

From: [Kevin Gilbert](#)
To: [Srivastava ICA Howard](#)
Cc: [Razia F. Kosi](#); [contact](#)
Subject: Re: [External] Re: Diwali resources for teachers
Date: Thursday, November 12, 2020 2:02:04 PM

Greetings

I am Kevin Gilbert, HCPSS Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

We can set up a time to meet to discuss. I am not sure who objected to what but we have to vet all resources before releasing to our schools. The time between Razia receiving your resources and when we need to get the resources to schools was too short in order to vet the tool kit. We will review the materials and perhaps be able to release them at a later date.

We use teaching tolerance resources throughout our district and since they have been already vetted, we have chosen to just release those. I am not sure who the South Asian Activist you are referencing is but the decision not to send out your resources wasn't influenced by that. Your resources are not being used because we do not have enough time to vet them before release.

Let me know if you'd like to meet to discuss further.

Kevin Gilbert

Kevin F. Gilbert, Ed.D.
Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Howard County Public School System
kevin_gilbert@hcpss.org
410-313-1542
Pronouns: He, Him, His

“... it is not enough to be non-racist, we must be antiracist.
-Angela Davis

“... Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble.”
-Rep. John Lewis

*Please excuse any typos and misspellings as I am responding via mobile phone

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 12, 2020, at 1:40 PM, Srivastava ICA Howard <srivastava@icahoward.org> wrote:

Razia,

All the faiths mentioned in your message - Buddhists, Jains, Sikhs - are offshoots of Hinduism. To parse and to ignore the origin of the festival and the common understanding of it worldwide, is to seek to divide. The HAF Diwali toolkit has been adopted by schools in 41 states in USA. Without getting into a debate about history and origins and reasons why

some (non-Hindus) seek to separate and divide "Hindus" for their own political ends, I ask again:

1) What was objectionable in the Diwali toolkit?

It has been adopted in 41 states in the US and is being used in their curriculum.

2) Who is the 'South Asian Activist' you reference in your email?

3) What is their role at HCPSS?

4) Does HCPSS require this South Asian activist's approval before disseminating information about India/Indian Americans/Hindus/Hindu Festivals?

It is evident that this 'South Asian activist' holds significant sway over HCPSS. Please provide their name, their political and religious affiliations. I hope a single 'South Asian Activist' is not allowed to define the largest immigrant community in Howard County. I would truly hope to keep religious and political bias out of HSPSS.

Please clarify.

Sanjay Srivastava, President

Indian Cultural Association

www.icahoward.org / srivastava@icahoward.org

<https://www.facebook.com/icahoward>

Ph. 410-567-6599

---- On Thu, 12 Nov 2020 09:48:27 -0500 **Razia F. Kosi**

<Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org> wrote ----

Hello Sanjay,

Thank your email and expressing your concerns. There is no intention of separating Diwali from the Hindu religion. The resources we will be sharing with the teachers, actually shows the significance of Diwali with four religions in India. The quotation below is pulled from [Teaching Tolerance](#) and is where we often pull our resources.

While the festival's origins are Hindu, people of many faiths celebrate it. Hindus celebrate Diwali to welcome Lord Rama after his victory over the evil Ravana and to receive the blessings of Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth. Sikhs celebrate it as the day of the release of their sixth Guru, Hargobind, from captivity by the Mughal Emperor Jahangir. Jains and Buddhists also celebrate Diwali. For followers of these faiths, the festival marks the day Lord Mahavira, the last of the Jain Tirthankaras (spiritual teachers), achieved enlightenment and the day the great Emperor Ashoka embraced Buddhism as his faith.

I have included Dr. Kevin Gilbert, Director of the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and if you have any further questions, you can contact him.

All the best,

Razia

Razia F. Kosi, LCSW-C
Pronouns: She, Her, Hers
Facilitator, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Howard County Public School System
10910 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042
Office (410) 313-1254

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From: Srivastava ICA Howard <srivastava@icahoward.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 11:50 AM
To: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>
Cc: contact <contact@icahoward.org>
Subject: Re: Fwd: Re: [External] Re: Diwali resources for teachers

Hello Razia,

Diwali is a Hindu festival. A prominent Hindu organization in the United States familiar with Hindu customs and festivals has prepared the toolkit for teachers in USA. According to the Hindu American Foundation (HAF) website:

"HAF's 2020 Diwali Toolkit now has more information about the significance of Diwali and includes Common Core State Standards (CCSS) lessons for the classroom, which **are implemented in 41 states and set the guidelines for learning in grades K-12**. There are several new learning tools to teach about Diwali and activities geared towards Kindergarten-5th grade."

<https://www.hinduamerican.org/press/diwali-toolkit-2020>

If the intent of HCPSS is to say that Diwali is a Festival of Lights without recognizing its Hindu origin or its significance to the largest immigrant minority community in Howard County, I submit that the Howard County Public School System will have failed in its goal of equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Please explain what is objectionable about the information provided? Is it that it is a Hindu source, Hindu American, India, Indian, or Indian American? We cannot begin to teach tolerance to our children if we ourselves are intolerant of one another or our differing beliefs. With greater knowledge comes greater understanding and acceptance.

The information contained in the document is widely held by a billion-plus people. The sensibilities of one activist or a group of activists should not be permitted to muzzle an entire community, their festivals, or their belief

system, even if they may differ from those of the activist. An objection from "a South Asian activist" is insufficient to deprive our children of knowledge about Diwali, its significance, its origins, or its meaning.

I really don't understand what "a South Asian activist" has anything to do with what is circulated at HCPSS. What is this individual's specific activism? **We should not bring the geopolitics of South Asia into Howard County.** It is important that we keep political or religious activism and racial/religious/regional discrimination out of our schools.

We live in a diverse community with varying beliefs. We must all resist the urge to discriminate based on color, race, country of origin, or religion. As the Indian Cultural Association, we have celebrated the holidays (both religious and non-religious), of our diverse people - Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Sikh, Jains, and Hindu. Hindus are about 80% of Indians. **To not give a Hindu perspective to a Hindu holiday is, in fact, discriminatory.**

I have no position on the HAF, nor am I a member of this organization. I represent the Indian Cultural Association of Howard County, and I am very concerned that potentially 'political' and/or 'religious' activists are making decisions on behalf of HCPSS about which information will be disseminated to our kids and which will be suppressed.

I am extremely concerned that a South-Asian 'activist' with possible anti-Hindu/India bias intends to define Hindu holidays on behalf of the Indian American community and that information is being censored by this anti-Hindu activist. Who is this activist and what are their political and or religious affiliations? This stinks of discrimination & religious intolerance and has no place in HCPSS.

