

News From The Nest – November 7th to 11 2022

Spotlight on Learning: The 7 Years War in Science Humaines (Social Studies) 9

Mr. Gibson’s French Immersion socials studies class recently finished up their 7 years’ war study and it concluded with a question: What was the most severe consequence for the people groups involved? Students needed to come up with a thesis and a defense of why they thought the consequence they chose was the most severe.



As Canada comes from a history mixed with colonialism and a tragic attempt to wipe out Canada’s first peoples, students were challenged to look at different perspectives during this time in history. Why were British and French countries so driven to colonize? For the newly “discovered” countries, what were the consequences of this new global relationship? Were there any positive outcomes or was it all negative?

As the students were challenged to take on different perspectives, they were also faced with another challenge, this one teacher-driven: They could not simply write a paper explaining the thesis of consequences. They needed to demonstrate their learning in an alternative way. Not only were their compelling arguments made for the consequences of the 7 years’ war, but there were some very creative demonstrations used as models to the defense of their reasoning.

Part 3 – Our Mini Series on Race, Racism, and Anti-Racism:

“How to be Anti-Racist: Speak Out In Your Own Circles” By Kristen Rodgers, CNN, June 4th, 2022

In light of the ongoing protests after the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery , and Breonna Taylor, some people say they want to become anti-racist.

Being anti-racist means more than ridding yourself of racist attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors. It means you’re also actively fighting that reprehensible trinity as it manifests in your life on a daily basis.

Donating to activist organizations and protesting injustices are definitely good starts to becoming an ally. But that’s not enough. Actively rebutting prejudices in your own circles is key to lasting change, as those ideas and beliefs — unless challenged — are what our children absorb and are woven into the fabric of our culture.

“In order to interrupt systemic racism, we have to be working all the time,” said Beverly Tatum, a psychologist, former Spelman College president and author of the classic books “Can We Talk About Race?” and “Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?”

What that means for you depends on who you are, where you live and who you’re interacting with. Everyone has particular spheres of influence, in which we help shape the mindsets, and thus the behaviors, of others. Ask yourself what messages you’re sending to your family, friends, workplace, places of worship and outside activities. What leadership are you providing or are you silent in the face of racism?

“Unless I’m really being intentional and thinking about how to interrupt the racist policies and practices that are surrounding me, then my silence is supporting that,” Tatum added.

“People sometimes think, ‘Well, I’m not calling anyone names or doing anything hateful, [so] I have no responsibility,’” she said. “But the system of this web that surrounds all of us is reinforced by silence. So you have to speak up against it in the places where you are.”

Individual actions equal collective impact

It’s easy to think the decisions you make are limited to how they affect your life. But individual decisions sparked by racism and prejudice have historically morphed into the collective psyches of many nations.

How do everyday decisions lead to calling the police on black people for no reason, hate crimes and police brutality incidents?

Every time you leave a smaller form of racism unchallenged, that bolsters your tolerance for racism, said Jennifer Harvey, a religion professor at Drake University in Iowa and author of “Raising White Kids: Bringing Up Children in a Racially Unjust America.”



It’s not only active white supremacy, racism and police brutality ending black and brown lives, said Harvey, who recently wrote “How to not raise a racist white kid” for CNN.

“Collectively, white America has this really high capacity to tolerate racism,” she added. “That grows from all of those many aggressions and hostilities that we allow to go unchecked in our environments.”

Many would never sanction what police officers did to George Floyd, Harvey said, but violence happens after tolerance builds up to lesser forms of racism. Failing to challenge racism and prejudice equals participation in a version of violence, she said, and it eventually leads to these devastating events.

“Every time we fail to interrupt racism, we under-do our own capacity to sort of grow the kind of flourishing anti-racist world that everybody deserves to live in,” she added.

Shift your mindset

Becoming anti-racist starts with shifting your own mindset, these experts said. This means, for example, that when you have a prejudiced or racist thought, you hold that thought and reassess it before acting it out.

Dislodging prejudice in your mind can be hard because it’s usually an unconscious bias, Tatum said. You can’t filter out biases unless you’re aware of them.

Tatum likened stereotype exposure to breathing in smog in the air: “They’re so pervasive in our environment that we’re constantly breathing them in. And because of breathing them in, we should not be surprised that sometimes we breathe that out.”

Address the problem by asking yourself what you’re leaking into the air, whether it’s stereotypes or discriminatory behavior. Awareness is the first step.

Educate yourself about racism

It’s time to start reading about race. Tatum’s book can explain why black students find relief in hanging out together amid all the racism they experience at school. Harvey’s book can help parents of white children talk to their children about race and racism.

