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J. Warren Killam School

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

March 18, 2021

Dear Family Community of the Reading Public Schools,

Over the past year, there has been a state and national increase in harassment and violence against Asian Americans. As school leaders in Reading, we feel the need to address this on behalf of our students.

In Reading, we can feel protected from these state and national trends and don't notice them until they impact our community directly. It's important to consider that Reading residents of Asian ancestry and heritage are impacted emotionally by these events regardless of whether we see hate crimes against Asian American residents in our town. President Biden made the following statement about violence against Asian Americans in his address marking Lunar New Year, "It's simply wrong. It's a stain on our national character. Every person, no matter their race, background, religion, or language they speak deserves to be treated with dignity and respect."

As we continue our work to create an anti-racist and equitable learning community at each of our schools we will address anti-Asian sentiments and actions with education around facts, civic responsibility and social justice.

If you are looking for information about Asian Americans in Massachusetts, you can follow [this link](#) to the Commonwealth's Asian American Commission. The website has a wealth of resources and information about the diversity of Asian Americans in Massachusetts, including many resources for Asian American Pacific Islander Month in May.

Meanwhile, if you have concerns or questions about the support of our Asian American students in the Reading Public Schools, please feel free to contact your building principal.

Stay well,
Sarah Leveque, Killam
Julia Hendrix, Birch Meadow
Joanne King, Wood End
Beth Leavitt, Barrows
LisaMarie Ippolito, Joshua Eaton