Sincerely,

Sanjay Srivastava, President
Indian Cultural Association
www.icahoward.org / srivastava@icahoward.org
<https://www.facebook.com/icahoward>
Ph. 410-567-6599

---- On Wed, 11 Nov 2020 11:15:19 -0500 **ICA Indian Cultural Association of Howard County** <contact@icahoward.org> wrote ----

===== Forwarded message =====

From: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>

To: "ICA Indian Cultural Association of Howard County"
<contact@icahoward.org>

Date: Tue, 10 Nov 2020 15:28:47 -0500

Subject: Re: [External] Re: Diwali resources for teachers

===== Forwarded message =====

Hi Niti,

A concern was raised about the origins of the materials from the Hindu American Foundation by an activist in the South Asian American community. I'll keep researching this. I appreciate you taking the time to find this.

Razia

Razia F. Kosi, LCSW-C
Pronouns: She, Her, Hers
Facilitator, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
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10910 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042
Office (410) 313-1254

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From: ICA Indian Cultural Association of Howard County

<contact@icahoward.org>

Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 3:12 PM

To: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>

Subject: Re: [External] Re: Diwali resources for teachers

Hi Razia,

Here is a good toolkit I found about Diwali.

https://www.hinduamerican.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/HAFN_20_048-DiwaliToolkit2020_FINAL.pdf

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks so much,
Niti

Indian Cultural Association

www.icahoward.org / contact@icahoward.org

"Like" Us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/icahoward>

Ph. 410-567-6599

---- On Mon, 09 Nov 2020 23:02:30 -0500 Razia F. Kosi

<Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org> wrote ----

Pricilla Reaver let myself and Kevin Gilbert know. Also Min Woo

had mentioned it. Thank you for getting resources for teachers on Diwali.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: ICA Indian Cultural Association of Howard County

<contact@icahoward.org>

Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 11:00:13 PM

To: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>

Subject: [External] Re: Diwali resources for teachers

**! CAUTION: This email originated from outside of HCPSS.
Do not click links or open attachments, unless you
recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Hi Razia,

Thanks for reaching out to us. I really appreciate it.
Let me put something together about Diwali that you can circulate.

Also, where did you learn about our partnership? I didn't know that it had been announced already.
Look forward to our working together.

Best,
Niti

Indian Cultural Association

www.icahoward.org / contact@icahoward.org

"Like" Us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/icahoward>

Ph. 410-567-6599

----- On Mon, 09 Nov 2020 18:44:36 -0500 Razia F. Kosi

<Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org> wrote -----

Hi Niti,

I saw that ICA has a partnership with HCPSS. I often send out different teaching resources to teachers about different cultural and religious events of significance.

I have this one about Diwali from Teaching Tolerance
<https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/diwali-in-the-classroom-a-parents-perspective>

Do you have other resources that I can share with teachers? It would be good to have materials for

elementary, middle, and high school.

Let me know your thoughts,
Razia

Razia F. Kosi, LCSW-C
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From: [Min Woo](#)
To: [Asian American Educators of Howard County](#)
Cc: [Kimberly M. Eggborn](#)
Subject: holidays celebrated by us
Date: Thursday, November 12, 2020 12:38:56 PM

Good afternoon,

I am chair for the Outreach and Partnership Committee for AAEHC. One of our aim this year is to acknowledge and celebrate our holidays whether they are religious or cultural. We've started with all the holidays listed on our published calendar but know that it is not all inclusive.

Please share with us the holidays not yet in our calendar and send me a note.

We will be sending out a Diwali celebration email tomorrow.

In addition, I hope some of you may wish to join our committee, I am copying our charge below:

Outreach and Partnership

Promote awareness of Asian American diversity within the broader HCPSS community (establish business partnerships, connect with community groups, liaison for International Office)

I look forward to hearing from you.

Have a great day.

Min Woo
Howard County Public School System
International Student & Family Services
5451 Beaverkill Road
Columbia, MD 21044
Phone: 410 313 1294
Fax: 410 313 1567
min_woo@hcpss.org

From: [Razia F. Kosi](#)
To: [Christopher Ho](#)
Subject: Re: Diwali message to AAEHC
Date: Thursday, November 12, 2020 10:48:12 AM

I'll try to get to it today.

Razia F. Kosi, LCSW-C
Pronouns: She, Her, Hers
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10910 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042
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From: Christopher Ho <Christopher_Ho@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 9:50 AM
To: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>
Subject: Re: Diwali message to AAEHC

If its not a prblm for you, then yes! I'd greatly appreciate it! It'll look so much better widescreen!

Respectfully,

Christopher Ho

Howard High School --- Para-educator - Testing Assistant

Student Services --- Testing Office, Ext. 255

"Don't believe every quote you see on the internet..." - Abraham Lincoln

From: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 9:49 AM
To: Christopher Ho <Christopher_Ho@hcpss.org>
Subject: Re: Diwali message to AAEHC

Do you want me to redo my video?

Razia F. Kosi, LCSW-C
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From: Christopher Ho <Christopher_Ho@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 9:40 AM
To: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>
Subject: Re: Diwali message to AAHC

That's awesome Razia!

Yea, it's important to - That's one of the things I had to first learn as Staff Representative for my Asian American Club. It's also something we first learn in Asian American Studies in college.

By the way, when you ask Rashmi and Shiney (or whoever else), could you ask them if they can record their footage in Widescreen format? (Lay their phone horizontally).

Respectfully,

Christopher Ho

Howard High School --- Para-educator - Testing Assistant

Student Services --- Testing Office, Ext. 255

"Don't believe every quote you see on the internet..." - Abraham Lincoln

From: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 9:26 AM
To: Christopher Ho <Christopher_Ho@hcpss.org>
Subject: Re: Diwali message to AAHC

Thank you Chris!!!! That is exactly the type of solidarity that makes my heart sing. I was at the Face Race Conference (online) and it's so important to keep the voices of people not in the room up front. I try to do this with LGBTQI+ issues and also with opportunities for solidarity work.

All the best,
Razia

Razia F. Kosi, LCSW-C
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From: Christopher Ho <Christopher_Ho@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 9:22 AM
To: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>
Subject: Re: Diwali message to AAHC

Yea, I agree with everything - especially the South Asians. Last night (you weren't there), we were suggesting festivities and events for AAEHC. While everyone vouched for Lunar New Years, and other East Asian Holidays, I actually vouched to have more South Asian holidays, in order to keep South Asians in the picture.

Other than that, yes, I agree as well! I'll reach out to Achint and ask!

Respectfully,

Christopher Ho

Howard High School --- Para-educator - Testing Assistant

Student Services --- Testing Office, Ext. 255

"Don't believe every quote you see on the internet..." - Abraham Lincoln

From: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>

Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 9:18 AM

To: Christopher Ho <Christopher_Ho@hcpss.org>

Subject: Re: Diwali message to AAEHC

Overall I think you did an excellent job. These are just suggestions to keep in mind for social media consumption, and to develop the message of who the people in AAEHC are.