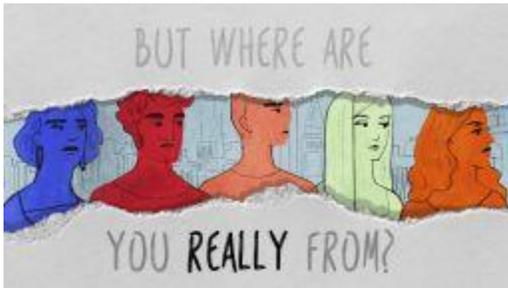
“So You Want to Talk About Race” by Ijeoma Oluo relays how race and racism affect every aspect of American life and how to talk about it with your loved ones. “The Souls of Black Folk,” by late sociologist and activist W.E.B. Du Bois, highlights the experiences of black people in American society. It was published in 1903, but it still holds relevance.



Learn about microaggressions

Some white people know that to become anti-racist, they must start to listen and brush up on the history of racism in their countries.

Some people are describing obviously racist behavior as the tip of the iceberg – calling people racist names or threatening people based on race. Then there’s the part of the iceberg that’s not easily visible to people if they’re not looking. This includes a range of subtle but insidious attitudes, behaviors, and policies.



Among these are microaggressions. They are brief and commonplace verbal, behavioral or environmental indignities, Tatum said.

Microaggressions can be intentional, unintentional, or even well-meaning, but they communicate hostile, derogatory or negative racial assumptions to the receiver. And they have an insidious effect on a black person’s psyche and continuing racist assumptions.

“These racist tendencies are obvious to the person of color, but they are so ingrained in the non-person of color that they are believed to

be socially acceptable,” said Justice Horn, a social justice activist and protest organizer from Kansas City, Missouri.

A list of common microaggressions

Here are some common microaggressions, which you can avoid by not saying them.

“You’re so well spoken/articulate” or “You don’t sound black (Asian, South Asian, Arabic, Muslim).” This remark sounds like a compliment, but it’s offensive to a lot of black people because they usually don’t have to be that articulate for someone to say that to them, Tatum said.

When a white person says it, it usually implies they wouldn’t expect to hear coherence from a black person. The black person didn’t fit the white person’s offensive stereotype, so the white person complimented them for not fitting the mold.

“Don’t blame me. I never owned slaves.” This statement assumes that racism ended with the conclusion of the US Civil War, Tatum said, when really it has continued in new forms. Read “Just Mercy” by Bryan Stephenson or “The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness” by Michelle Alexander to learn more about modern slavery, racism and how white people still benefit from discrimination.

“White privilege doesn’t exist.” Differences in racial privilege occur on a personal basis, too. White privilege also means not having to worry about whether your hairstyle will cost you a job or even an interview. It’s not having to worry if someone is following you around a store because they think you might steal something because of your skin color.

“All lives matter.” Yes, all lives matter, but in this context it’s black lives that are not being treated with respect, Tatum said. Hence the Black Lives Matter movement.

Those who say, “all lives matter” may be interpreting “only black lives matter,” which isn’t the case. The latter phrase means “black lives matter, too.” So, when someone says “all lives matter” without acknowledging the movement, they’re ignoring the anti-black racism that there are so many examples of regarding police interactions, Tatum said.

"I'm not racist; I have a black friend." People who say this might be equating racism with prejudice, Tatum said. Prejudice is an attitude based on stereotypes. Racism entails the policies and practices that perpetrate notions of white superiority and inferiority of people of color.

You may not harbor racial prejudice or hate in your heart, but ties with black people don't keep you from engaging in discriminatory behavior and/or failing to challenge racist practices.

"Can I touch your hair?" Curiosity is OK, but crossing boundaries is not. The question may not be intentionally offensive, but it can make a black person feel as if she's an animal on display — since you likely wouldn't ask that of any other race. It also continues the antiquated idea of black people as "other" or scientific novelty.

"We're all one human race/big happy family." This statement seeks to alleviate racism or complaints of it. The phrase is biologically correct given genetic similarities. But in terms of social interactions, we don't behave as if we were all one race, Tatum said.

"I'm colorblind; I don't care if you're white, black, yellow, green or purple." The intention is inclusive, but people of color are saying their color and identity matter and affect how they experience the world. Saying this is offensive because it could imply you aren't listening to or don't care about what other groups of people are telling you.

Clutching your purse or dodging while passing a black man. This behavior implies that black men are dangerous. It's based on a fear that responds to a stereotype that categorizes black men as threats.

Reading this list of microaggressions, maybe you'll think, "Aren't they being oversensitive?" If they were isolated incidents, maybe. However, microaggressions are so common "that it's like death by a thousand cuts," Tatum said. "Research has shown that microaggressions do contribute to increased blood pressure, physical reactions [and] lower feelings of well-being." They wear people down, and they need to be taken seriously.

Speak up in your own circles

You might have friends, family, and colleagues with varying degrees of complicity with racism. If they make a racist remark, it's easier to ignore it so you don't make waves. Challenging racist comments requires effort; it might make you uncomfortable or even result in conflict or lost opportunities.

