



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PHILADELPHIA
GENERAL PHILIP KEARNY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Words cannot even express the mountain of emotions that we as a team at Kearny are filled with during this time of unrest in our city. As we forge our way through the COVID-19 pandemic, the violence and destruction that occurred this weekend has placed a tremendous burden on our families and our city as a whole. In various forms, we are dealing with financial deficiencies, lack of resources, and overall worry about not knowing what lies ahead.

In recent days, with George Floyd being added to the long list of African Americans who have died at the hand of the very people who have a duty to serve and protect us in the role of being a police officer people are tired of watching the brutal cycle of social injustice. This incident like the many before it has stirred up generational pain that people of color specifically African Americans are the target of racially motivated brutality. This rings true today just as it has throughout so many times in history. We have come so far in time yet we never really moved past the struggle and fight of the civil rights movement, or the racial divide that has brutalized us as a people prior to that time and well after.

What started this weekend as a peaceful protest and a show of solidarity for George Floyd, evolved into chaos and mayhem from one end of our city to the other. It is so difficult to see such anger, frustration, and despair unveiled at all, but it's especially difficult during a time that was already difficult for us to traverse as we have never done anything like this in our lifetime. Although it's scary to watch, many times we need a force that is required to cause movement. Please know that we are also well aware that the many acts of vandalism and looting were for selfish gain and not to meet any immediate needs or to sustain wellness. These acts are disheartening and counterproductive to say the least. The theft and decimation across our city are totally unacceptable and will make it even more difficult to move forward or even to move at all.

It is our hope that you and your family are well and that you stay well during this time. We are sure that the scholars may have many questions about what they are seeing unfold in the city. We want to encourage you to have courageous and informative conversations about race and how that is what was at the core of what they are seeing on the news and in our neighborhoods. Although these are difficult conversations to have, they are necessary. Students need to know that there are problems that need to be addressed in our neighborhoods, in our city, and all across the nation but this is not the way to do so. The real work starts in our hearts and homes, so let's make sure that we are cultivating hearts and homes that exude love and appreciation for all mankind.

We will rise above this and remain strong together so that our land can be healed.

Yours in Unity,
Principal Feggins