I think it's better to keep the videos 5 minutes or under, unless there's a compelling story, it might get repetitive. Some of the people said very similar things.

I think you will be adding names and title/location, ie. Dan Han, 5th grade teacher, Kim Eggborn, Coordinator, Elementary Social Studies, etc. That will give folx a better sense of the different roles etc.

Check with Kim on this, but if you expand the title to Why I Become an Educator, then you have people talking about being a teacher, and other roles in education.

I also think it's important in the beginning of the video to get different faces in, so even if it's an intro. Hi, I'm.... and then cut back to the different statements. This will also increase the immediate diversity of the group. If you do this, then later when they share a longer statement you can add the names and titles.

If you can recruit Achint (since you know her) to do a video that would be good, having only one South Asian on this with a very large group of East Asians isn't representative of our county, and again sends the

misinformation that South Asians are not included in broader Asian groups. Rashmi Bury is an AP [REDACTED], so I can recruit her or Shiney John, a principal, to do a quick video.

Razia F. Kosi, LCSW-C
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From: Christopher Ho <Christopher_Ho@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 8:54 AM
To: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>
Subject: Re: Diwali message to AAEHC

Yes! Of course, I am hoping for feedbacks!

Respectfully,

Christopher Ho

Howard High School --- Para-educator - Testing Assistant

Student Services --- Testing Office, Ext. 255

"Don't believe every quote you see on the internet..." - Abraham Lincoln

From: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 8:53 AM
To: Christopher Ho <Christopher_Ho@hcpss.org>
Subject: Re: Diwali message to AAEHC

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Liaisons. They are folx designated in each school to be the liaison from our office. They have additional training to be in this role.

Also, if you are open to it, I had a few thoughts about the videos you shared.

Razia F. Kosi, LCSW-C
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From: Christopher Ho <Christopher_Ho@hcpss.org>

Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 8:52 AM

To: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>

Subject: Re: Diwali message to AAEHC

Sure thing Razia -- What's DEILS by the way?

Respectfully,

Christopher Ho

Howard High School --- Para-educator - Testing Assistant

Student Services --- Testing Office, Ext. 255

"Don't believe every quote you see on the internet..." - Abraham Lincoln

From: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>

Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 8:50 AM

To: Christopher Ho <Christopher_Ho@hcpss.org>

Subject: Re: Diwali message to AAEHC

Chris, I have some Teaching Tolerance Resources that I might share with the DEILS. Hold off on that for now.

Razia F. Kosi, LCSW-C

Pronouns: She, Her, Hers

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From: Christopher Ho <Christopher_Ho@hcpss.org>

Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 8:45 AM

To: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>; Michelle S. Bharmal <Michelle_Bharmal@hcpss.org>

Cc: Kimberly M. Eggborn <Kimberly_Eggborn@hcpss.org>; Min Woo <Min_Woo@hcpss.org>

Subject: Re: Diwali message to AAEHC

Awesome! I just made a Google Form for posting things to Social Media last night.

(AAEHC Drive ----> Social Media and Communications ----> Google Form (-> Photos/Videos if any)

I will try get everything out onto our Social Media platforms (Instagram being the trickiest) on the Day of Diwali.

Is there a short lore story I may include that goes with Diwali?

Also -- Kim: If I were to send this out via AAEHC email, how can I do that?

Respectfully,

Christopher Ho

Howard High School --- Para-educator - Testing Assistant

Student Services --- Testing Office, Ext. 255

"Don't believe every quote you see on the internet..." - Abraham Lincoln

From: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>

Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 8:34 AM

To: Michelle S. Bharmal <Michelle_Bharmal@hcpss.org>; Christopher Ho <Christopher_Ho@hcpss.org>

Cc: Kimberly M. Eggborn <Kimberly_Eggborn@hcpss.org>; Min Woo <Min_Woo@hcpss.org>

Subject: Re: Diwali message to AAEHC

Hello Everyone,

It's great to plan ahead and get the message out to wish everyone a Happy Diwali. While I like the first video a little better, it does not have the closed caption option. If anyone can figure out how to get that turned on, then use the first one. If not, then the second one has CC and voice over, so it has more access for viewers.

Thanks!

Razia

Razia F. Kosi, LCSW-C

Pronouns: She, Her, Hers

Facilitator, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Howard County Public School System

10910 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Office (410) 313-1254



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From: Michelle S. Bharmal <Michelle_Bharmal@hcpss.org>

Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 6:08 PM

To: Christopher Ho <Christopher_Ho@hcpss.org>; Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>

Cc: Kimberly M. Eggborn <Kimberly_Eggborn@hcpss.org>; Min Woo <Min_Woo@hcpss.org>; Michelle S. Bharmal <Michelle_Bharmal@hcpss.org>

Subject: Diwali message to AAEHC

Razia – at the meeting today, one of the ideas was to wish people on the occasion of their holidays based on the HCPSS calendar for now. Min's committee will work on including other holidays. We were going to send out a Diwali message, with the image below and a link explaining what the festival is about. We would like you to chime in and let us know if what we want to do is acceptable and PC 😊. Let us know your thoughts – we can plan on sending it out on Friday.

Chris:

The message: *Wishing You All A Very Happy Diwali.*

Link to youtube video: https://www.youtube.com/what_is_diwali

Or this one:

<https://www.youtube.com/Diwali>

Either of the images below would work.






Michelle Bharmal
Position Control and Staffing Specialist
Office of Human Resources
Howard County Public School System
(410) 313-1519
michelle_bharmal@hcpss.org



From: [Razia F. Kosi](#)
To: [Christopher Ho](#)
Subject: Re: Diwali message to AAEHC
Date: Thursday, November 12, 2020 9:20:45 AM

Oh the message from Kim to the group was:
-Why become an educator? (especially for those whose families might oppose it)

So you could change the title to Why become an educator.

Razia F. Kosi, LCSW-C
Pronouns: She, Her, Hers
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From: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 9:18 AM
To: Christopher Ho <Christopher_Ho@hcpss.org>
Subject: Re: Diwali message to AAEHC

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Kim Eggborn, Coordinator, Elementary Social Studies, etc. That will give folx a better sense of the different roles etc.

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Razia F. Kosi, LCSW-C
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[REDACTED]

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From: Christopher Ho <Christopher_Ho@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 8:54 AM
To: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>
Subject: Re: Diwali message to AAHC

Yes! Of course, I am hoping for feedbacks!

Respectfully,

Christopher Ho

Howard High School --- Para-educator - Testing Assistant

Student Services --- Testing Office, Ext. 255

"Don't believe every quote you see on the internet..." - Abraham Lincoln

From: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 8:53 AM
To: Christopher Ho <Christopher_Ho@hcpss.org>
Subject: Re: Diwali message to AAHC

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Liaisons. They are folks designated in each school to be the liaison from our office. They have additional training to be in this role.

