

PEER BIAS LEADERS NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2020

Welcome to the Peer Bias Leaders Newsletter. We are the Peer Bias Leaders, a student-led equity and inclusivity group at Haddonfield Memorial High School. Beginning this month, we plan to release a monthly newsletter curated by students discussing the importance of equity through books, articles, discussion topics, and more. With this newsletter, we hope to foster conversations and self-education that act as the foundation for change within our community.

Each month, we will have a general theme for the newsletter. For the month of August, we would like to focus on **Conversations**. With our first newsletter, we hope to plant the seeds for discussion through different components: tips on how to have these difficult conversations within your circles, an excellent book that asks for meaningful conversation, and a podcast ... We hope that this newsletter can continue the dialogue necessary to address the injustices prevalent in our nation. Conversation is the beginning of change.

- Mehki Rippey, President of the Peer Bias Leaders

Discussion Topics:

- **Discussing Hate and Violence with Children**

Children are very perceptive, they typically know what is going on in the world around them. Therefore parents have the important, yet difficult job of teaching their children about hate and violence. This short article is very helpful and explanatory and will take only a few minutes to read; this discussion is incredibly valuable no matter what is going on in current events. This article reminds you to be forgiving and understanding of your child's questions, and reminds you that you may have to learn something yourself in order to teach them.

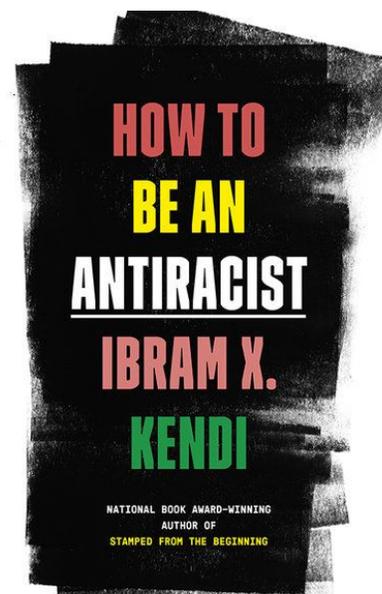
- **How to talk to kids about racism, protests: An age-by-age guide**

Many parents have been given the task of answering difficult questions presented by their children based on racial inequalities taking place in the world around them. This article explains that children as young as toddlers notice racial differences, which is why it is essential to teach children early on about the importance of treating other kids equally despite their differences.

Book of the Summer:

- **How to be an Antiracist, by Ibram X. Kendi**

Blurb: In *How to be an Antiracist*, Ibram X. Kendi writes about the issues surrounding race in the United States, its causes, and its effects on society as a whole. Furthermore, Kendi tells personal stories about his experience with racism, allowing the reader to get a personal view of racism's effects and why it is so important to be an antiracist. "The only way to undo racism is to consistently identify and describe it--and then dismantle it" - *How to be an Antiracist*. This book was a New York Times bestseller, and is highly recommended!



Podcast of the Month:

- **Speaking of Racism**

What better way to self-educate on topics relevant to the Black Lives Matter movement than listening to other people's stories. There is a series on Spotify called *Speaking of Racism* which helps explain the misconceptions and obstacles when talking about racism. They range from half an hour to an hour. A specific episode you should listen to is called *Historical Storytelling with Jermaine Fowler of The Humanity Archive*. Jermaine is an educator who strives to advocate for the forgotten history of America. He has created a creative way that educates others about that is understandable. There are many other guest speakers in the podcast series that are informative and easy to listen to!

Student Experiences:

As we discuss the importance of education and teaching our children key morals from a young age, it is only right that we hear from our youth. Students in the Peer Bias Committee and beyond are dedicated to creating a more welcoming environment for their classmates, neighbors, and themselves. Today's younger generation knows they are the ones able to enact real change in the future, and our student leaders exemplify that attitude. At the Black Lives Matter march on Kings Highway on June 24, students from Haddonfield, Collingswood, Pennsauken and beyond spoke about the importance of the movement,



how we must continue to push for change until *everyone* is treated equally, and what it means to be a person of color growing up in America today. The courage, passion, and determination of young leaders should be a wake up call for our nation, and inspire us all to do better, and be better. Below, you can read some of the powerful words that were spoken at the rally. As students, our full-time job is to learn, but in reality, that's never a position one should give up. Let us all keep learning, growing, and

loving.

Photo Credit: Dave Cimetta

Here is a link to some of the speeches from the protest: <https://haddonfield.today/black-lives-matter-speeches/>

Quote of the Month:

The child becomes largely what it is taught; hence we must watch what we teach it, and how we live before it.

–Jane Addams

