

diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI)

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Riverview School

December 18, 2020 / Issue #1 / Gender Diversity



SPOTLIGHT ARTICLE

LGBTQ People with Developmental Disabilities Need Respect, Privacy, and Access to Community

JENNIFER SMITH- SLATE, June 22, 2017

Individuals with disabilities face many of the same dating challenges as their neurotypical peers but also must deal with added layers of complexities; finding access and opportunities within their special needs community. Add in the layer of being a member of the LGBTQ and dating dynamics magnify. Advocacy and support groups such as Rainbow Support Group are vital in providing members of this unique community access and support in navigating social and sexual experiences. In this article, author Smith outlines the importance of advocacy and support groups to provide equity and inclusiveness. Positive social connections are an integral part of the human experience. Teaching self-advocacy and providing opportunities is the crux of ensuring our students and clients are self determined in their lives, as social members of their communities.

Riverview School is a community that values and celebrates diversity as essential to the experience of our students, staff and community. We embrace and respect differences, including but not limited to: race, socioeconomic status, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age,

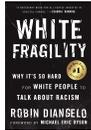
cultural heritage, educational background, and of course learning styles. As a community that aspires to reflect and prepare our students for the increasingly diverse world, Riverview supports and nurtures the whole child and their full identity.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION BOOK CLUBS

Join fellow colleagues in engaging discussions about important topics relevant to creating a community of diversity, equity and inclusion. Our DEI committee will be hosting two book clubs- **Mondays @ 7:00 pm, Thursdays @ 8:00 am**- for the month of January. Below are links to descriptions of each book and details of how to join. If interested in joining, please contact the facilitator directly. Book Club discussions will begin the first week of January and meet twice each month. All welcome! (Note: Books are available to borrow upon request.)



[So You Want to Talk About Race](#), Ijeoma Oluo
HOSTED BY CAITLIN YIP, Mondays @ 7:00 pm
cyip@riverviewschool.org



[White Fragility](#), Robin DiAngelo
HOSTED BY ANN PHELAN, Thursdays @ 8:00 am
aphelan@riverviewschool.org

RESOURCES

Things we are listening to, reading, watching, and following.

Articles

- [How To Support A Loved One If They Come Out As Trans](#), BRITTANY WONG- HUFFPOST, 12/4/2020
- [What I Learned as a Parent of a Transgender Child](#), PARIA HASSOURI- NY TIMES, 9/8/2020
- [Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Asperger/Autism](#), JAMIE FREED- AANE, 9/8/2020

Podcasts

- [Spectrumly Speaking](#): Episode 84 - Supporting Transgender Autistic Youth & Adults with Finn Gratton (33 min)
- [Fifty Shades of Gender](#): November 19th - How to be a Better Gender-Diverse Ally (53 min)

Social Media

- [Instagram: them](#). #OneOfThem
- [Instagram: lgbt history](#)

DEI IN THE NEWS

[Elliot Page, 'Juno' star, shares transgender identity](#)

SANDRA GONZALEZ- CNN, December 2, 2020



Earlier this month, Oscar Nominee Elliot Page; star of many popular films such as “Juno” and “X-Men” shared that they are transgender and identify as non-binary. (Non-Binary is a term used to describe a person whose gender identity is neither man nor woman). Page indicated that they were “inspired” by the trans community and thanked them for “working to make the world a more inclusive and compassionate place.” This topic is particularly relevant within our Riverview School community as we have students exploring their own gender identity. ***We hope to continue supporting our Riverview community with equal amounts of compassion and inclusivity.***

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Opportunities for DEI engagement and education.

Future publications of this newsletter will include opportunities for extended professional and personal development opportunities such as: webinar training or conferences, and more detailed

resources or comprehensive studies based on the related spotlight topic.

GLOSSARY

Terms to build our community vocabulary.

Sex A medically constructed categorization based on the appearance of genitalia in ultrasounds and/or at birth.

Gender The cultural/societal associations to biological sex including expectations of feelings, behaviors, and appearance.

Gender Identity A sense of oneself in the category of gender that may, or may not, correspond to the assigned sex/gender at birth.

Transgender A gender identity in which a person's internal knowledge of gender is different than the cultural or societal expectations of their gender/sex assigned at birth. This includes mtf (male to female), ftm (female to male), and non-binary.

Gender Dysphoria The feelings of discomfort or distress that are induced by one's gender identity not aligning with the gender assigned at birth or the gender-normative standards of the society.

Non-Binary A gender identity that embraces a full spectrum of self-expression that resonate with the individual beyond the male/female binary.