

March 18, 2021

Dear Echo Horizon Community,

The JEDI team and I have been discussing the tragic rise in anti-Asian sentiment in our country. There have been more than 3,795 anti-Asian hate crimes reported in the 50 states and the District of Columbia during the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 1,500 of those were reported here in California, a state with one of the largest Asian-American Pacific Islander populations in the Nation, and also a long history of discriminatory policies and violence towards Asian Americans. At this scary time in our nation's history, let's take the time to learn about the history and context that led to these events and understand the intersectionality that is at play. Let us stand strong and unified in support of our Asian-American Pacific Islander friends and community members and show them that they are valued, celebrated, loved, and irreplaceable.

Echo Horizon School's belief in diversity as excellence will not falter. It is our beautiful diversity that allows us to provide the best education possible with exceptional outcomes. It is our beautiful diversity that allows our students to become empathetic and understand that our differences make us stronger. It is our beautiful diversity that allows us to learn about and respect a wide range of traditions, cultures, languages, and beliefs.

I sent a community letter earlier in the year in support of our Black community members and now am sending one in support of our AAPI community. Reflecting on this pattern, the JEDI team and I have decided to draft a new and broad reaching *JEDI Statement of Values* that shares clearly with the community what we believe when it comes to racism and hatred. We hope that this firm statement will help all of us to understand our obligations and to uphold our JEDI mission and values as members of the Echo Horizon School community.

### **JEDI Statement of Values**

Hatred and racism in all forms are unacceptable and reprehensible. At Echo Horizon School, we will continue to speak out and take action toward racial equity and social justice. Our beautiful diversity is a source of strength, excellence, joy, and creativity. We stand in solidarity with those who have been historically marginalized in our fight for a just and humane world. We celebrate you, we see you, we love you, and we are infinitely better because you are part of our community.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to any of us should you have any questions.

With love, Peggy, Roger, Julia, and Liza