



Principal Tonie

April 21, 2017

## WE ALL BELONG!

EVENTS

NEWS

UPDATES

I am going to start-off with a letter that gets pretty real and perhaps, uncomfortable for some. I want to talk about a powerful conversation during Wednesday's PTSA/Race Forum meeting: Myths About Immigration. Before the discussion, Dr. Tanisha Felder, Orca parent and former teacher, reminded us of the Four Agreements (developed by Glen Singleton and Curtis Linton) to support adults in having "Courageous Conversations" on race:

1. Experience discomfort. This agreement acknowledges that discomfort is inevitable, especially in discussions about race. It is through dialogue, even when uncomfortable, the healing and change can begin.
2. Speak your truth—Have the courage to speak on behalf of yourself, not others – or what you think others might want to hear.
3. Expect and accept non-closure – discussions about race require ongoing dialogue.
4. Stay engaged emotionally and intellectually.

You may ask, "Why talk about immigration?" At Orca K-8, we have students and families who are immigrants or who know someone who is an immigrant. Each week, we have students who come to school and ask, "Principal Tonie, "What happens if someone knocks on my door at my house and takes my parents away?" "Do you think I am going to be put in jail?" These fears are real for our children. It would be impossible for us to adhere to the model of inclusion, if we chose to exclude through our silence. I have attached some reading materials that were shared at the PTSA/Race Forum meeting.

As the superintendent stated: "Seattle Public Schools is committed to educating children regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, country of origin, or a student's immigration status. We will do whatever it takes to make sure every student thrives; we will do everything within our power to make sure that all of our children are safe, honored, and respected while in our care."

Speak up! Stand up!

# Principal for a Day

Next week, Orca will have two 'visiting' principals.

Parents Tisha Held and Erin Goodman were the winners of "Principal for a Day" at the Orca Auction. Their daughters, Eden and Naima will each serve in the role as "Principal of the Day." I will be their assistant principal on those days.

You may ask, "What does a visiting principal do?"

- They will visit classrooms
- Sit in on meetings (with permission)
- Make morning announcements
- Help students problem solve
- Eat lunch with the assistant principal
- Help supervise the playground

They will be wearing name badges for easy identification.



**Eden**  
**"Principal of the Day"**  
**Tuesday, April 25th**



**Naima**  
**"Principal of the Day"**  
**Thursday, April 27th**

## **SCHOOL SAFETY**



Things are going great following Spring Break! There is such a strong feeling of community, of togetherness, of moving forward as a team. With these thoughts in mind, I just wanted to remind everyone to please not park in the Yellow School Bus Zones. We are always trying to find ways to make our school safer.

Thank you for helping us achieve that goal!

Ian Reid

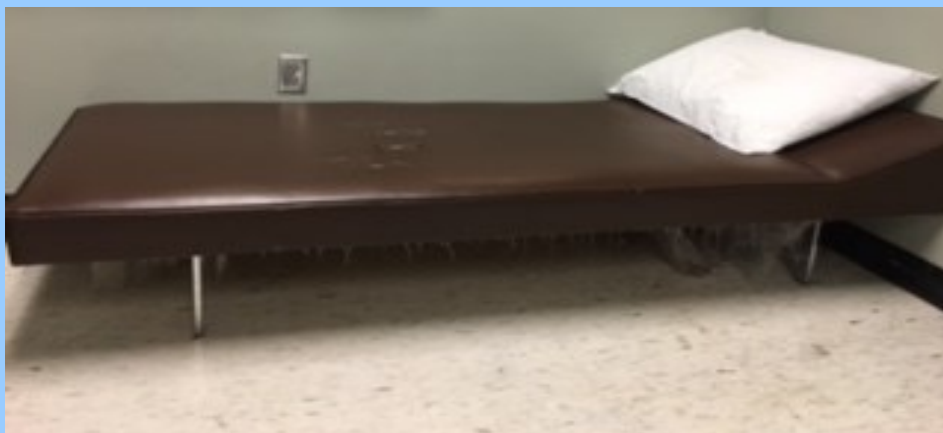
## **News From Nurse Marsha and Nurse Twinkle**



Greetings from the Orca health room!

Our health room is in desperate need of new recovery couches, also known as cots or beds. Our beds are unsightly. If anyone has access to replacements or would like to donate new beds please contact us. Another possibility is to have our current furniture re-upholstered. Please let the school know if you are able to help.

Thank you, Nurse Marsha and Nurse Twinkle



SAVE THE DATE



**2nd ANNUAL, Saturday, May 6th  
RISING VOICES ORATORY COMPETITION**

***Bold. Confident. Fearless. Proud.***



**We.APP Rising Voices Oratory Competition:**

We.APP (We Act. Present. Perform) is hosting the 2nd Annual Rising Voices Oratory Competition on Saturday, May 6th at South Shore PK - 8.

We.App (Act. Present. Perform.) Young Artists Academy (YAA) is proud to present the 2nd Annual Rising Voices Oratory Competition hosted by South Shore PK – 8 School on May 6, 2017 from 10:30am – 1pm. Doors open at 10:00am. We.APP YAA scholars attending six schools across three school districts will compete in a citywide public speaking showcase to spark a brave new movement of voices dedicated to truth and liberation.

In front of a panel of judges and community members, contestants ages 12 to 18 will present powerful personal narratives that capture their deepest feelings and aspirations. Each original speech is written and spoken in unapologetic vernacular, drawing upon personal perspectives on life and what it takes to progress as a community and nation. The Rising Voices Oratory Competition gives each participant the opportunity to combat silence and develop in the areas of literacy and inclusion, which are critical in disrupting the school-to-prison pipeline.

**Partnering Schools:**

Mount View Elementary - South Shore PK-8 - Orca K-8

Summit Sierra - Cleveland High School

Awards for each category (Grade: 5-6, 7-8, 9-10 & 11-12): +

**-1st place**, \$200 + plaque

**-2nd place**, Silver medal + gift card

**3rd place**, bronze medal + gift card



# April 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5 Salmon Release Seward Park	6	7 Seeing Everyone Equally & Distinctly	8 Star Wars: Execute 66 Rainier Beach High School
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Joint PTSA Race Forum Meeting Dinner and Childcare 6:30—8:30pm	20	21 Orca Garden Work Party	22
23	24	25 Inclusion Committee Meeting 7-8:30pm Orca Library	26 Orca K-8 Book Fair Library	27 Orca K-8 Book Fair Library	28 Orca K-8 Book Fair Library	29
30						