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Dear Readington Families,

Today, our country is facing a range of difficult and complicated problems, including how to address issues of race and how our communities can best stand together to disrupt racism. Many of us are feeling overwhelmed and deeply saddened by the recent events in our country, but we encourage you to stand firm in your resolve and commitment to create positive change.

We recognize that these events may have your children asking questions about these complex issues. Our district addresses impact of bias, tolerance, fair treatment of others, and the history of the slave trade in the district curricula with these teaching points being directly connected to social-emotional competence. While these topics are addressed in school, you may want some resources to further discussions at home.

For parents wishing to open a dialogue about racial identity and racism, high-quality children's literature provides an excellent starting point. This list of [31 Children's books to support conversations on race, racism, and resistance](#) is a resource that can help to guide your text selection. In addition, here are some resources for your consideration, to use on your own or with your children:

- [How to talk to children about difficult news](#)
- [Talking to Kids about George Floyd](#)
- [Helping Children Cope with Frightening News](#)
- [7 Tools for Managing Traumatic Stress](#)

We encourage you to join us in furthering a narrative of hope, commitment, and change. Our voices and collective action have never been more needed than right now. Our Readington mission statement reads as follows: *We empower members of our community to lead purposeful lives with integrity, to cultivate a spirit of discovery, and to embrace connections in our diverse, global society.* Let's be sure to provide our children with the tools to live this mission.

Respectfully,

Jonathan Hart, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

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