

F.I.R.E. NEWSLETTER

Webster, NY

Welcome!

Who We Are:

- Families Igniting Racial Equity (F.I.R.E.) is a group of parents and allies working together to address issues of racial equality in our schools.

What We Do:

- Our focus is always on developing and implementing action-oriented steps that create a positive impact on the outcomes and experiences of students.
- F.I.R.E. has become an asset to the general community by providing advocacy, resources, and tools to promote understanding around diversity, equity, and inclusion among the community at large

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Equity in the Classroom



As we (adults) also get back in the classroom, attending special events, open houses, or curriculum nights, keep an eye out for diversity within the classroom.

Consider gifting teachers with items to assist with creating an inclusive classroom and curriculum.

Ideas to Enhance Inclusion in the Classroom:

- Band-Aids in a variety of different skin tone shades
- Construction paper in a variety of different skin tone shades
- Crayons in a variety of different skin tone shades
- Colored pencils in a variety of different skin tone shades

Providing art materials that allow ALL children to create self-portraits and representations of their families is so important. One FIRE member recently told the story of how their child was not coloring in the faces on their pictures because they did not have access to art materials in the classroom in shades that matched their skin tone. Once these material were provided, the child began doing so.

"Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world."

- NELSON MANDELA



Ensuring Diverse Books in the Classroom



Diverse books in the classroom MATTER! Here are just a few reasons why (from [Danielle Yadao](#))...

- Mirrors: Allow You to See Yourself Represented in a Story and Explore Your Identity
- Windows: Bring Visibility to Cultures Different from Our Own
- Reading Builds Community Unity and Inclusivity
- Creates Openings for Discussions About What's Happening in Current Events
- Emphasizes Similarities: Kids are Kids No Matter How Different Their Backgrounds

"Until we get equality in education, we won't have an equal society."

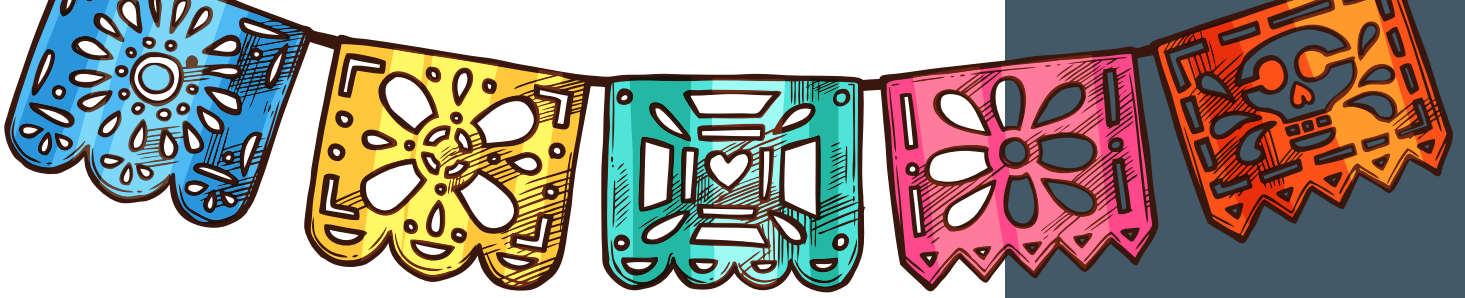
- SONIA SOTOMAYOR



Choosing Diverse Books:

Check out the websites below for excellent diverse book suggestions and reviews:

- [Edutopia](#)
- [Pragmatic Mom Blog](#)
- [We Need Diverse Books](#)



Hispanic Heritage Month (9/15-10/15)

Honors the cultures and contributions of both Hispanic and Latino Americans..

“You can cut all the flowers but you cannot keep spring from coming.”

- PABLO NERUDA



Image from: <https://thebookwrangler.com/hispanic-heritage-month/>



Engage

Resources For Good:

READING, LISTENING, ATTENDING, FOLLOWING, JOINING, AND WATCHING THAT SPURS US ON:

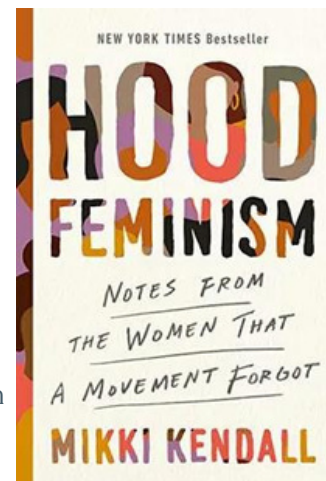
A Good Read

[Hood Feminism: Notes from the Women that a Movement Forgot](#)

By: Mikki Kendall

Kendall's book "...explains how mainstream, white, middle-class feminism often fails to consider the needs or experiences of marginalized women and upholds white supremacy."

