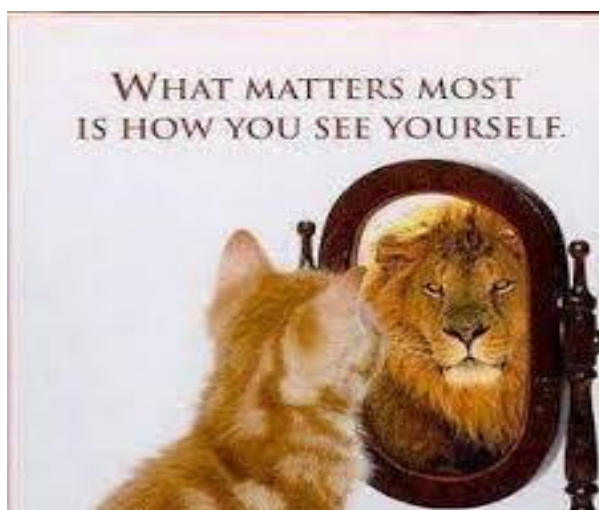


## MONONGALIA COUNTY DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION NEWSLETTER

### “YOU CAN BE WHATEVER YOU WANT TO BE”



## This month we celebrate our students and encouraging them to think big about themselves

This month we are celebrating “You can be whatever you want to be.” We want our students to grow up with confidence and pursue their interests.

The world we live in today has so many kids that want to become a professional athlete, professional gamer, social media influencer etc. As great as it would be for every kid to be able to achieve these things, we often get in the habit of telling kids that they can’t do something or should think about doing something else.

Throughout history many people overcome doubt that people told them. They were told that they couldn’t do something. Some of these people are:

- Thomas Edison was told by his teachers that he was “too stupid to learn anything.”
- Oprah Winfrey was fired from her first TV job as an anchor.
- Abraham Lincoln had many failed business attempts and failed attempts at political office before his ascendance to President.
- JK Rowling had hit rock bottom and no one gave her any chance of becoming a writer.

While there are many individuals that proved others wrong and kept trying it is important to be realistic with kids. It is also important to support and encourage things that they are interested in. If a kid is interested in becoming a professional athlete it is important to encourage and support them in the sport that they play, but also open up other opportunities they could pursue that are still in the field they are interested in.

The goal is to get kids to think about the bigger picture and not rely on one thing, but to expose kids to new and different things that they may be interested in.

