

NYC Museum School 333 West 17th Street New York, NY 10011

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Dear Museum School Community,

All of us have witnessed the events that have unfolded in our country over the past two days with an overwhelming array of emotions and responses. It is moments like this that can cause enormous amounts of distress and insecurity. Against the backdrop of the ongoing pandemic and the ongoing fight for racial equity, our foundations get shaken again and our anxieties peak. If adults feel this way, we can only imagine how much more intensely our students may experience these feelings. As a school community, we must process this together and, as always, learn from it together.

In some classes on Thursday, we witnessed powerful conversations. In others, teachers asked a simple question: How are you feeling? What is most important is that as a community we all took the time to acknowledge our feelings and listened intently. This is why we have a community of people with different talents and skills!

After school some teachers took the time to share what they did in their classrooms during a "Zoom circle of love and support," and teachers discussed why they decided to make this day a teachable moment. Our scholars will remember January 7th as one of the most important teachable moments they have had throughout their education!

We hope that you all are able to create or find a safe space of your own to be able to reflect and to help your children analyze what has transpired and communicate honestly about everything we are all feeling.

This week, we also found a sense of hope! As long as we have a community full of people who are passionate and who are willing to use these historical moments to create a space to get our scholars to think, read, and write deeply, we feel hopeful that our scholars will one day make it better for all of us. Please remember that we all have a role to play in helping our scholars become change agents in our society. Many of us have worked hard on our individual journeys but are not yet clear how some of those paths we've taken intersect with the paths we must take in our collective journey. This work is the most important work of all!

Thank you for your participation in, and contributions to, our school community. We are proud to stand together at this moment.

In unity and with gratitude, love & support,

Daisy Fontanez, Principal Assigned Joel Lowy, Assistant Principal Laura Hindelong, Assistant Principal