

Skinner North Community Newsletter – January

JANUARY 13, 2021

As we usher in the new year and make way for new beginnings and greater expectations, we take time to acknowledge that at this very moment our nation is full of challenges. While attempts have been made to tackle social injustices and inequities during 2020, we are now faced with last week's attempts to attack our democracy. When news of the incident in our nation's capitol hit the airwaves, our students and teachers made a collective effort to embrace this shared learning opportunity. Questions and conversations immediately began across content areas throughout the school with regards to embracing differences and the celebration of all cultures. It was truly a teachable moment for a number of days and I applaud our staff and your children for rising up in that moment. While these efforts might seem small, they are essential to the continuous work we must do as a community around diversity, equity, and inclusion. Small steps make great strides.

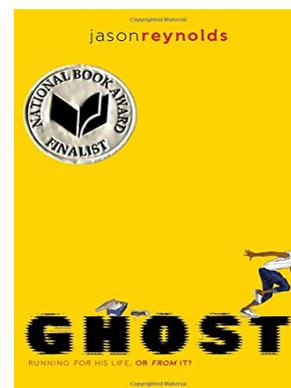
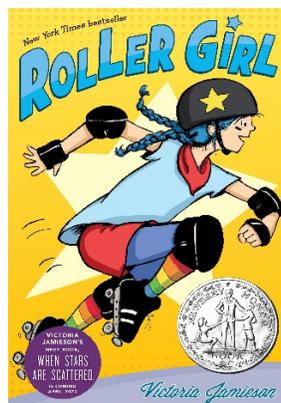
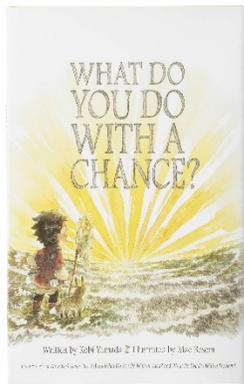
Our Social Emotional Learning (SEL) theme during the month of January is **growth mindset**. When you have a growth mindset, you are influenced by “time and effort” as the drivers for your success. This way of thinking/learning is one that has been shared over the years here at Skinner North, particularly during the beginning of year, but is something we are excited about revisiting. Teachers will be focusing on this topic in their classrooms. As a school, we take pride in acknowledging and recognizing the contributions of all.

Below are book recommendations from our school counselor, Ms. Jacobson, connected to the theme: K-2: **What Do You Do With A Chance** by Kobi Yamada; 3-5: **Roller Girl** by Victoria Jamieson; and 6-8 **Ghost** by Jason Reynolds.

Jump start 2021 with great expectations.

Best,

Derrick



SKINNER NORTH QUESTION CORNER

Skinner North Question Corner. We will select and answer questions each month. We encourage you to submit your questions. We want to create a space where everyone feels comfortable asking questions.

Note: When you submit a question, you agree to have your question published and sent to the newsletter listserv (names will not be included). We will try to respond to all questions submitted, but some may not be answered/published. If you have an immediate concern or question, please always feel free to email.

Please submit your questions at <https://goo.gl/forms/yc3mMfMpT6HDjOUi1>.

Question: When will parents learn more about in-person learning scheduled to start February 1st?

Answer: Parents will learn more about in-person learning and the entire reopening plan at virtual town hall meetings scheduled for next **Thursday, January 21st** at 6 and 7:30 p.m. (a meeting link will be sent in the coming days).

UPDATES

Reopening Plan: The Skinner North staff has been preparing for the reopening of schools. Detailed information around reopening will be shared through virtual town hall meetings on **Thursday, January 21st at 6 and 7:30 pm** (meeting links to be sent in the coming days). Details around what the school day will look like (including lunch, recess, entry and dismissal will be shared at that time).

Some things to consider: (1) Before and after care will not be available at this time; (2) breakfast and lunch will be held inside the classroom; (3) Recess, when outside, will be among pods with limited interaction; and (4) We will have some All-Star after school programming (all virtual) – details will be released soon.

For families that have opted into the hybrid model and would prefer to return to remote learning, that change can be sent to Mr. Kimbrough at dkimbrough@cps.edu and our clerk, Gloria Morales at gqmorales@cps.edu.

Smile! Picture day is Wednesday, February 3, 2021 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00p.m.

This year's Picture Day will be different given the current COVID-19 pandemic.

To meet social distancing, as well as making this event as contactless as possible, students will be scheduled a slot per your availability and your responsibility between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Wednesday, February 3, 2021 (remote learning day for all students). Orders will be online **only** and **due by February 1st**.

For your convenience, attached is the flyer with the picture packages & prices, the link & code for ordering, and access to the sign-up spreadsheet to schedule your child's picture. **Only one slot per student.** Photographers can take up to 10 students per time slot; 5 students per

camera (we will have 2 cameras set-up). We expect students to be in and out of the building in approximately five minutes.

