

FEBRUARY 2020 MINERS MONTHLY

A Message from our Principal

Houghton Families,

Although we celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in January, February is Black History Month. As educators, our challenge is to remember that African-Americans are woven into every era of our nation's history. We don't want to relegate our study of black history to one month. We want to make sure that we honor all contributors to our nation's history at every step of the way. This year, our entire district began with professional development in August with a special speaker, helping us understand what it means to be culturally competent educators. At Houghton we started a staff meeting by walking around our school in search of evidence of our cultural competence. Last month we shared books for read aloud that would promote cultural competence and the inclusion of important historical figures of color. On March 10, our building will be participating again with professional development in being a culturally competent school. We care about all people at Houghton and want to make sure that our children hear us shout that from the mountain tops or the front of the classroom, as the case may be.

Sometimes parents want to teach their children to be color blind, but I want to challenge each of us to teach our children that we are color blessed. Color blindness denies the various experiences, culture and identity that we each have. When we say we are color blessed, we recognize that when diverse people come together in community, we are better together. Think about all the colorful threads, colors and textures that come together to make a scene in a beautiful artist's tapestry. One color or texture would create a pretty boring picture. Diversity makes us interesting, alive and beautiful. Together is truly better!

If you want to understand more about how to talk to your child about race, here's a link to a helpful radio show.

<https://www.npr.org/2019/04/24/716700866/talking-race-with-young-children>

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Upcoming Dates:

February 14th: 1/2 Day of School

February 14th: Valentine Parties

February 17th-18th: February Break

February 19th: Dress Rehearsal –5:30pm

February 20th: Talent Show—6:30pm

February 21st: Popcorn Friday

**February 27th: Kindergarten Round-Up—
6:00 pm**

Classroom Spotlight:

Mr. Richards' Class



Mr. Richards' class learning about table manners from one of our volunteers, Leroy Smith, for Manners Mondays.