You need to be willing, committed, and able to rebut problematic remarks and engage people in informative conversations about race at the dinner table and overboard games or ball games. (If you have children, they are watching how you respond to racist Uncle Larry — or not.) It benefits people of color and everyone else. Racism harms people of color, but it also shrinks the lives and damages the psyche of its perpetrators, Harvey said.

When these instances occur, say you're uncomfortable with what someone said because it sounded racist to you. That person will decide whether to ask why. If not, try having a later conversation with that person and ask if you can share what you've learned and the history that made his comment offensive. Maybe that person will want to talk more. If not, how far you push depends on your relationship.

The goal isn't to win the argument, Harvey said. It's enough if you came prepared and tried hard to interrupt complicity with racism. But silence is never better.

"The most important thing a white ally can do [is] fight our battles when there are no people of color around," Horn said. "The problem is that too many people claim to fight against the system, but do not speak out against prejudice and racism when there are no people of color around."

This advice can be applied to efforts to understand any other group suffering from a history of oppression, such as Latinx people, Spanish or Hispanic people, or indigenous peoples.

To be a better ally, educating yourself is of utmost importance, Tatum said. "And build your stamina, because this is not [just] one conversation [and] then it's fixed," she added. "This is a long-term effort. It's like running a marathon, you must train for it. Educate yourself and then make a commitment to being in it for the long haul."

Boys Soccer Season Wrap Up



The Boys Soccer team season came to an end this past week, after losing in the EVAAs semi-final playoff game, 3-2 to Abby. In only their second season, the boys have become a strong unit and are seen as serious competition by their opponents.

Season record recap: 3-4-1, losing by only one goal in those 4 games. Strong leadership shown by Nate Cervo, Caelen Mackenzie, and Aman Basrom throughout the season helped keep the team focused and united. A shout-out to our junior players, Evan Thomas, Ryan Mathews, Micah Moews, and Owen Walker. We are looking forward to seeing your growth over the next 3 years.

Congratulations to our graduating players: Aman Basrom, Caelan Mackenzie, Pietro Seregni, Jesse Krahn, Mufaro Simango, Adam Wilson, and Gibson Buhler. Thank you for your dedication and leadership in establishing our program.



Self Care Mondays: Deep Breathing

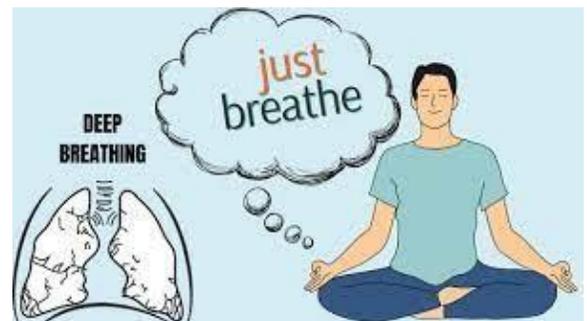
Deep breathing has several benefits to us. It helps to reduce our heartrate after exercise. It helps us digest our food. Deep breathing also helps to calm us and helps improve our focus. Practicing deep breathing can be of tremendous benefit just before writing a test to help sharpen our focus as well as to reduce some anxiety. Give it a try today!

<https://www.healthline.com/health/diaphragmatic-breathing>

<https://www.verywellmind.com/the-benefits-of-deep-breathing-5208001>

A short activity to try: Square breathing activity

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1szHqOLLGwiEFldLdFS5f6A4CaS0fxMcZ/view?usp=sharing>



November Theme: Play That Music



Week 3: Music Improves Sleep

Over 30% of Americans suffer from insomnia. A study showed that listening to classical or relaxing music within an hour of going to bed significantly improves sleep, compared to listening to an audiobook or doing nothing before bed. Since we know music can directly influence our hormones, it only makes sense to throw on some Beethoven (or *Dark Side of The Moon?*) before bed when in need of a good night's sleep.

Week 4: Music Reduces Depression

Music has a direct effect on our hormones; it can even be considered a natural antidepressant. This is because certain tunes cause the release of serotonin and dopamine (neurotransmitters) in the brain which leads to increased feelings of happiness and well-being. It also releases norepinephrine, which is a hormone that invokes feelings of euphoria.

COMING UP THIS WEEK

Monday Nov 7 – ABCD

Tuesday Nov 8 – CDBA

- Indigenous Veterans Day
- Counsellor/Admin Meeting
- Admin/Sr Mgmt Meeting

Wednesday Nov 9 – BADC

- Remembrance Day Assembly – Formal Dress
- Dual Track Admin Meeting
- Thrive Leadership Meeting

Thursday Nov 10

- Pro D Day

Friday Nov 11

- Remembrance Day Holiday