Online Prepay ordering information:

<https://inter-state.com/FlyerEntry>

Online Order Code: 56850Q

Sign-up link address:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1RStQC1RZO8yRFVP9K8wxU7Mu7TQ_ien6Odqhg32PE94/edit?usp=drive_web

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the main office.

From the Desk of the Librarian, Ms. Syed:

When you return to school, please bring with you any overdue library books. If you plan to continue learning from home this quarter, please make time to drop the books off during the week. If you're unsure what titles you still have, if any, please email me at msyed13@cps.edu and I will be happy to assist you. Thank you!

From the Diversity Committee:



Diversity Discussions: Our Impact at Home

The Skinner North Diversity Committee has been gathering together a number of resources to support our families who aren't quite sure what to say about the attack on the U.S. Capitol last week. There has been so much going on in the recent past – pandemic, social justice movements, confronting racism – it is difficult to know where to start or how far to go. We want to help in this moment by providing resources that support age-appropriate conversations about what happened last week. We know our kids are already trying to wrap their minds around what happened, whether we like it or not. It's important to listen and understand what children know, answer questions honestly, and help our kids use their critical thinking skills to discern fact from fiction and truth from lies.

We know there's more out there, but here are a few resources to begin --

Language to Support Conversation at Home:

Start with, "I want to talk about something serious, that we'll all have big feelings about." Talk slowly and with eye contact; this maintains connection and helps a child sit with painful realities.

It's important to share the truth. Use real words, not euphemisms, to describe what's happening. When we circle around the full truth, our children absorb our anxiety and avoidance.

Pause at various points and ask, "What's this like, to talk about...?" Respond with acknowledgement, validation, and permission to feel.

It's ok to say, "Great question. I don't know. As soon as I learn more, you'll be the first person I

talk to about it.” It’s also important to say, “This will be something we talk about again.” It’s ok to pause, to give time to digest and think and feel and ask.

It’s ok to cry. It’s ok if your children cry. It’s ok to be uncomfortable. If you are, remind yourself that discomfort is a sign of doing something new, not doing something wrong.

Remember: What’s scariest to a child is noticing changes in [his or her] environment and not having an adult talk to [him or her] about it.
(Language from: Dr. Becky Kennedy, Psychologist; @drbeckyathome on Instagram)

Family Resources and Activities:

American Psychological Association: [How to talk to children about difficult news](#)

PBS Newshour Classroom Resource: [Three ways to teach the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol](#)

Beyond the Stoplight: [Resources for teachers on the days after the attack on the U.S. Capitol](#)

Sample Resources Being Used in Our Skinner North Classrooms:

"Spot the Difference" [video](#) examining photos from BLM Protests and the Capitol Insurrection
Facing History and Ourselves: [Responding to the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol](#)
[Teachers for Social Justice](#)
[Zinn Education Project](#)
[Abolitionist Teaching Network](#)

Sample Note from an SN Teacher:

I know that many of you have heard about the events which took place yesterday at our nation’s Capitol Building. You may have strong feelings about what you have heard on the news or from your families and I will try my best to give some space for us to share some of those thoughts and feelings and to answer questions, however, because we do not yet know and understand everything, there may be questions I cannot answer for you today.

Yesterday at a protest in Washington D.C. a large group of people became destructive and violent. They stormed the Capitol Building, where federal Senators and Representatives go to work and make the laws that we live by in our country. They broke into the building and scared the people inside, who were evacuated and were safe. They destroyed property and people were injured and some even died.

The reason these people did this is because they were upset that President Elect Biden is being confirmed by the Congress as the next president. These people believe that President Trump did not lose the election and that the election was unfair. There is absolutely no evidence of that.

All I can say to you today is that I am sad and confused and angry--and it’s okay if you are too. But, whether we are remote or in person--we are still together and we are still a family. Families are there for each other and I am here for you. We will live through and get through this together and hope that the future will bring us all closer together as a nation as we learn important lessons from something like this that has hurt us all.

REMINDERS

Volunteering – Are you interested in volunteering at the school, being a guest speaker or chaperoning field trips? If so, please make sure your volunteer status is up to date. All volunteer candidates must complete a volunteer application through the Chicago Public Schools CiviCore database. Please visit: cpsvolunteers.org for more information.

Required Health and Medical Forms - Please remember to complete required medical forms for your student. (Forms are available [here](#).)

- Physical - Required for Kindergarten and 6th grade
- Vision - Required for Kindergarten
- Dental - Required for Kindergarten, 2nd and 6th grades
- Immunizations (See page 4 of [this document](#) for further details)

Attendance Excusal Protocols - Remember attendance is taken daily for students during remote learning. To learn more, review our attendance section in our [school handbook](#). Please note: to excuse an absence **a call to the school** (773-534-8500) or **a signed excusal note that is mailed/faxed** to the school is allowable. (We cannot accept electronic signatures.) The excuse must be one that is allowable per CPS and ISBE (see handbook for details).

