



June 1, 2020

Dear Families,

This afternoon, I overheard a teacher – not from our school – beginning an online class. “This is the first time we’re all together since,” the teacher paused, “everything started this weekend. There’s just a lot going on in the city right now. Is everyone okay?”

That teacher’s vagueness is the opposite of what’s being chanted in our streets:

Say his name!
George Floyd

Say her name!
Breonna Taylor!

To repeat their names is to remember that George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tamir Rice, Eric Garner, Freddie Gray, Sam Dubose, Alton Sterling, Philando Castile, Jamar Clark, Jeremy McDole, Walter Scott, and Michael Brown led lives. To keep saying their names is to insist that our nation stops ignoring murder.

Every family that has had to have The Talk has a deeper expertise than I do. But if you are uncertain whether even young children need explanations and their questions answered, please consider how the vagueness of that teacher’s words allows facts and lives to be forgotten. Children deserve developmentally appropriate frankness. Here are some resources.

- The blog Raising Race Conscious Children has [sample dialogue to have with children about advancing racial justice](#), including [a section on police-related violence](#).
- Common Sense Media, which publishes valuable reviews of children’s books, movies, and television, invites parents [to a live national discussion \(“Helping](#)

[Kids Process Violence, Trauma, and Race in a World of Nonstop News](#)) at **3:00 P.M. on Tuesday, June 2.**

- Click here for quick blogposts about [actively raising anti-racist children](#) and [talking with children, from toddlers to teens, about violence and protest](#).
- Here is [a short podcast on talking about race with kids](#) and a [discussion of supporting children of color in the wake of racialized violence](#).
- Kindergarten teacher Laleña Garcia framed the [Thirteen Principles of Black Lives Matter in kid-friendly language](#).
- Facing History and Ourselves, which works mostly with adolescent learners, has useful background for adults on a page called [Bearing Witness: The Death of George Floyd](#).

Every family finds its start of discussions. We have to give children the information and space to continue those conversations. The links above are a start, but I can't pause to get more now. The sun is going down, and I'm late to get out in the street. My voice has to join thousands more. I'm going out to say their names.

Gabriel