June 4, 2020

Be an Antiracist

“The beauty of anti-racism is that you don’t have to pretend to be free of racism to be anti-racist. Anti-racism is the commitment to fight racism wherever you find it, including in yourself. And it’s the only way forward.” — Ijeoma Oluo, NYT bestselling author of *So You Want to Talk About Race*

If the pandemic wasn’t enough, the pervasive, systemic racism in this country has made itself unignorably visible. While many of privilege may take it for granted, we must not, cannot, ignore that people of color in this country live with racism and prejudice every day and have been doing so for generations.

I will admit: I am white, male and 40.

I will admit: Until just recently, I did not understand there is a difference between being “not racist” and being an “antiracist.”

I will admit: Because of who I am, I am not the person who should be telling others how to be an antiracist.

We each need to educate ourselves on how to be an antiracist. I am beginning my journey by reading the highly recommended *How to Be an Antiracist* by National Book Award winner Dr. Ibram X. Kendi. I suggest also taking some time to listen to him discuss topics such as confronting internalized racism, why conversations on racism are unproductive, and rethinking the roots of racism. Then listen to Dr.
Kendi and author Jason Reynolds in conversation as the keynote for School Library Journal’s Day of Dialog last week.

Here’s some other ways to start, right now:

- **#KidLit Rally for #BlackLivesMatter**: TONIGHT! Join such amazing authors as Jaqueline Woodson, Kwame Alexander, Jason Reynolds, Jerry Craft, Gene Luen Yang and more, in an important dialog and call to action. From 7:00-7:45 they will be in conversation with kids and young people, followed by a discussion for parents and caregivers, educators and librarians from 7:45-8:30. On Facebook Live here. Or in Zoom.
- **A Call for Antiracism: Children's Titles** from Raquel.
- **Antiracism Resources for Teens & Adults** from Kathlyn.
- **Coming Together: Standing Up To Racism – A CNN/Sesame Street Town Hall for Kids and Families**: This Saturday, June 6, 10:00 a.m. on CNN.

More relevant articles and reading below. Learn, become better, change the world.

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P.S. Remember, you can always reply to this email or reach me on Twitter.

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**Library Services Update**

Last week, we announced some upcoming changes to Library services that I’d like to take the time to highlight today. It is exciting to be moving forward!

**Monday, June 8**: Our book drops will be open 24/7 for you to return materials. There will be no fines on late materials until 30 days after we reopen to the public.

**Monday, June 15**: Contactless Curbside Service begins. More information coming next week on how this will work.

Virtual programming will be continuing. Check our online calendar for events and Zoom links. Information on Summer Reading, and our great lineup of virtual performers and presentations, will be coming soon.
Author Visit with Erika Liodice

On Wednesday, June 10th, at 4:00 p.m., author Erika Liodice will join us for an author visit to read her book Rookie of the Year, part of the High Flyers series. Find out more about the author and the series here.

Let's Dance!

Join us on Thursday, June 11 at 2:00 p.m. for a fun music and dancing author program! For ages 2-7 and their families. Author Valerie Bolling virtually visits and reads from her musical, dance-filled, fun book for younger kids, Let's Dance!

Summer Virtual Book Bunch Programs

We’re excited to announce some fun virtual book discussion programs for children throughout the summer.
National Garden Week

Virtual Book Display

ArtsWestchester Virtual Art Workshops

- ArtsMobile Virtual Art Workshops
- Teen Tuesdays & Thursday Virtual Art Workshops
All of our students will have the opportunity to bring new books home during our Book Bus Drives.

- Wednesday, June 10, 2020 from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM at Post Road School; 175 West Post Road

Todos nuestros estudiantes tendrán la oportunidad de traer libros nuevos gratis a casa a través de nuestro Autobús de Libros.

- Miércoles, 10 de junio del 2020 desde 11:00 de la mañana hasta la 1:00 p.m. en la Escuela Post Road; la 175 de la West Post Road
Articles Around the Web

An Antiracist Reading List by Ibram X. Kendi
These Books Can Help You Explain Racism and Protest to Your Kids.
Talking to Kids About Racism, Early and Often.
Are Your Kids Too Young to Talk About Race?

100 Race-Conscious Things You Can Say To Your Child To Advance Racial Justice.