

GARWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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January 15, 2021

*If we are to have peace on earth,
our loyalties must become ecumenical rather than sectional.
Our loyalties must transcend our race, our tribe, our class, our nation;
and this means we must develop a world perspective.
~Dr. Martin Luther King*

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I could not wait to ring in the new year and say goodbye to 2020! I was hopeful that the new year and the vaccine would help to ease our collective anxiety. It took only six days to challenge my hopes! As the events of January 6th continue to unfold, I could easily lose hope and become fearful of the current state of affairs. This week as I visited the various classrooms, my hope was restored in the smiling eyes of our students. Your children are our future and our future looks bright! During my visits, the students learned about Dr. Martin Luther King's vision of equality and nonviolent protests to change the world and make it a better place for all people. Sadly, our middle school students also had to learn about the violent protests that occurred in our nation's capital. I am very proud of how our teachers handled the discussions about this event with our students. Listed below are parent resources to assist you if you would like help to process this event with your child.

<https://www.common sense media.org/blog/talking-to-kids-about-the-violence-at-the-us-capitol>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/family/2021/01/talking-to-your-kids-about-chaos/#close>

Our dedicated staff will continue to do their best to keep your children feeling safe and secure. They will also continue to model and teach kindness, respect and civility. Our motto at Lincoln School is TEAM-Together Everyone Achieves More! Together we will continue to treat others with kindness and respect, together we can seek common ground with those with whom we disagree and together we can support each other in our efforts to become better people.

As I prepare for the long weekend and the celebration of the Martin Luther King holiday, I am extremely grateful that I work in such a caring community. Earlier this week, Ms. Lukacovic emailed parents revised protocols that we are now following. Thank you for remaining diligent in following these health protocols. Our dedicated custodial staff continue to work hard and follow the State's cleaning procedures. Everyone working together will keep our school opened and our community safe!

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