



June 2, 2020

Dear families of The Primary School,

The Primary School was started with the vision of a world where every child, regardless of background, is able to become a happy, healthy, and productive adult. The ongoing violence against black Americans threatens that vision for our children and all black and brown children in this country. We see our students in George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor and so many others. We fear for the safety of their bodies. We worry about how learning can happen when the world tells them they don't matter.

Your children matter. Black lives matter.

At The Primary School, we are committed to building a community where every child and family feels secure and valued, and where they can learn, live, and thrive without fear. We commit to you - our families - that we will do everything in our power to keep your children safe and build a community that celebrates the race, culture, and background of every child and family.

We need to do more to live up to that commitment to you and your student. Here are a few things our team has been doing as a start:

1. **Peaceful protest:** Tomorrow at 12 noon there will be a peaceful, COVID-safe protest in Jack Farrell Park (information below). Some of our school teachers, leaders, and staff will be in attendance and we encourage families who want to walk with us to join.
2. **Resources in your school-age child's virtual classroom:** Teachers will be incorporating content into their SeeSaw lessons or live Zooms that explore and address race and racism in developmentally appropriate ways. Please reach out to your teacher if you would like to learn more.
3. **Resources for all families to use at home:** We are also compiling resources for families for how to talk about race and racial violence in your homes. You can find those resources on our website ([www.theprimaryschool.org](http://www.theprimaryschool.org)). We will continue to add to this list as we get more resources.
4. **Planning for the future:** These immediate responses are a start but we need to do more, and need your help and feedback on what is important to you. In the parent survey that went out today, we are asking for parent volunteers to share what you want to see in our school and to help plan what we can continue to do as a community.

If you have any questions, or just need someone to talk to, please reach out to your teacher, parent coach, birth-to-three program staff, or anyone on our team. We are here to support you.

With love and commitment,

**The Primary School, East Palo Alto**

Liv Thomas (Co-Principal) • Kyndal Easter (Co-Principal) • John Bachner (Assistant Principal) • Valentina Helo-Villegas (Parent Program Director) • Ashley Pletz (Birth-to-Three Program Director) • Ann Walden (Executive Director)