## March Observations

- National Read Across America Week (Feb 28th- March 4<sup>th</sup>)
- National Foreign Language Week (March 6<sup>th</sup>-12th)
- Women’s History Month
- National Deaf History Month
- National Foreign Language Month
- Irish American Heritage Month
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AT HOME RESOURCES	WHAT IS MY SCHOOL DOING THIS MONTH	PREVIEW TO NEXT MONTH
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<div>GUARDIAN CORNER</div> <div><i>The Guardian corner is optional reading for parents that are looking for additional resources or ideas at home. Monongalia county schools in only providing optional resources and respects everyone’s differences</i></div>		<div>Preview to next month</div> <div>April is “Everyone learns and thinks in their own way”</div> <div>During the month we will discuss similarities and differences. Everyone is unique in their own way. How one person thinks and learns can be different from how another person thinks and learns and that is okay.</div>
<div>For parents it can be hard to not tell your child that they can be whatever they want to be. We want our children to have confidence that they can be whatever they want to be.</div> <div>The reality of the situation is not every kid can be a professional athlete or social media influencer. With that said, we should still encourage our kids and support them with their dreams, but it is also okay to have real life conversations with them.</div> <div>The question remains how can we tell our kids they can be whatever they want to be without telling them they can be whatever they want to be.</div> <div>Continue to have your children dream big</div> <div>Encouraging your child to dream big is important because it implants the idea of setting goals and working towards them.</div> <div>It is okay for them to have big dreams,but it is also okay to let them know that some of their dreams may not come true and if they don’t that is okay.</div> <div>Use your own life experiences as examples for your kids. When you are able to talk about your dreams it will help them understand things better.</div> <div>Remember we need to encourage them to dream big, but realistically.</div> <div>Helping them have realistic expectations</div> <div>You want your kids to have dreams of what they want their life to be when they grow up. You also want them to be realistic in their dreams. It is important to have those conversations with them about their dreams and help them be realistic.</div> <div>A lot of time young kids will say they want to be a superhero. Realistically it is impossible to be the superhero that they are talking about. Have a conversation about what makes a superhero a superhero. The conversation will probably lead to them saying that superheroes help others, they keep people safe, they do the right thing.</div> <div>While they may not be able to be a superhero with a cape that flies around, talk with them about people</div>	<div>that they know that help others, keep people safe, or do the right thing.</div> <div>This will help them think realistically and learn to explore things that they are interested in and pursue those things. It is more realistic for a kid to become a firefighter than superman.</div> <div>Encourage them to be whoever they want to be instead of whatever they want to be</div> <div>In today’s society there is so much pressure to be successful. Anything else makes people mediocre and to some mediocre isn’t good enough.</div> <div>Everyone has a different perception of their lives and if you can talk to your child about being who they want to be instead of what they want to be there is more of a likelihood they will create the life they want and be happy with it.</div> <div>Success comes in different variations, one’s version of success might be completely different than others. It is ultimately about what make them happy and if they feel like they have done enough.</div> <div>Be their biggest support system</div> <div>Your child will probably have a bunch of different interests through their childhood. One week they may talk about being a princess when they get older, then a singer the next week.</div> <div>Support them throughout this process. It will give them the confidence to think big about their future.</div>	



Last Month at Suncrest Elementary School

Last month we celebrated Black History Month and discussed what it means to be an advocate. Across grade levels, we talked about human, environmental, and animal rights. We discussed what "rights" are and why it is so important that we stand up to protect them for both ourselves and others. In fifth grade, the students created an advocacy project about a topic that they were personally passionate about. They provided action steps for West Virginians and students, and they will be presenting them to Monongalia County delegate John Williams on March 21st.



Attention Families:

Do you have a job or hobby that you are passionate about? Would you like to share that passion with Suncrest students? If so, please fill out the form that will be sent through the school Remind. Here is a copy of the link:

<https://forms.gle/PpiP8z7TYDUgRiv86>

Book Suggestions from Mrs. Tuck

- I can be brave: A Brave New Mouse, Ellis Island Approved Immigrant by Philip Horender
- I can be strong: Firebird: Ballerina Misty Copeland by Misty Copeland
- I can be kind: I Walk With Vanessa by Keroscoet
- I can be adventurous: Anna Strong: A Spy During the American Revolution by Sarah Marsh
- I can be compassionate: Hug Machine by Scott Campbell
- I can be ME: I Am Enough by Grace Byers

This month, we will be focusing on the theme of “You Can Be Whatever You Want to Be!” All of our students probably have an idea or dream about what they want to be when they grow up, and we want to encourage them and show them the world of possibilities they have!

This month, teachers will be talking about various careers that students may be interested in. Some classes will have parents share remotely about jobs that they do. This month is also a great opportunity to talk about the importance of working hard at everything you set your mind to. Our students are going to achieve amazing and creative things, and we want to help them foster and realize their dreams.

First grade uses their units of study to explore different jobs. For example, a few weeks ago students learned what it meant to be a meteorologist in order to study the weather. This week, we have started to learn about what it is like to be an astronomer or astronaut as we begin our space unit.

Fifth grade will work on a career project this month to explore different careers they may one day have. They will also write letters to their future selves with their dreams and hopes for the future. One day, they will be able to read these letters and reflect on what they have achieved and how things are different.

Teachers and staff at Suncrest Elementary will also work on a project this month to share the things we love about our job, hobbies, and ourselves!

As a school, we have a big focus on STREAM- Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts, and Math. This will continue to reflect in our conversations this month as we help our students see that they can be anything they want to be!