Also, if you are open to it, I had a few thoughts about the videos you shared.

Razia F. Kosi, LCSW-C
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From: Christopher Ho <Christopher_Ho@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 8:52 AM
To: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>
Subject: Re: Diwali message to AAEHC

Sure thing Razia -- What's DEILS by the way?

Respectfully,

Christopher Ho

Howard High School --- Para-educator - Testing Assistant

Student Services --- Testing Office, Ext. 255

"Don't believe every quote you see on the internet..." - Abraham Lincoln

From: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 8:50 AM
To: Christopher Ho <Christopher_Ho@hcpss.org>
Subject: Re: Diwali message to AAEHC

Chris, I have some Teaching Tolerance Resources that I might share with the DEILs. Hold off on that for now.

Razia F. Kosi, LCSW-C
Pronouns: She, Her, Hers
Facilitator, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Howard County Public School System
10910 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042
Office (410) 313-1254
[REDACTED]

Follow Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion on Twitter @HoCoCPro

From: Christopher Ho <Christopher_Ho@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 8:45 AM
To: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>; Michelle S. Bharmal <Michelle_Bharmal@hcpss.org>
Cc: Kimberly M. Eggborn <Kimberly_Eggborn@hcpss.org>; Min Woo <Min_Woo@hcpss.org>
Subject: Re: Diwali message to AAEHC

Awesome! I just made a Google Form for posting things to Social Media last night.

(AAEHC Drive ----> Social Media and Communications ----> Google Form (-> Photos/Videos if

any)

I will try get everything out onto our Social Media platforms (Instagram being the trickiest) on the Day of Diwali.

Is there a short lore story I may include that goes with Diwali?

Also -- Kim: If I were to send this out via AAEHC email, how can I do that?

Respectfully,

Christopher Ho

Howard High School --- Para-educator - Testing Assistant

Student Services --- Testing Office, Ext. 255

"Don't believe every quote you see on the internet..." - Abraham Lincoln

From: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>

Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 8:34 AM

To: Michelle S. Bharmal <Michelle_Bharmal@hcpss.org>; Christopher Ho <Christopher_Ho@hcpss.org>

Cc: Kimberly M. Eggborn <Kimberly_Eggborn@hcpss.org>; Min Woo <Min_Woo@hcpss.org>

Subject: Re: Diwali message to AAEHC

Hello Everyone,

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Thanks!

Razia

Razia F. Kosi, LCSW-C

Pronouns: She, Her, Hers

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10910 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Office (410) 313-1254

[REDACTED]

Follow Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion on Twitter @HoCoCPro

From: Michelle S. Bharmal <Michelle_Bharmal@hcpss.org>

Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 6:08 PM

To: Christopher Ho <Christopher_Ho@hcpss.org>; Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>

Cc: Kimberly M. Eggborn <Kimberly_Eggborn@hcpss.org>; Min Woo <Min_Woo@hcpss.org>; Michelle S. Bharmal <Michelle_Bharmal@hcpss.org>

Subject: Diwali message to AAEHC

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Chris:

The message: *Wishing You All A Very Happy Diwali.*

Link to youtube video: https://www.youtube.com/what_is_diwali

Or this one:

<https://www.youtube.com/Diwali>

Either of the images below would work.





Michelle Bharmal

Position Control and Staffing Specialist

Office of Human Resources

Howard County Public School System

(410) 313-1519

michelle_bharmal@hcpss.org



From: [Kimberly M. Eggborn](#)
To: [Michelle S. Bharmal](#); [Christopher Ho](#); [Razia F. Kosi](#)
Cc: [Min Woo](#)
Subject: Re: Diwali message to AAEHC
Date: Thursday, November 12, 2020 9:09:11 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Michelle and Min- I think we can make that part of Min's committee to vet that. It would be good for her committee to be a good representation of all groups. We can advertise that we are looking for some people of different religions and backgrounds to be on that committee to vet our materials.

Chris- For email, refer to Razia's reply that includes how to send to our existing mail group list in Outlook.

Kim Eggborn
Coordinator of Elementary Social Studies
Howard County Public School System
410-313-5678

@HCPSSElemSS

From: Michelle S. Bharmal <Michelle_Bharmal@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 8:59 AM
To: Christopher Ho <Christopher_Ho@hcpss.org>; Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>
Cc: Kimberly M. Eggborn <Kimberly_Eggborn@hcpss.org>; Min Woo <Min_Woo@hcpss.org>
Subject: RE: Diwali message to AAEHC

Good morning,

Since the festival is celebrated by 4 religious groups I don't think we can include a story – whichever link we choose speaks to it a little bit.

Also, Razia had the idea of us reaching out to the AAEHC committee members to see if anyone would volunteer to vet the material for South Asian festivals. How do you suggest we send that communication out?

Thanks.

Michelle Bharmal
Position Control and Staffing Specialist
Office of Human Resources
Howard County Public School System
(410) 313-1519
michelle_bharmal@hcpss.org

From: Christopher Ho <Christopher_Ho@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 8:46 AM
To: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>; Michelle S. Bharmal <Michelle_Bharmal@hcpss.org>
Cc: Kimberly M. Eggborn <Kimberly_Eggborn@hcpss.org>; Min Woo <Min_Woo@hcpss.org>
Subject: Re: Diwali message to AAEHC

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Subject: Re: Diwali message to AAEHC

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Thanks!
Razia

Razia F. Kosi, LCSW-C

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10910 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042
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Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 6:08 PM
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Cc: Kimberly M. Eggborn <Kimberly_Eggborn@hcpss.org>; Min Woo <Min_Woo@hcpss.org>;
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Chris:

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Or this one:

<https://www.youtube.com/Diwali>

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Michelle Bharmal
Position Control and Staffing Specialist
Office of Human Resources
Howard County Public School System
(410) 313-1519
michelle_bharmal@hcpss.org



From: [Razia F. Kosi](#)
To: [Michelle S. Bharmal](#); [Christopher Ho](#)
Cc: [Kimberly M. Eggborn](#); [Min Woo](#)
Subject: Re: Diwali message to AAEHC
Date: Thursday, November 12, 2020 9:06:40 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Screen Shot 2020-11-12 at 9.04.21 AM.png](#)

In response to sending things out on the AAEHC email. In your Outlook, under "groups" the Asian American Educators group should come up. Click on it and then to the "send message" icon. You should be able to send the message to the group. I attached a screenshot.

Razia

Razia F. Kosi, LCSW-C
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Michelle Bharmal
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michelle_bharmal@hcpss.org



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Cc: Kimberly M. Eggborn <Kimberly_Eggborn@hcpss.org>; Min Woo <Min_Woo@hcpss.org>;
Michelle S. Bharmal <Michelle_Bharmal@hcpss.org>
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Or this one:

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Either of the images below would work.



