

diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility (DEIA)

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



# Riverview School

February 28, 2021 / Issue #8 / Black History Month

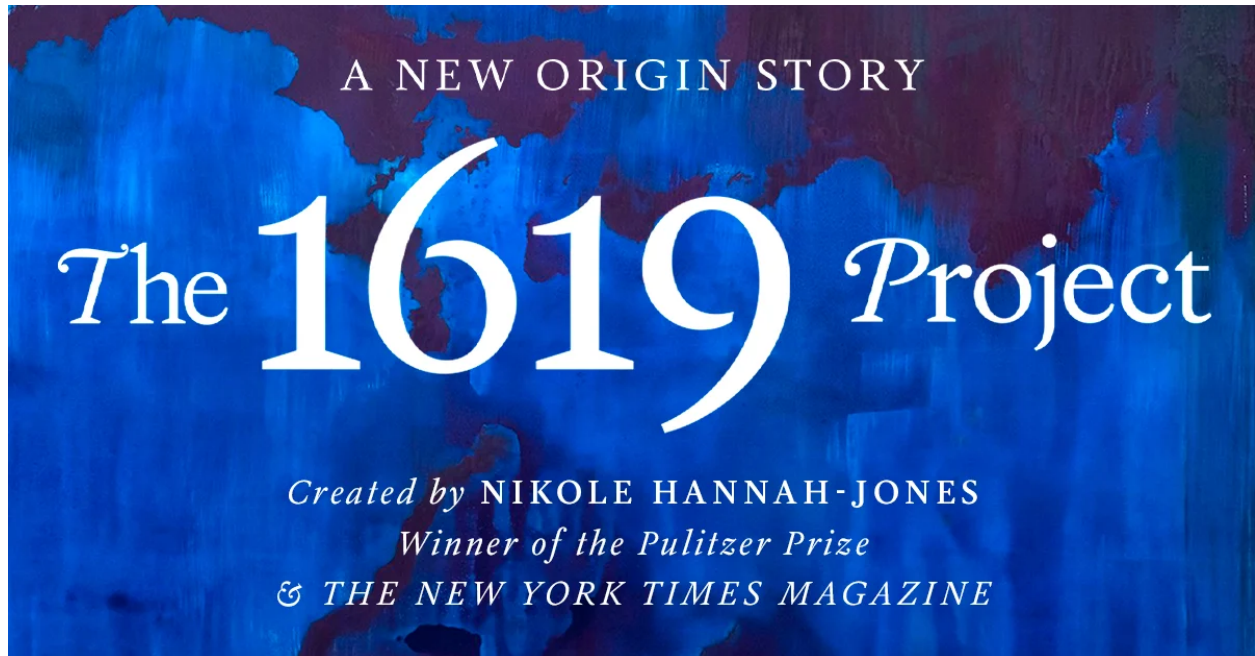


*Welcome to Riverview's 8<sup>th</sup> staff community newsletter. We can't thank everyone enough for the ongoing support as we continue our DEIA efforts within our Riverview Community! While we all believe Black History and Black culture should be celebrated throughout the year, this past month (February-BHM) our school made extra efforts to teach, celebrate and recognize Black history and culture.*

*For this newsletter, we wanted to focus our attention on the 1619 Project, and have selected a wonderful article from the Smithsonian Magazine about the 1619 Project. We also wanted to highlight and recap some of the ways in which our faculty and students took time to study, recognize and celebrate this important month. We hope you enjoy this newsletter and invite anyone who wishes to join us for an informal meeting on Thursday, March 3rd at 10:00am to discuss, reflect, and express. We plan for a Zoom meeting ([link](#)), but weather permitting- we may be able to meet outside for a walk and talk.*

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**Faculty Contest:** For every person who can accurately name each of the individuals in this top banner, our committee will donate \$10 to [Amplify POC Cape Cod](https://www.amplifypod.org/), a local non-profit which supports small businesses on the Cape owned and operated by people of color. To enter, please email your answers to Kyle Merrill: [Krmerrill@riverviewschool.org](mailto:Krmerrill@riverviewschool.org).



(click image above for link to The 1619 Project online at The New York Times Magazine)

## SPOTLIGHT STORY

### ***How to Tell 400 Years of Black History in One Book***

KARIN WULF- SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE, February 1, 2021

On a sweltering August day in 1619, the White Lion sailed into Port Comfort Virginia with 20-30 kidnapped humans, destined for slavery. This event in our history, rarely told until now, would unfold into what would be 250 years of a dark and brutal aspect of our history. Some refer to slavery as our country's "original sin" but it was a part of our reality that shaped our history. Slavery shaped not only anti- black racism, but it impacted our economy, our music, our food chain as well as health and education. Every fabric of our society was and is still impacted by what started on that ill-fated day in 1619.

The book was conceived with The New York Times Magazine publishing essays in 2019 related to black history. Nikole Hannah-Jones, a staff writer, inspired and directed what would become this remarkable landmark publication. We are compelled to spotlight The 1619 Project as it chronologically details much of what shaped current narrative and experience. (Ann Phelan- DEIA Committee Member)

## ARTICLES AND RESOURCES

- **Anti Racism Daily:** Newsletter about how to actively practice anti-racism. Click the link to subscribe for daily newsletters to be emailed directly to you.
- **Prominent Black Female Role Models:** Click link for a resource list of prominent black female role models.
- **Brewster Ladies Library Anti Racism Book Lists:** Check out the picture links below for compilation lists of books on anti-racism for young adults, middle grades, and picture books for elementary/pre-elementary, respectively.



