**Milton Public Schools**

Behaving Equitably

 **March 25th, 2021**

**If you would like to receive MPS communications in a language other than English,** [**please use this link**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MPStranslation) **to take a short survey regarding language, translation & interpreting.**

**If English is your preferred language, please skip this survey. The link to take the survey in multiple languages is at the top right of the survey.**

**Haitian Creole**

**Si ou ta renmen resevwa kominikasyon MPS nan yon lang ki pa angle, tanpri** [**itilize lyen sa**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MPStranslation?lang=pl) **a yo pran yon sondaj kout konsènan lang, tradiksyon & entèpretasyon. Si angle se lang ou pi pito, tanpri sote sondaj sa a. Lyen pou pran sondaj la nan plizyè lang se nan tèt dwat sondaj la.**

**Mandarin Chinese**

**如果您想用英语以外的其他语言来接收MPS通讯，**[**请使用此链接进行有关语言**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MPStranslation?lang=pl)**，翻译和口译的简短调查。 如果英语是您的首选语言，请跳过此调查。 以多种语言进行调查的链接位于调查的右上方。**

**Portuguese**

**Se você deseja receber comunicações MPS em um idioma diferente do inglês, use** [**este link**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MPStranslation?lang=pl) **para fazer uma breve pesquisa sobre idioma, tradução e interpretação. Se o inglês é seu idioma preferido, pule esta pesquisa. O link para responder à pesquisa em vários idiomas está no canto superior direito da pesquisa.**

**Spanish**

**Si desea recibir comunicaciones de MPS en un idioma que no sea el inglés,** [**utilice este enlace**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MPStranslation?lang=pl) **para realizar una breve encuesta sobre el idioma, la traducción y la interpretación. Si el inglés es su idioma preferido, omita esta encuesta. El enlace para realizar la encuesta en varios idiomas se encuentra en la parte superior derecha de la encuesta.**

**Vietnamese [from Loc Tran, above]**

**Nếu quí vị muốn nhận được thông tin liên lạc từ MPS bằng các ngôn ngữ khác ngoài tiếng Anh,** [**xin vui lòng dùng link này**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MPStranslation) **để điền bản khảo sát ngắn về ngôn ngữ, thông dịch và phiên dịch. Nếu quí vị thích nhận được thông tin bằng tiếng Anh, quí vị có thể bỏ qua khảo sát này. Cái link để điền khảo sát bằng nhiều ngôn ngữ khác nhau nằm ở trên phía bên phải của bản khảo sát.**

**Passover**

**Sundown Saturday March 27th – Sundown Sunday April 4th 2021**

Slavery, the inhuman, abuse and oppression of people, has been used since the dawn of time to elevate the existence of one group over the freedom of another.   Egypt and many of its great creations during the [Ancient Egypt Era were built on the back of Israelites](https://www.bl.uk/learning/cult/inside/goldhaggadahstories/enslave/enslavement.html).  This year, from sundown March 27th thru sundown April 4th, many Jewish families will observe the Festival of Passover.  Passover is a celebration of freedom.  “The holiday is observed for eight days ([seven in Israel](https://www.chabad.org/holidays/passover/pesach_cdo/aid/871715/jewish/Passover-Pesach-2018.htm)), and incorporates themes of springtime, a Jewish homeland, family, remembrance of Jewish history, social justice and most of all, freedom — including recognizing those who are still oppressed today [(History.com).”](https://time.com/5188494/passover-history-traditions/) This celebration commemorates the Israelites’ journey from slavery to freedom.  Throughout the holiday it is a long-standing tradition for Jewish people to only eat unleavened bread and to completely refrain from eating anything that has leaven in it like regular bread or cookies.  This is why grocery stores carry many special "Kosher for Passover" products. One of the main Passover rituals is a “Seder”, which means “order”.  It is a time when families gather to read from the [Haggadah](https://www.chabad.org/holidays/passover/pesach_cdo/aid/1735/jewish/The-Haggadah.htm).  The Haggadah is a book that engages everyone at the table by retelling the story of Passover with songs, stories, symbolic acts and special foods.  “Many Jews have cherished memories of past family times spent at a Seder. It is believed that the obligation to [tell the story of the Exodus](https://www.myjewishlearning.com/holidays/Jewish_Holidays/Passover/Themes_and_Theology/Narrating_the_Exodus.shtml) was even observed by Jews ever since the [actual Exodus](https://www.myjewishlearning.com/history/Ancient_and_Medieval_History/2500_BCE-539_BCE/Social_History/Exodus.shtml) itself ([myjewishlearning.com](https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/the-passover-pesach-seder/)).” There are three main fundamentals for observing a Seder: the family, the individual, and the nation.  This is a time when all generations come together to symbolically experience the Exodus from Egypt.