Michelle Bharmal
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michelle_bharmal@hcpss.org



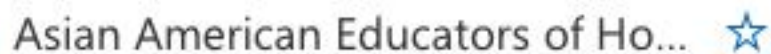


⊗

5

☐

✓



Send email



Yesterday



Wed 9:20 AM

Thanks for sharing this article, Razia! As a Chine...

Last week



Fri 11/6

Hello. Thank you for voting for the AAEHC Boar...



Fri 11/6

Dear Friends, I wanted to make sure you saw thi...

Last month



Fri 10/30

Happy Friday! We hope everyone has had a wo...

From: [Razia F. Kosi](#)
To: [Michelle S. Bharmal](#)
Subject: Re: Diwali message to AAEHC
Date: Thursday, November 12, 2020 8:57:43 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Perfect!

Razia F. Kosi, LCSW-C
Pronouns: She, Her, Hers
Facilitator, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Howard County Public School System
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[REDACTED]

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From: Michelle S. Bharmal <Michelle_Bharmal@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 8:55 AM
To: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>
Subject: RE: Diwali message to AAEHC

Well Achint is on the committee so I was going to tap her and we can also ask for volunteers from the organization – do you like that idea?

Michelle Bharmal
Position Control and Staffing Specialist
Office of Human Resources
Howard County Public School System
(410) 313-1519
michelle_bharmal@hcpss.org



From: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 8:52 AM
To: Michelle S. Bharmal <Michelle_Bharmal@hcpss.org>
Subject: Re: Diwali message to AAEHC

Can you reach out to the AAEHC to recruit a [REDACTED] teacher to also work with us to vet the materials?

Razia F. Kosi, LCSW-C

Pronouns: She, Her, Hers
Facilitator, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
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10910 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042
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[REDACTED]

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From: Michelle S. Bharmal <Michelle_Bharmal@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 8:50 AM
To: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>
Subject: RE: Diwali message to AAEHC

Thanks Razia. I volunteered the two of us to vet all South Asian holiday greetings and provide info. on them as of now.

I did reach out to Kevin re. the affinity groups – Dave asked me to check with him. I haven't heard back as yet.

Michelle Bharmal
Position Control and Staffing Specialist
Office of Human Resources
Howard County Public School System
(410) 313-1519
michelle_bharmal@hcpss.org



From: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 8:36 AM
To: Michelle S. Bharmal <Michelle_Bharmal@hcpss.org>
Subject: Re: Diwali message to AAEHC

I responded to the group. Kevin oked these videos. The ADA wasn't the issue under consideration with Kevin. I can talk with you more offline.
Razia

Razia F. Kosi, LCSW-C
Pronouns: She, Her, Hers
Facilitator, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Howard County Public School System
10910 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042
Office (410) 313-1254

[REDACTED]
Follow Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion on Twitter @HoCoCPro

From: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 6:22 PM
To: Michelle S. Bharmal <Michelle_Bharmal@hcpss.org>
Subject: Re: Diwali message to AAEHC

I'm checking with Dr. Gilbert, there is something else that came up that it would be best for me to check with him about this.

Razia F. Kosi, LCSW-C
Pronouns: She, Her, Hers
Facilitator, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
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10910 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042
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[REDACTED]

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From: Michelle S. Bharmal <Michelle_Bharmal@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 6:08 PM
To: Christopher Ho <Christopher_Ho@hcpss.org>; Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>
Cc: Kimberly M. Eggborn <Kimberly_Eggborn@hcpss.org>; Min Woo <Min_Woo@hcpss.org>; Michelle S. Bharmal <Michelle_Bharmal@hcpss.org>
Subject: Diwali message to AAEHC

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Link to youtube video: https://www.youtube.com/what_is_diwali

Or this one:

<https://www.youtube.com/Diwali>

Either of the images below would work.



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Position Control and Staffing Specialist
Office of Human Resources
Howard County Public School System
(410) 313-1519
michelle_bharmal@hcpss.org

From: [Razia F. Kosi](#)
To: [Kevin Gilbert](#)
Subject: Re: Fwd: Re: [External] Re: Diwali resources for teachers
Date: Thursday, November 12, 2020 8:14:28 AM

Do you have any availability today?

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Kevin Gilbert <Kevin_Gilbert@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 11:36:23 PM
To: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>
Subject: RE: Fwd: Re: [External] Re: Diwali resources for teachers

Yes we should! Thanks for looping me in.

Kevin


From: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 12:00 PM
To: Kevin Gilbert <Kevin_Gilbert@hcpss.org>
Subject: Fw: Fwd: Re: [External] Re: Diwali resources for teachers

I'm going to have to loop you into this exchange with the Indian Cultural Association.

A teacher reached out about Diwali resources, and I had some from Teaching Tolerance. I reached out to Niti Srivastava, from the ICA, and they sent resources from the Hindu American Foundation.

There are direct connections with the Hindu American Foundation with right-wing groups in India. Actually, in the session I went to at Facing Race that organization was named in as an organization working to change the textbooks in the US and other ties covering up the violent atrocities in India tied to the Hindutva.

So, I think we should talk before responding this this person.

Razia F. Kosi, LCSW-C
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Howard County Public School System
10910 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042
Office (410) 313-1254

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From: Srivastava ICA Howard <srivastava@icahoward.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 11:50 AM
To: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>
Cc: contact <contact@icahoward.org>
Subject: Re: Fwd: Re: [External] Re: Diwali resources for teachers

Hello Razia,

Diwali is a Hindu festival. A prominent Hindu organization in the United States familiar with Hindu customs and festivals has prepared the toolkit for teachers in USA. According to the Hindu American Foundation (HAF) website:

"HAF's 2020 Diwali Toolkit now has more information about the significance of Diwali and includes Common Core State Standards (CCSS) lessons for the classroom, which **are implemented in 41 states and set the guidelines for learning in grades K-12**. There are several new learning tools to teach about Diwali and activities geared towards Kindergarten-5th grade."

<https://www.hinduamerican.org/press/diwali-toolkit-2020>

If the intent of HCPSS is to say that Diwali is a Festival of Lights without recognizing its Hindu origin or its significance to the largest immigrant minority community in Howard County, I submit that the Howard County Public School System will have failed in its goal of equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Please explain what is objectionable about the information provided? Is it that it is a Hindu source, Hindu American, India, Indian, or Indian American? We cannot begin to teach tolerance to our children if we ourselves are intolerant of one another or our differing beliefs. With greater knowledge comes greater understanding and acceptance.

The information contained in the document is widely held by a billion-plus people. The sensibilities of one activist or a group of activists should not be permitted to muzzle an entire community, their festivals, or their belief system, even if they may differ from those of the activist. An objection from "a South Asian activist" is insufficient to deprive our children of knowledge about Diwali, its significance, its origins, or its meaning.