## LOCAL EVENTS

### **Needles of Black History:**

### **A Mobile Black History Museum Exhibit**

@Cape Cod Community College, Feb 15th-Mar 15th, Wilkens Library



From Reconstruction to New Georgia Project, an ambitious student and community-driven project partnering: BIPOC students, The Parent Club, SGA, and the Cape Cod Cape Verdean Museum & Cultural Center.

The exhibit will be on display for 30 days, starting with the US Reconstruction Era and ending with the Georgia, non-partisan, Voting Project. The presentation will include stories from the 4Cs student populations representing the BIPOC community. *Open during Wilkens Library hours.* (Kate Ayson - DEIA Committee Member)

## STUDENT CURRICULUM UPDATES

### **Hallway Walk**

Middle School/High School, February 24th

Throughout the month of February, Middle School and High School teams participated in the decoration of their classroom doors in celebration of black voices and culture! Students honored many musicians, athletes, historical figures, artists, and innovators- ranging from Langston Hughes to Mae Jemison to Serena and Venus Williams. Please see some of the creative work below!

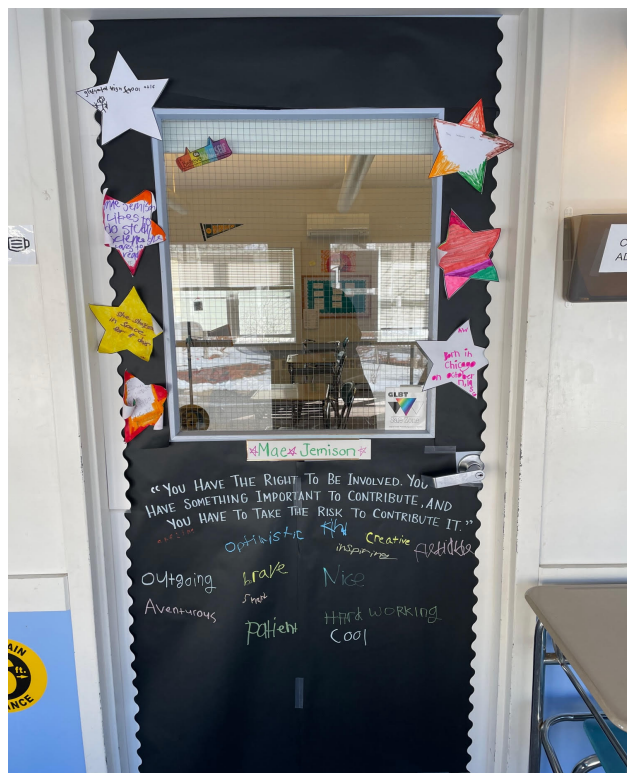
### **Black History Saturday Enrichment**

GROW Program, February 26th

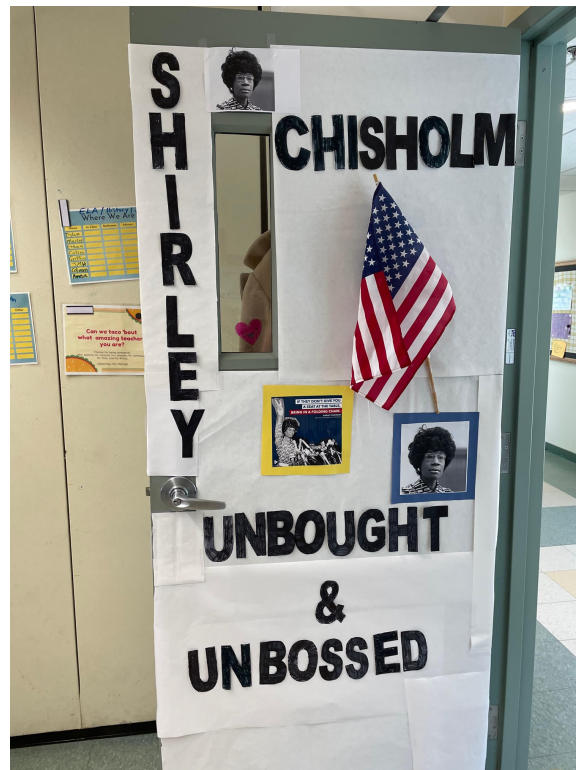
This past weekend GROW students immersed themselves in a day of black history learning, centered around the **Executive Order 9981**, a law signed by Harry Truman in 1948 that directed the desegregation of the nation's military, and laid ground as a stepping stone to important, future civil rights court decisions, such as 1954's Brown v. Board of Education. Vocabulary words such as segregation, integration, and Jim Crow laws were brainstormed and discussed.

Students also watched either "Hidden Figures" or "Red Tails" as part of the day. It was also discussed that (more often than not) black women were truly hidden from sight. Had it been known that these women were important contributors to the space program, it might have led more women and minorities to seek opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, long before STEM became an emphasis in schools. Lessons emphasized that civil rights are universal, and students represented their learning through presentations, art, and poetry.









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## SHARE FEEDBACK

Feel free to contact us below or here: [DEI Feedback](#).

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***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.***