JULY 27, 2021 VOL.43

NEWSLETTER

Fairfield Equity Coalition's Weekly Newsletter



Fairfield Equity Coalition is a youth-led organization taking local action to reimagine Fairfield's definition of what constitutes a comprehensive education. Our goal is to push for equitable policy and curriculum changes within Fairfield Public Schools while raising awareness on injustices against marginalized populations within our community.

Welcome to our **forty-third** newsletter! As a community newsletter, we encourage our readership to reach out with suggested items. Thank you for your continued interest in our coalition!

COALITION UPDATE

We are excited to announce several projects we have underway that will be formally announced soon!

As a preview, we are developing a resource page for educators, administrators, parents, students, and alumni that compiles information on promoting racial equity and anti-racism in our daily lives. This page will include videos, articles, books, among other resources. We are asking anyone from our readership to please send us suggested items to include in the resource page to our email,

fairfieldequitycoalition@gmail.com. Check out our <u>IG</u> for resources we've compiled already and to learn about the South Asian, Southeast Asian. and Filipino communities and the common misconceptions around these identities.

We are also continuing to work on our equity book club initiative with elementary- and middle-school students. We are excited to begin this book club since reading from a diversity of texts is so fundamental to promoting the anti-racist mindset.

Also in the works is a local food drive that we hope to formally announce in the next month. As we have done in many of our previous newsletters, highlighting ways to donate food items is crucial for the wellbeing of school-aged children who face greater food insecurity in the summer months. Please see our Action Item below for a way to combat food insecurity while we are developing the food drive.

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LOCAL HAPPENINGS

- Tuesday, July 27th, 9:00 AM 1:00 PM at 720 Pequot Ave., Southport: "61st Summer Book Sale" hosted by the <u>Pequot Library</u>. Find an array of very affordable books, CDs, DVDs, etc. while also supporting one of our local libraries. Details <u>here</u>.
- Wednesday, July 28th, 10:00 AM or 7:30 PM via Zoom: "Conversations: Truth, Myth & Democracy: An Exercise in Triangulation" free event hosted by the Mark Twain Library. Join the discussion by selecting and reading texts from the lists provided (see link below) to see the intersections of race, democracy and society. This event is designed for community members to come together to continue the important conversation on race. Registration encouraged. Details here.

ACTION ITEM a way to make a difference today

The Branford Food Pantry (BFP) has put out a special call to community members to help meet the rising demand for food staple items. The number of Connecticut families and residents facing food insecurity has grown in significant and concerning ways. Ultimately, like nearly every issue related to equity, <u>food insecurity is a structural problem</u>. However, we are encouraging our readership to help meet the immediate, emergent need for food by donating items off of BFP's approved list. See <u>here</u> for more information and donation hours.

THIS WEEK WE'RE...

Reading "Effort to fund racially diverse climate groups gets momentum" by Haleluya Hadero for the CTPost. As Hadero writes, many of the top philanthropic donors supporting efforts to combat climate change predominately donate to White-led organizations, often with less than 10% of their funds given to climate organizations led by Black, Indigenous, or people of color (BIPOC). Because climate change disproportionately affects BIPOC and lower-income communities, their perspectives and solutions must be given at least equal weight and treatment of our climate mitigation strategies. It is crucial for everyone "to see themselves as part of the solution to this incredible and enormous problem" if we are to develop the collective action needed to prevent future climate catastrophes. We are encouraged by this article's finding that more BIPOC-led climate groups are being funded by philanthropic efforts and we hope this piece reveals how racial equity must be realized in all facets of our society.

GET INVOLVED

We are always seeking new members and leaders! If you are a current student or alumni of FPS and are interested in further involvement, please <u>fill out this survey</u>. If you are a teacher, administrator, parent, or Fairfield resident, please email us at fairfieldequitycoalition@gmail.com to get involved.

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