I really don't understand what "a South Asian activist" has anything to do with what is circulated at HCPSS. What is this individual's specific activism? **We should not bring the geopolitics of South Asia into Howard County.** It is important that we keep political or religious activism and racial/religious/regional discrimination out of our schools.

We live in a diverse community with varying beliefs. We must all resist the urge to discriminate based on color, race, country of origin, or religion. As the Indian Cultural Association, we have celebrated the holidays (both religious and non-religious), of our diverse people - Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Sikh, Jains, and Hindu. Hindus are about 80% of Indians. **To not give a Hindu perspective to a Hindu holiday is, in fact, discriminatory.**

I have no position on the HAF, nor am I a member of this organization. I represent the Indian Cultural Association of Howard County, and I am very concerned that potentially 'political' and/or 'religious' activists are making decisions on behalf of HCPSS about which information will be disseminated to our kids and which will be suppressed.

I am extremely concerned that a South-Asian 'activist' with possible anti-Hindu/India bias

intends to define Hindu holidays on behalf of the Indian American community and that information is being censored by this anti-Hindu activist. Who is this activist and what are their political and or religious affiliations? This stinks of discrimination & religious intolerance and has no place in HCPSS.

Sincerely,

Sanjay Srivastava, President

Indian Cultural Association

www.icahoward.org / shivastava@icahoward.org

<https://www.facebook.com/icahoward>

Ph. 410-567-6599

---- On Wed, 11 Nov 2020 11:15:19 -0500 **ICA Indian Cultural Association of Howard County** <contact@icahoward.org> wrote ----

===== Forwarded message =====

From: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>

To: "ICA Indian Cultural Association of Howard County" <contact@icahoward.org>

Date: Tue, 10 Nov 2020 15:28:47 -0500

Subject: Re: [External] Re: Diwali resources for teachers

===== Forwarded message =====

Hi Niti,

A concern was raised about the origins of the materials from the Hindu American Foundation by an activist in the South Asian American community. I'll keep researching this. I appreciate you taking the time to find this.

Razia

Razia F. Kosi, LCSW-C

Pronouns: She, Her, Hers

Facilitator, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Howard County Public School System

10910 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Office (410) 313-1254



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From: ICA Indian Cultural Association of Howard County <contact@icahoward.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 3:12 PM
To: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>
Subject: Re: [External] Re: Diwali resources for teachers

Hi Razia,

Here is a good toolkit I found about Diwali.

https://www.hinduamerican.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/HAFN_20_048-DiwaliToolkit2020_FINAL.pdf

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks so much,
Niti

Indian Cultural Association

www.icahoward.org / contact@icahoward.org

"Like" Us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/icahoward>
Ph. 410-567-6599

---- On Mon, 09 Nov 2020 23:02:30 -0500 Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org> wrote ----

Pricilla Reaver let myself and Kevin Gilbert know. Also Min Woo had mentioned it. Thank you for getting resources for teachers on Diwali.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: ICA Indian Cultural Association of Howard County <contact@icahoward.org>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 11:00:13 PM
To: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>
Subject: [External] Re: Diwali resources for teachers

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Hi Razia,

Thanks for reaching out to us. I really appreciate it.
Let me put something together about Diwali that you can circulate.

Also, where did you learn about our partnership? I didn't know that it had been announced already.
Look forward to our working together.

Best,
Niti

Indian Cultural Association

www.icahoward.org / contact@icahoward.org

"Like" Us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/icahoward>

Ph. 410-567-6599

---- On Mon, 09 Nov 2020 18:44:36 -0500 Razia F. Kosi
<Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org> wrote ----

Hi Niti,

I saw that ICA has a partnership with HCPSS. I often send out different teaching resources to teachers about different cultural and religious events of significance.

I have this one about Diwali from Teaching Tolerance

<https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/diwali-in-the-classroom-a-parents-perspective>

Do you have other resources that I can share with teachers? It would be good to have materials for elementary, middle, and high school.

Let me know your thoughts,
Razia

Razia F. Kosi, LCSW-C

Pronouns: She, Her, Hers

Facilitator, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Howard County Public School System

10910 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042

Office (410) 313-1254

[REDACTED]

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From: [Kevin Gilbert](#)
To: [Razia F. Kosi](#)
Subject: Re: Diwali message to AAEHC
Date: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 11:49:50 PM

I'm good with this

Kevin F. Gilbert, Ed.D.
Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Howard County Public School System
kevin_gilbert@hcpss.org
410-313-1542
Pronouns: He, Him, His

“ ... it is not enough to be non-racist, we must be antiracist.
-Angela Davis

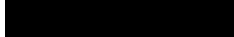
“... Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble.”
-Rep. John Lewis

*Please excuse any typos and misspellings as I am responding via mobile phone

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 11, 2020, at 6:21 PM, Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org> wrote:

Hi Kevin,
The AAEHC wants to send out a message to just the group list about Diwali. There are several teachers in the group, so we could send this out and the Teaching Tolerance resources on Diwali. What are your thoughts on a message to the AAEHC group? I can also see if we can get some teachers in the AAEHC to vet materials.

Razia F. Kosi, LCSW-C
Pronouns: She, Her, Hers
Facilitator, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Howard County Public School System
10910 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042
Office (410) 313-1254


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From: Michelle S. Bharmal <Michelle_Bharmal@hcpss.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 6:08 PM
To: Christopher Ho <Christopher_Ho@hcpss.org>; Razia F. Kosi

<Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>

Cc: Kimberly M. Eggborn <Kimberly_Eggborn@hcpss.org>; Min Woo

<Min_Woo@hcpss.org>; Michelle S. Bharmal <Michelle_Bharmal@hcpss.org>

Subject: Diwali message to AAHC

Razia – at the meeting today, one of the ideas was to wish people on the occasion of their holidays based on the HCPSS calendar for now. Min's committee will work on including other holidays. We were going to send out a Diwali message, with the image below and a link explaining what the festival is about. We would like you to chime in and let us know if what we want to do is acceptable and PC ☺. Let us know your thoughts – we can plan on sending it out on Friday.

Chris:

The message: *Wishing You All A Very Happy Diwali.*

Link to youtube video: https://www.youtube.com/what_is_diwali

Or this one:

<https://www.youtube.com/Diwali>

Either of the images below would work.

