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J. Warren Killam School

A T.R.R.F.C.C. Place to Be!

January 7, 2021

Dear Killam Community,

I am deeply saddened by the events that occurred last night at our Nation's Capitol building. Last night's events have left us speechless. It is frightening for all. At Killam, we speak about how this is a great place to be and how everyone belongs. There is no place for violence and hatred in our community. Our core values such as these should be emulated throughout the United States of America. They need to be beacons in our own community.

No matter what our ideologies or philosophical beliefs, we are a democracy and last night's events violently disrupted this process. It also highlighted the systemic racism we see in our nation. We are better than this and we, as a community, must work on this together. Simply put, our children need us to be better and bigger than this.

The collective hurt and grief we share is profound, and our obligation to be role models for our children is vital to who we are as Americans, and who we are as humans. Today and in the days ahead, our task is to work on the care and safety of all. I encourage you to lean into this moment and have conversations with your children about yesterday's events. I support you in openly and honestly confronting the message of hatred that exists, so we are showing our children that there is no place in our society for violent extremists. Change the dialogue for your children. Let them know that the adults that care for them are going to continue to care for them and help them process the emotions.

Here are some resources that our community can use to process these heartbreaking events with our children:

- [Talking to your children about Violence: Tips for Parents and Educators](#)
- [Beyond the Stoplight: Resources for Teachers on the Days After the Attack on the US Capitol](#)
- [Spot the Difference: Visual Entry Points for Dialogue](#)
- Starting with "what do you think, what do you wonder, what are your thoughts" are always appropriate entry points.

We are all processing the information and we do not have all the answers. This is ok, and this unknowingness is ok to share with our children. We, as educators, will continue to reinforce this message of hope, safety, and a better future. Our students need to hear this message supported at home and at school. We are all in this together and we will get through this together by unifying for our children's sake. I believe in us.

Thank you,

Sarah Leveque, Principal