

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Newsletter

April/May



Partnership with Children



CELEBRATING
**ASIAN,
ASIAN &
AMERICAN
PACIFIC
ISLANDER**
HERITAGE MONTH

CAE SPOTLIGHT

"We are thrilled to announce that the Student Voice and Engagement (SVE) program has officially started. In FY 2021, the U.S. Department of Education awarded approximately \$17 million in new grants for the Assistance for Arts Education (AAE) grant program. Out of the 96 applications reviewed, PWC/CAE is one of 27 grant applicants to have received funding. We are honored to be the only New York City-based program to receive the 2021 AAE Award, a four-year grant program funded by the United States Department of Education promoting arts education for students.

SVE is an integrated and collaborative theater and social-emotional learning (SEL) program that sustains student engagement – as it supports English Language Arts (ELA) and fosters student learning as schools begin to fully reopen. Our artists, schoolteachers, social workers, social work directors, and school administrators will work together to create the program in each school. Teaching Artists will work with the same cohort of students as they advance through the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades at each school. We are currently piloting SVE at RACS, PS 165, PS 298, and PS 284. We're excited for the full program implementation in these four Brownsville, Brooklyn schools in fall 2022. The program will affect the lives of approximately 600 students over the next four years.

These supports are critical to the young people we serve in helping them heal from the trauma and loss they experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, while also helping them improve in critical literacy and arts competencies. Thank you to all PWC staff involved for their hard work in helping to launch the Year 1 pilot residency."

Black Affinity Group

The Black Affinity group began on May 9th, led by Jessica Rawlins and Shanikqua Palmer. PWC's Black Affinity Group creates space to center the unique experiences of Black staff members. As a community, the group provides opportunity for self-reflection and expression; shares resources for personal and professional affirmation; and engages in mutual empowerment as the group confronts racism both in and beyond the workplace.

The first meeting gave participants an opportunity to be introduced to the group, the mission, and provided group members with time to share about collective priorities for the shared space. Facilitators invited discussion and input from the group. The meeting closed with a great reflection and share out about Black freedom and love, which provided participants with a positive mood to start out the week.

The key takeaways from the first meeting are that the group will meet on the first Monday of each month, from 9:30am to 11:00am. Each month, the group will aim to ground every meeting with a pre-selected topic, and make space for individual and collective reflection, learning, affirmation, and empowerment.

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Homeland Elegies: A Novel
Ayad Akhtar

If They Come for Us:
Poems
Fatimah Asghar

On Earth We're
Briefly Gorgeous
Ocean Vuong

Soft Science
Franny Choi

The Leavers: A Novel
Lisa Ko

Blame This on the Boogie
Rina Ayuyang

[Building Mental Wealth for a Post-Pandemic World Video](#)

Podcast to Honor AANHPI Month

[Organic Sexuality Podcast](#)
[Add to Cart](#)
[He's Just 23 Chromosomes](#)

[Why You No Doctor](#)
[Bamboo & Glass](#)
[Shut Up & Dribble](#)

Movies to Honor AANHPI Month

[Saving Face](#)

[Minari](#)

[The Legend of Korra](#)

[Yesterday](#) [Modern Love](#) [Mumbai](#)

[Playful Kiss](#)

[The Farewell](#) [Made In Heaven](#) [Jimmy O. Yang: Good Deal](#)

DEI Events Around PWC

[White Affinity Group](#)

The WAG group concluded their group that centered on discussing the podcast [Nice White Parents](#). From the makers of Serial and The New York Times: "Nice White Parents" looks at the 60-year relationship between white parents and the public school down the block. Reflections of the group included "the importance of not assuming that your view is the correct/only view," "to continue showing up to these spaces to help gain a deeper understanding of how history and context show up in our work," and "this work is crucial in understanding the role that we play in schools and in understanding how to better show up to the work with a more focused DEI lens" to highlight a few. The group was lead and facilitated by Alex Tietel and Katie Nicholson.

[High on the Hog](#)

In an effort to deepen our conversations regarding race, equity, and inclusion the DEI Council would like to convene a viewing of and discussion on the Netflix series "High on the Hog." We hope that the series will help continue the deep discussions that were had during our anti-racism trainings and spark ideas about the work we can do in our schools. This viewing will be the first in a series of episodic viewings and discussions of the series. Facilitators: Angela Jefferson, Michelle Baek, Selenah Martin, Alexis Diaz and Travis Rodgers.



Meeting
on 6/9
at 1pm.

[Antiracism Facilitators](#)

The DEI Council Sub-committee conducted interviews to select PWC staff members to attend the People's Institute Undoing Racism Training. Participants will experience a humanistic process for laying a foundation to explore how we have been socialized and conditioned to think about race and racism. First the training analyzes class, power and institutional/individual relationships to and within communities. As power is analyzed, we will explore how we play a role in maintaining the current disparate racial outcomes that every system and institution produces. This intensive, interactive process challenges participants to analyze the structures of power and privilege that hinder social equity and prepares them to be effective organizers for justice. Harlney Vasquez, Katie Nicholson, Shaniqua Palmer and Shannon Fiore will be attending the training in July.

Ramadan Mubarak!

PWC hopes all those who celebrate had a joyous and wonderful celebration. Student's around P.S. 194 shared with their peers about the celebration of Ramadan. They taught them the history, the importance and shared in the celebration. Students felt pride in sharing their cultural experiences and emphasized the importance of the month of Ramadan.



[AANHPI MONTH RESOURCES](#)