Office Hours - The school is open daily from 8:30-3:30. Please feel free to call. Mr. Santillan, our techco, is available to troubleshoot tech issues during the day.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dates to Remember

- **LSC Organizational Meeting** – Wed., Jan. 13th at 6:30 PM
Meeting Info: Meeting ID:
meet.google.com/apq-scqm-zzn
Phone Numbers
[\(US\)+1 657-845-0482](tel:+16578450482)
PIN: 236 285 917#
- **SN Diversity Committee Meeting** – Wed., January 20th at 3:30 PM
Meeting Info: Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/5252634982> Meeting ID: 525 263 4982
- **FoSN Meeting** – Wed., January 20th at 6 PM
Register in advance for this meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtdO6rpi4oGd1hDwziM9n2jpBpOnW2aLXq>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

2020- 2021 CPS CALENDAR

View the 2020-2021 CPS school year calendar using the following link:
<https://www.cps.edu/globalassets/cps-pages/calendar/sy2020-2021-academic-calendar-english.pdf>

2020- 2021 LSC & FOSN MEETING SCHEDULE

Below is a list of all upcoming LSC and FoSN meetings for 2020-2021. You can find more information and minutes/agendas from past LSC meetings on our website (<http://www.skinnernorth.org/local-school-council-lsc.html>) as well.

2020-2021 Local School Council Meetings	2020-2021 Friends of Skinner North Meetings
<p>Meeting # 1: Thursday, July 2, 2019 – Organizational Meeting @ 8:00AM Meeting # 2: Wednesday, August 19 @ 8:00AM Meeting # 3: Wednesday, September 16, 2020- 5:00PM Meeting # 4: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 - 6:300PM Meeting # 5: Thursday, November 19, 2020 - 8:00AM Meeting # 6: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 - 5:00PM Meeting #7: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 - 6:30PM Meeting # 8: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 - 8:00AM Meeting # 9: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 - 5:00PM Meeting # 10: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 - 6:30PM Meeting # 11: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 - 8:00AM Meeting # 12: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 - 5:00PM</p>	<p>July 21, 2020 – 6PM August 20, 2020 – 6PM September 23, 2020 – 6PM October 21, 2020 - 6PM November 19, 2020 - 6PM December 15, 2020 - Election Meeting @ 6PM January 20, 2021 – 6PM February 24, 2021 – 6PM March 24, 2021 – 6PM April 15, 2021 – 6PM May 18, 2021 – 6PM Election Meeting/Vote on 2021-22 Budget June 10, 2020 – 6PM</p>
LSC Committee Dates	School Based Committee Dates
<p>Skinner North Upper Grade (SNUG) Committee Chair: Holly Tomchey, LSC Liaison: Conor Sullivan snugparentgroup@gmail.com</p> <p>Diverse Learner Committee (proposed) Chair: Danielle Ritchey, LSC Liaison: Katie Magnuson sndiverseneeds@gmail.com</p> <p>CIWP Committee Meeting Chair: Katie Magnuson (kmagnuson@cps.edu)</p> <p>Thurs., Nov. 5, 2020 - 8AM-9AM Thurs., Mar. 4, 2021 - 8AM-9AM Thurs., Jun. 3, 2021 - 8AM-9AM</p>	<p>Diversity Committee Chairs: Danit Schleman & Smita Garg sndiversity@gmail.com</p>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Local School Council (LSC): New Chair to be selected at the January 13th Organizational Meeting at skinnernorthlsc@gmail.com

The LSC works on issues regarding Community Engagement, Budget, CIWP, and Principal Selection/Retention – information is located at <http://www.skinnernorth.org/local-school-council-lsc.html>.

Friends of Skinner North (FoSN): Contact Adriane Schwager (President) at fosnpresident@gmail.com.

FoSN focuses on community building, social events and fundraisers. For information on the committees, please visit <http://www.fosn.net/committees>

Get connected with FoSN, our Parent Organization. FoSN communicates via website, newsletter and Facebook. To sign up for newsletters email fosncommunications@gmail.com.

Diversity Committee: Contact Co-Chairs Danit Schleman & Smita Garg at sndiversity@gmail.com

The Diversity Committee's mission is to promote an inclusive environment that celebrates diversity in order to prepare students to become members of a global community. The committee meets monthly and works with the Skinner North administration to help ensure diversity in the school staff, student body and curriculum. The committee also promotes inclusion through monthly themes and various events.

Main Office:

Bus, Attendance, Volunteering or Ventra Cards: Mahjabeen Syed (msyed13@cps.edu)

Enrollment, Student Fees or Library Fines: Gloria Morales (gqmorales@cps.edu)

Parent Portal: Ramiro Santillan (rsantillan@cps.edu)

Medical Compliance: Courtney Blissitt (cdblissitt@cps.edu)

Sports or After School All Stars - Jon Popowich (jrpopowich@cps.edu)