

# NOD Newsletter

June 2020

A monthly publication for the parents and students of North Orchard-Delong Cooperative Preschool  
Located at 4420 N 4 1st St, Tacoma, WA 98407. Website: <http://northorchardcoop.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/NODcoopPreschool> <http://www.facebook.com/groups/NODfamilies>



## What a Year It Has Been!



Photo credit: Teacher Diana

One of the beautiful butterflies hatching at Teacher Diana's house this June.

### Hello from Teacher Diana

How do we want to be together as a community?

Hi everyone. I hope you are safe healthy and your family is as well. Things ended quickly and in a strange way last school year. Not getting to say goodbye kind of sucked.

We are all trying to figure out new norms in our lives, communities, and our school. Our health and safety will be a priority more now than ever next year. Although we do not know what the rules will be yet, we need to start thinking about what our school future will look like next year. I am sure you have lots of questions. I do too, promise. When I find out, I will definitely pass on answers. The things I know now are: I'm sure we will be cleaning more, I know snack time will look a little different and we might want to think about more playtime outside? The rest we will have to wait and see.

Our cute little caterpillars grew up and just hatched out of their chrysalis. I posted a couple quick videos on Facebook. I will post more when I release them later.

This summer and this year have been unsettling, and things are tense. Black lives matter and I must say we are an all-inclusive school that embraces everyone's differences, ideas and humanity. I want to nurture empathy and respect for all abilities, races, and religions at our school. I want our children to thrive and help each other while they learn how to play and learn how to be a community group together.

Right now, I am working myself, on being not just against racism but also being anti-racist. We all need to look, listen, and learn how to be better allies for our minority communities. I have been saddened by the brutal police force being used to hurt minorities and people of color. As a mother my heart aches for the families that have had to endure the pain of losing their child, or husband, or parent.

I will be looking for and focusing on children's stories with minority children as the lead characters and I will be reading them during our summertime Thursday story times on Facebook. As I find more books, I will add them to our school library and read them as well.

The question: How do we want to be together as a community? It has been sitting in the back of my mind these last few weeks. I have not answered it yet. We have sometime before we start school. But let's think about this question for our school and our community. Let's work on being a better community for our families and children at our school and the whole community.

Thank you, teacher Diana

### IMPORTANT DATES...

*...What day is it again???*

#### Board Meeting

Your House! via Zoom  
Wednesday, June 24th  
at 5:30 pm  
Contact Erin for the zoom link  
[erin.maher.morrison@gmail.com](mailto:erin.maher.morrison@gmail.com)

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## Raising an Anti-racist

When my now five year old was a baby I read an article about the importance of raising anti-racist children. I wish I could find the article to share now. The premise was that it is not enough to simply not be racist, but that we need to actively teach children to be anti-racist. If we don't preemptively talk about race with our kids, they will passively absorb the default racist stereotypes and messages built into our systems and cultures.

When I was a child my Mexican-American mother taught me about racism because she had to. We were subjected to racism in our predominately white community. Having a white father afforded me some protection, but not enough to completely avoid the sting.

I married my high school sweetheart, a white guy. After reading the anti-racist parenting article, holding my pale skinned daughter in my arms, I realized I have work to do. My daughter probably isn't going to run into the same painful racist learning experiences I have. She may not be called racial slurs or be pushed out of line, but I have to prevent another kind of horror. I have to make sure my daughter is not the one to call another kid names or to think she is better than someone else simply because of her skin color.

I have to admit I was nervous talking to my toddler about race. It would have been easy to think, well she's too young, or she doesn't see color yet, or if I just ignore race then she will to. The fact is starting at 3 months, babies look more at faces that match the race of their caregivers. So yeah, they do see race. And the time to start the discussion is now.

It may feel awkward, but imagine how awkward you're going to feel if your child does or says something racist.

One of the first things on the list of suggestions accompanying the article was to buy your child dolls of different colors. The idea is that the act of caring for baby dolls of different ethnicities builds empathy in children. I had thought it was great my daughter was playing with multicultural dolls at her school, but I realized having all white dolls at home was sending her a mixed message. I am happy to report that we own dolls of many shades now and they are all named Crystal.

Another prompt was to make sure your child has access to plenty of books with characters of different races. Preferably with Black or POC main characters and not just sidelined minorities. Easy enough, I thought. I grew up with Ezra Jack Keats books, so I had those (thank you Mom) and then I'd get... It's startling to realize how few children's books there are with minority protagonists. Fortunately more and more are being published every day. Here are a few I found that I recommend.

- The Snowy Day, by Ezra Jack Keats
- One Love, adapted by Cedella Marley
- Dream Big Little One, by Vashti Harrison
- My Painted House, My Friendly Chicken, and Me, by Maya Angelou
- Frida Kahlo and Her Animalitos, by Monica Brown
- Sulwe, by Lupita Nyong'o
- Where Are You From?, by Yamile Saied Mendez
- Antiracist Baby, by Ibram X. Kendi

From what I've found, these simple steps help spark questions, that lead to conversations, that teach our kids to be kind. Of course there are many more steps to be taken. To be kind to themselves and to others, isn't that all what we want for our kids?

With Love, Sarah Rogers, NOD Publicity



## NOD's ONGOING FUNDRAISERS



<http://www.primary.com/school/nodcoop>