At the center of the Passover table sits a special Seder plate, matza (unleavened bread) and wine or grape juice.  The items on the plate symbolize key aspects of the Exodus.  For example, bitter herbs and salt water symbolize the bitterness and tears of slavery.  I learned while conducting my own research on the significance of Passover that “The Seder service has a clear order, with each of 14 steps representing a different phase of the retelling. Together, they serve to teach the lesson of the Exodus; God’s saving the Jewish people from slavery. Much of the Seder discussion focuses on God’s might and the Divine role in redemption ([www.myjewishlearning.com](http://www.myjewishlearning.com)).” 

There is so much richness to this celebration of freedom that it is impossible to cover everything in one newsletter.  I highly suggest more investigation be conducted to better understand these rituals and traditions.  If we weren't dealing with a pandemic, there's a good chance you'd be invited to observe this beloved celebration.



Here are some resources to start with:

* [An Article in Time Magazine](https://time.com/5188494/passover-history-traditions/)
* [Ancient Egypt Era and the Israelites](https://www.bl.uk/learning/cult/inside/goldhaggadahstories/enslave/enslavement.html)
* [My Jewish Learning Website](https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/passover-2021/)

**Standing in Solidarity with Asians and Pacific Islanders (APIs)**

Last week the district responded to the murders that occurred in Atlanta Georgia where one gunman entered three Asian owned businesses and opened fire killing eight people. Six out of the 8 victims were women of Asian descent. All three businesses that were targeted by this murderer is Asian owned. He skipped over multiple other businesses that provided similar services and products as he drove from one location to another. The authorities have not declared this as a hate crime and stated that the murderer is mentally ill and “was having a bad day”. Many in the API community are outraged with how authorities are responding to this case. Being mentally ill does not immune anyone from being a racist and/or sexist. People can have intersections within their identity. There has been a [long-standing history](https://www.racialequitytools.org/resources/fundamentals/history-of-racism-and-movements/overview-and-timelines) of racism and the fight for social justice in America.

**We want our community to know that the Milton Public School District stands against ALL historical and current anti-Asian hate, racist, and violent acts against the API community**.

Here are some events that are happening this weekend. If you want to join and show your solidarity for the APIs community please share space in one of these events. Thank you Vy Vu for compiling this list!

1. Thursday, March 25th @6PM: Massachusetts Town Hall on Anti-Asian Racism
* This event is hosted through APIs Civic Action Network (APIs CAN) as a collective event.

The COVID-19 pandemic has fueled xenophobia and anti-Asian racism. But Asian Americans have experienced violence long before the pandemic. Join our town hall highlighting how the Asian American community in MA is organizing against racism and learn how to support our community during the pandemic. Thursday, March 25th @6PM, [Registration Link](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_b6KfYzl4RfO6MuiYNjpRPA)

1. Friday, March 26th - Participate in the 3/26 Virtual National Day of Action and Healing
* more info at [www.asianamericandayofaction.com](http://www.asianamericandayofaction.com)
1. Friday, March 26th @5-6:30PM: A Virtual Vigil Centering the lived experience of Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders (MILTON)
* Register for zoom here-
<https://forms.gle/3jggzAqw2obLWMhB9>
From CCTRJ (Courageous Conversations), CDM, and MARC
1. Friday, March 26th @6PM: Malden Community Vigil Honoring Victims of Anti-Asian Violence
* Join us for a candlelight ceremony, speakers, and performances in solidarity with the Asian American community, remembrance of the Atlanta attack victims, and our collective fight for justice and liberation.
1. Friday 3/26, 6 - 7:30 pm @ Jenkins Auditorium (Malden High School)
Attendees are invited to bring their own candles; a limited number will also be provided on site.
	* GMAACC and our allies are enraged and devastated by the targeted hate crimes to the Asian American community nationwide, most recently in Atlanta, GA, of whom Asian women were a majority. Malden is home to many Asian Americans -- we are interwoven into Malden’s everyday cultural fabric. The rise of attacks fueled by anti-Asian racism leaves our community members feeling afraid and unsafe. Our community must come together for safety, justice, and dignity.

	Lead organizers:Greater Malden Asian American Community Coalition (GMAACC)
	Madeline Lam, [houseofhealers.org](http://houseofhealers.org)
2. Sunday, March 28th @2-3:30PM: Resisting Oppression Olympics: A History of Black and Asian Anti-Racism Organizing
	* There's a history and an intentional divide behind the tension between the Black and Asian community. Now is not the time for the Oppression Olympics.

	Join us for a teach-in and discussion on the history of Black and Asian oppression and anti-racism organizing, and a panel on what we can do now to break the cycle of hate and violence.

