.
- We are committed to achieving racial equality.

Now, more than ever, I appreciate each of you. Thank you for your continued partnership and support of the entire Brooks community.

With love,

Marie Palmer, Principal