<ATT77796.jpg>

<ATT09999.jpg>

Michelle Bharmal
Position Control and Staffing Specialist
Office of Human Resources
Howard County Public School System
(410) 313-1519
michelle_bharmal@hcpss.org



<ATT41091.jpg>

From: [Teaching Tolerance](#)
To: [Razia F. Kosi](#)
Subject: [External] Maintaining Strong Communities in Polarized Classrooms
Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 7:01:13 PM

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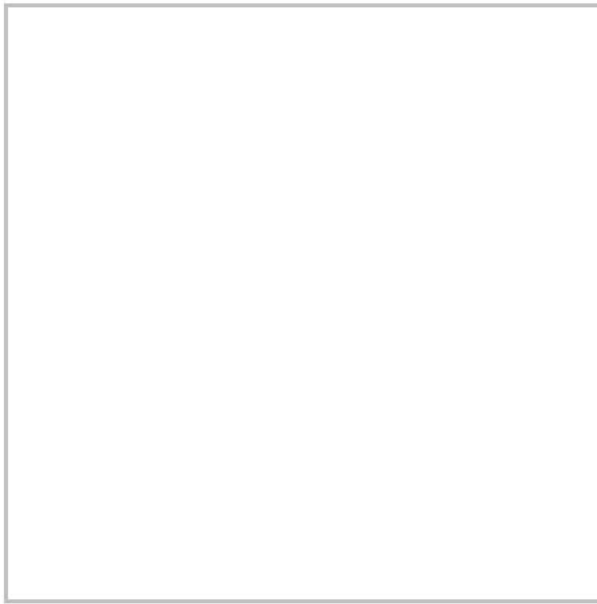


November 10, 2020



Maintaining Strong Communities in Polarized Classrooms

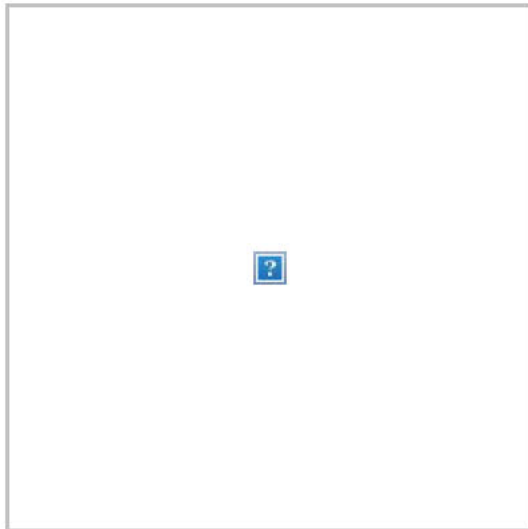
Polarizing political rhetoric didn't end with the election, and as recounts and lawsuits continue, it remains critical that educators work to maintain strong, inclusive communities in their classrooms. We hope [these resources](#) will help.



[The Weaponization of Whiteness in Schools // Coshandra Dillard](#)

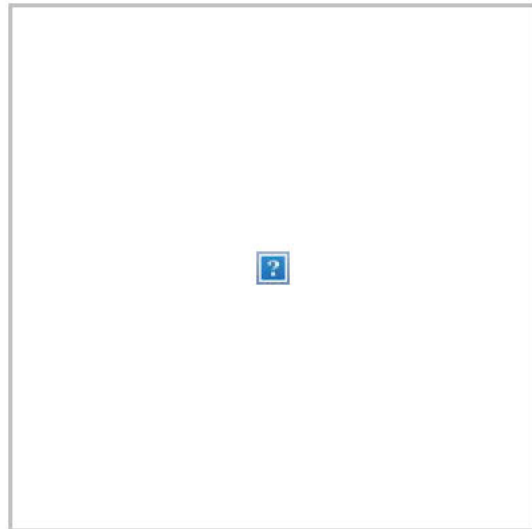
[School as Sanctuary // Cory Collins](#)

[This Conversation Is Anti-racist // Monita K. Bell and Cory Collins](#)



Teaching the Movement's Most Iconic Figure

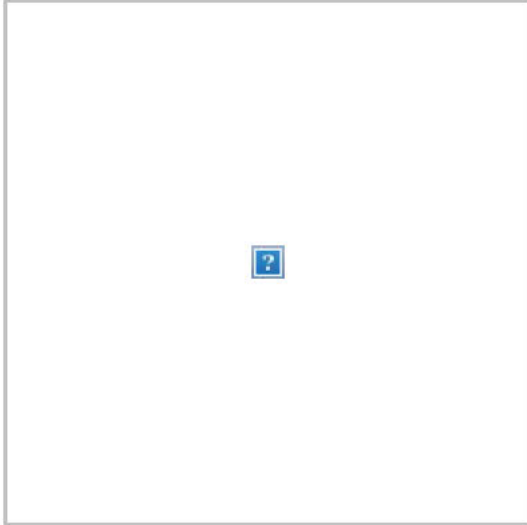
You cannot teach the civil rights movement without talking about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. But it's critical that students deconstruct the mythology surrounding the movement's most iconic figure to learn about the man, not just the



Resources for Supporting Students Through COVID-19

We are grateful to educators continuing to support students and families through the COVID-19 pandemic. We have developed resources to support student well-being and virtual learning, including articles about culturally responsive online

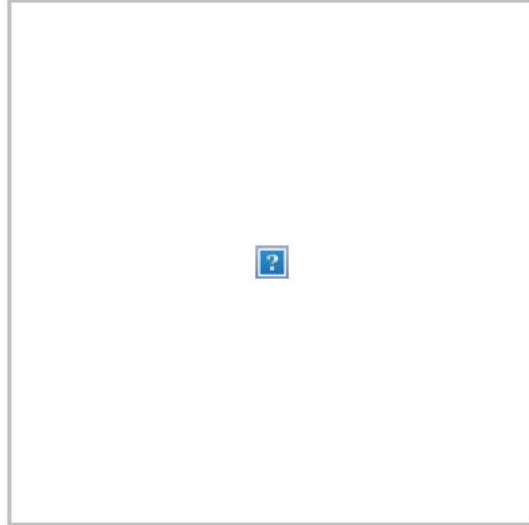
hero. A complex man, Dr. King was part of a much larger movement—one that shaped him as much as he shaped it. Learn more in the [latest episode](#) of our *Teaching Hard History* podcast.



Teaching Your Students About Diwali

Diwali, the Festival of Lights, will be celebrated by more than a billion people all over the world on November 14. It's important to find ways to acknowledge and affirm a multitude of cultures and customs in schools. [Here are a few ways](#) you can teach your students about Diwali.

teaching, addressing coronavirus racism, trauma-informed approaches to teaching, family engagement and more. We'll keep [this page](#) updated as we publish new pieces.



A New Film on the History of Indigenous Enslavement

Our new film, *The Forgotten Slavery of Our Ancestors*, offers a critical contribution to the unfolding conversation about what our children need to learn about American history. The 12-minute film for grades 6-12 introduces students to the history of Indigenous enslavement on land that is now the United States.

