

Current Schoolwide Pond Cove DEI Work/Projects:

Colors of the World- Art Supplies: Using funds provided by a generous private donation we were able to purchase and distribute Colors of the World art supply kits to all of our Pond Cove classrooms and offices. These kits contained pencils, markers, and crayons that allow all of our students to draw themselves and people of all skin colors. Teachers were also provided with resources to help introduce these new resources, including this powerful [Scholastic article and lesson plan](#). We have already received positive feedback and seen evidence that students are utilizing and benefiting from these tools.

Start Here, Start Now Book Club: Approximately 10 Pond Cove staff members are signed up to take part in the Start Here Start Now professional development series on anti-bias/anti-racist education offered without cost by The Maine Teacher of the Year Organization. Three Zoom sessions are scheduled with author Liz Kleinrock. The first took place on Tuesday and was well attended, thought provoking, and provided resources that will support our school and students. We are also planning to meet separately as a Pond Cove group to talk about applying the learning to our school and our individual work with students.

Representation And Affirmation In Our Classroom Libraries- Staff Professional Development:

During the February 9th staff workshop time a DEI Book Selection workshop was facilitated by school counselors, Bri Gallagher and Megan O'Neill. Staff listened to a brief introduction about how to think about our classroom libraries and ensure that all students feel both represented and affirmed in our read alouds and student book bins. Each school counselor selected one book to highlight during the Zoom and explained how we can use this resource to teach students about diversity, equity and inclusion.

Staff were then invited to the library to spend time reviewing books that represent ALL of our students, as well as allowing students to hear the voices and stories of people from backgrounds that are different from their own. Staff were also encouraged to bring, and share with their colleagues, a book that they have successfully used with students that encourages inclusivity and valuing all voices/perspectives.

Using funds provided by a generous donation, staff will be able to purchase one book for their classroom. This workshop led to great conversations amongst all grade levels and helped teachers access resources to use in their classrooms and curriculum. We have already received positive feedback and many book titles to purchase.

The following resources were also shared with staff during this workshop:
Info about diverse books and the classroom:

- Watch [Mirrors and Windows](#) Ted Talk
- Read the article [How Inclusive Is Your Literacy Classroom Really?](#)
- Read the article [Why We Need Diverse Books](#)

Finding new books:

- [Diversity Matters!- Book Collection](#) - Pond Cove library collection resource list of books reflecting diverse experiences. Huge thanks to Cameron Rosenblum for curating this list for us!
- Use <https://diversebookfinder.org> to find books for your classroom!
- <https://www.fbmarketplace.org/stories-for-all-project> - Diversity & Inclusion The Stories For All Project from First Book Project