"Drawing on her own experiences with hunger, violence, and hypersexualization, along with incisive commentary on politics, pop culture, the stigma of mental health, and more, Hood Feminism delivers an irrefutable indictment of a movement in flux." -[Amazon Review](#)



Follow Along & Join In

- White allies and accomplices check out the SURJ chapter of Rochester. SURJ is a national organization that brings hundreds of thousands of white people into fights for racial and economic justice: [Showing Up For Racial Justice \(SURJ\)](#)
- Parents raising Black children by birth, adoption, or across transracial lines check out the [Culturally Fluent Families Facebook Group](#).





Community Events

9/22/22 @ 5:00-7:00PM - [Say No to Book Bans](#)

9/25/22 @ 12:00-4:00PM - [Hispanic Heritage Celebration Day at the Memorial Art Gallery](#)

10/13/22 @ 5:00-7:00PM - [Being Black and Deaf](#)

10/27/22 @ 5:00-7:00PM - [Harriet Tubman: Disability in Black](#)

11/5/22 @ 11:00-12:30PM - [Privilege and Social Justice in Education](#)

11/10/22 @ 5:00-7:00PM [Indigenous Advocacy and the Role of the Ally](#)

*[Check out other upcoming classes from 540WMain!](#)

Job Postings & Training Opportunities

[Webster Central School District Job Postings](#)

9/19/22 @ 2:00-3:30PM - [Rentals, Disabilities and Fair Housing Class](#)

10/4/22 @ 1:00 - 4:00PM - [LGBTQIA+ Disability Inclusivity Training - online](#)

[4-H @ 540](#) - a paid workforce program for ages 12-18 in Monroe County. The program aims to build leadership skills for low-income, disabled, and/or marginalized youth.

Local Food Pantries:

- St. Martin Lutheran Church at 813 Bay Road
- United Church of Christ at 570 Klem Rd
- Webster Baptist Church at 59 South Ave
- Phillips Village Apartments Stand at 100 Kreiger Rd

Bullying is NOT okay:

[Dignity for All Students Act \(DASA\)](#):

If your child experiences discrimination, harassment, or bullying, one avenue to address the issue is through filling out a DASA form. [Click here for the form.](#)

The F.I.R.E. Steering Committee also stands ready to consult about any of these issues.

Email us at:

fireofwebster@gmail.com



F.I.R.E Volunteer Opportunities

- Get involved in one of our Subcommittees: Recruitment & Hiring, African-American Heritage, Hispanic Heritage, Culturally Responsive Curriculum.
- Join our newsletter and social media teams. We need your creativity and excitement!
- Email fireofwebster@gmail.com with interest

Let's Keep in Touch

- If you haven't already, sign up to receive this monthly newsletter by emailing us at fireofwebster@gmail.com.

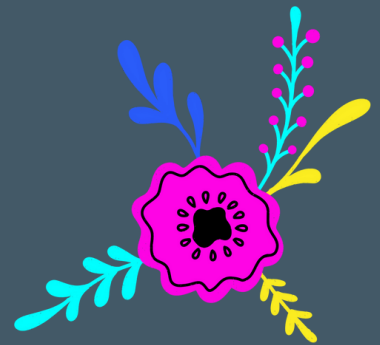
Drop Us A Line

- We'd love this newsletter to be a place where our community can share resources for good. Send your announcements, job opportunities, good book suggestions, etc. to marybcovert@gmail.com.



The most valuable possession you can own is an open heart. The most powerful weapon you can be is an instrument of peace.

- Carlos Santana



Gratefully,

The F.I.R.E. Steering Committee
Sonnette Bascoe, Duwayne Bascoe, Laurie Soltman, Abby Terrana,
Jen Birdsong-Ng, Christy Roushey, Lauren West, Mary Beth Covert