[Registration link](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAud-iqqj8oEtD9mUKBqEuQjKr3OWNmESf9)

Sponsored by Powerful Pathways, community consulting

**Quality Review**

The Quality Review from and Equity Lens is a comprehensive review (systems, operations, finance, curriculum, observations, interviews, focus groups, surveys, community mapping, resources, policies, etc…) looking into the district work around ensuring ALL learners have and can access a high-quality education. It is a deep dive into the district’s ability to ensure ALL of our learners are given what they need to succeed. Although the surveys are a small part of this puzzle, it is a critical component that provides ALL members of the community an opportunity to tell his/hers/their stories. These individual experiences are confidential and will not be shared with anyone in the district. A comprehensive report about the trends with specific demographics break down will allow us to better understand if these trends are aligned or misaligned with existing policies, practices, culture, behaviors, mission, and vision of the Milton Public School District.

**Equity is about everyone (ALL). All experiences, voices, and identities should be visible, heard, and valued!**

**Calling ALL Parents and Guardians!**

Surveys: 

We have invited all families, staff, and students at the middle and high school levels to participate in a survey. Please look out for an email from contact@cedu.io with your survey link. If you are a parent or staff member who did not receive an invitation to the survey, please use these links to access:

Parents:

[http://milton-parents-signup.cedu.io/](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fmilton-parents-signup.cedu.io%2F&data=04%7C01%7Crenee.chandonnet%40mottmac.com%7C6aa861e6a21a41354bf908d8e41b97d4%7Ca2bed0c459574f73b0c2a811407590fb%7C0%7C0%7C637510154463590360%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Bm9D0%2Ff1tEAfDdTO6sZSP5NF10wA8W%2FKNsviHs%2BRBcE%3D&reserved=0)

[https://app.cedu.io/survey\_sign\_up/MPS01/1384](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fapp.cedu.io%2Fsurvey_sign_up%2FMPS01%2F1384&data=04%7C01%7Crenee.chandonnet%40mottmac.com%7C6aa861e6a21a41354bf908d8e41b97d4%7Ca2bed0c459574f73b0c2a811407590fb%7C0%7C0%7C637510154463600316%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=wiWKQtw07zUkt6vNkWJXj5FbJAemmsUdoXupjPOKEyo%3D&reserved=0)

**Focus Groups:** (If you want an opportunity to provide more depth about your experience in Milton Public Schools. Please volunteer to be part of the focus group interviews)

**We will be conducting focus groups of staff, parents, and community groups. If you would like to be part of a focus group, please email** **renee.chandonnet@mottmac.com****.**

Student Surveys are also underway. The surveys have been distributed to the middle and high school level students. All surveys and survey questions are **optional**. When your child logs in this is the message he/she/they will see prior to taking the survey. If you are concerned with your child’s ability to understand this message please explain his/her/their rights to them prior to taking the survey.

NOTICE: Questions including items about racial identity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and religion are included in the surveys. You do not have to answer these questions, and if you do your response is completely confidential. No responses for any individual students will be shared with anyone at school or anywhere else.

Although these questions are personal, we ask because we want to know if school experience is different for students who identify in different ways.

ANY question, as well as participating in this survey, is OPTIONAL. You have the RIGHT to skip any and all questions.

The Milton Public School District wants to hear and learn from ALL students and families. The equity here is providing ALL students and families a choice to share their experiences and stories. If you choose not to share your story, that decision will be respected. However, if you chose to share your story, we appreciate the trust and time that you have invested in our journey to making Milton Public Schools equitable for ALL.

If you have any questions and/or concerns about this, please reach out to Somaly Prak-Martins the Director of Education Equity at sprak-martins@miltonps.org.

**Steering Committee**

The implementation for the Quality Review from an Equity Lens has been underway. The number of interests from the community is promising. However, due to the recent announcement made by the Massachusetts Commissioner of Education, the focus of the entire school district has shifted to ensure a safe and equitable return to school for ALL (students and staff). There are a lot of logistics, planning and negotiating taking place in order to abide by the CDC guidelines as well as meeting learning targets.

**The Quality Review through an equity lens will continue as planned but we are extending our recruitment timeframe for both the Selection Task Force as well as the Steering Committee**. [Click here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/13gLorM7wwJIxJa4SFJINKwk3R1mOeWNf/view?usp=sharing) to apply and/or learn more about the Selection Task Force and Steering Committee.

The new deadline are as follows:

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| --- | --- |
| ALL CALL | Selection Task force 2/8/21 - 4/16/21Steering Committee 2/8/21 - 5/7/21 |
| Application review | 5/10/21 - 5/14/21 |
| Interviews | 5/17/21 - 5/21/21 |
| Call Backs | 5/24/21 - 5/28/21 |
| Orientation | TBD |
| Work begins | 6/7/21 |