Check Out What We're Reading

"Prior research on LGBTQ youth of color in general has shown that schools nationwide are hostile environments for LGBTQ youth of color, where they experience victimization and discrimination based on race, sexual orientation, gender identity, or all of the above simultaneously." — [GLSEN](#)

"The police do not keep kids (or adults) safe at school, whether from school shootings or any lesser offense. Teachers, support staff, and students themselves do." — [Rethinking Schools](#)

"The 2020 election has once again demonstrated how easy it is to spread misinformation online. And universities across the U.S. are failing in teaching students how to identify it." — [The Los Angeles Times](#)



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Montgomery, AL 36104
334-956-8200 | tolerance.org

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From: [Teaching Tolerance](#)
To: [Razia F. Kosi](#)
Subject: [External] Teaching the Movement's Most Iconic Figure
Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 6:59:56 PM

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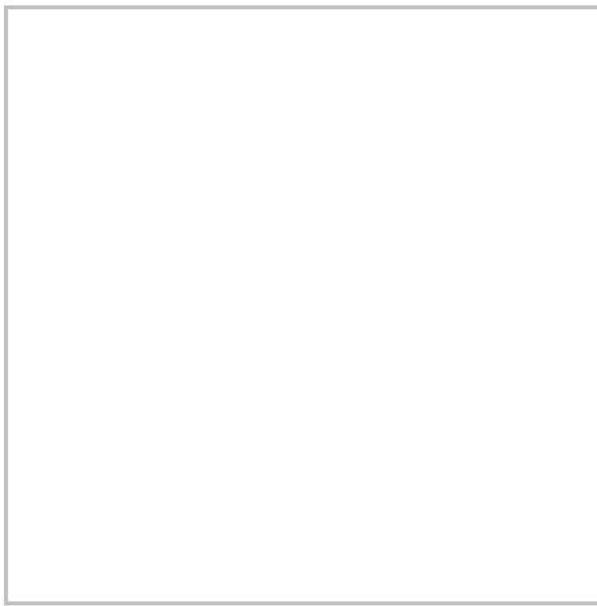


November 10, 2020



Maintaining Strong Communities in Polarized Classrooms

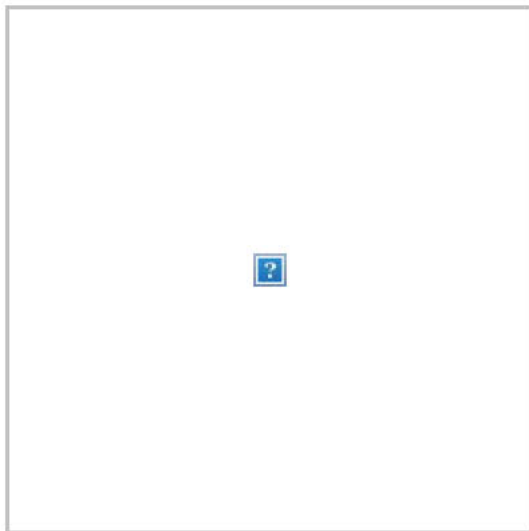
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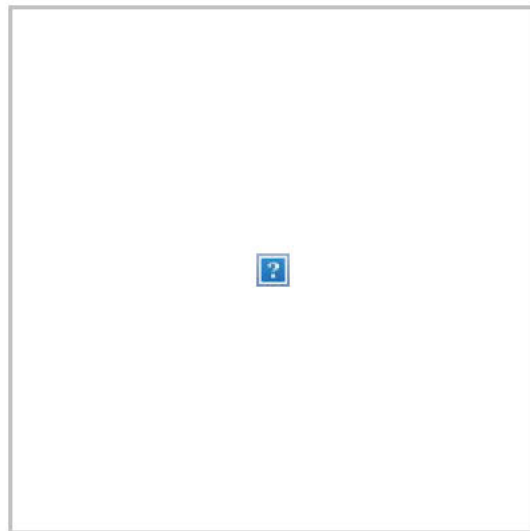
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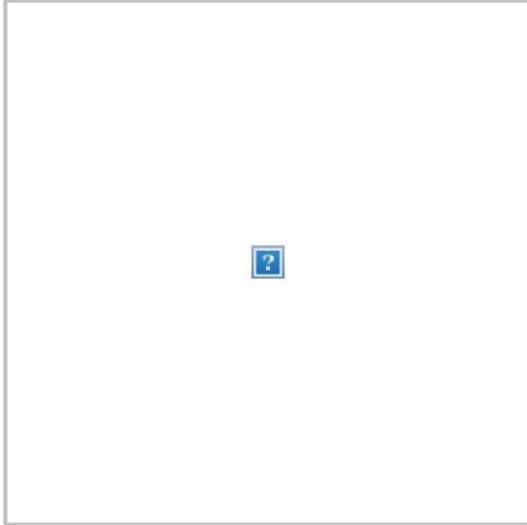
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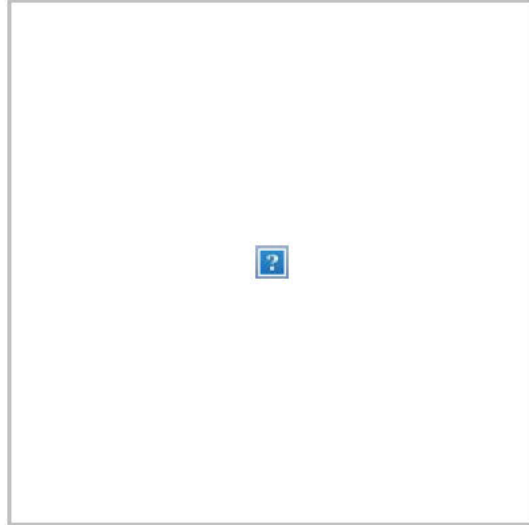
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From: [Razia F. Kosi](#)
To: [Alison Lentz](#)
Subject: Re: Diwali Resource Search
Date: Monday, November 9, 2020 6:51:47 PM

Here is one, and I've reached out to the Indian Cultural Association to find out if they recommend other resources.

<https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/diwali-in-the-classroom-a-parents-perspective>



Diwali in the Classroom: A Parent's Perspective

Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Lights, is celebrated by more than a billion people all over the world. Here are a few ways you can teach your students about Diwali—and promote multicultural understanding.

www.tolerance.org

Razia F. Kosi, LCSW-C
Pronouns: She, Her, Hers
Facilitator, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Howard County Public School System
10910 Clarksville Pike, Ellicott City, MD 21042
Office (410) 313-1254
[REDACTED]
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From: Alison Lentz <Alison_Lentz@hcpss.org>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 4:05 PM
To: Razia F. Kosi <Razia_Kosi@hcpss.org>
Subject: Diwali Resource Search

Hello Razia,

I am looking for resources to teach my elementary classes more about Diwali. At Waverly ES, we have a large population that celebrates this holiday, and I want to highlight it in my synchronous classes.

Any help or guidance you could provide would be fabulous! Thank you!

Alison Lentz

General Music Teacher

Division of Equity and Inclusion Liaison

Waverly Elementary School

Howard County Public School System