

Dear Islander Families,

Happy Monday!

Tomorrow CHS hosts Pt. Loma High School's Varsity Girls' and Boys' Basketball teams at 5:00 and 6:30 PM respectively. CHS and Pt. Loma have an ongoing rivalry, and CHS is taking extra measures for a safe and secure event tomorrow evening. Students are reminded of behavior expectations at sporting events, including positive cheering for our team, appropriate language and conduct toward one another, opponents, and referees and supervising adults (aligned with the CIF code of conduct and our Discipline Action Guide). Students who attend tomorrow's game(s) are not permitted to bring noisemakers or signs, and agree to remain in the gym after the conclusion of the boys' game and, following dismissal of Point Loma fans, exit the gym underneath the stadium stands toward 6th Street. Students in violation of expectations risk facing consequences including loss of privileges to attend future athletic/school events. Let's demonstrate our Islander Pride tomorrow with packed stands and support for our exceptional basketball teams!

February is Black History Month, and I am including a statement shared with our students today:

I am making an announcement about African American History Month, to honor and appreciate African Americans in our school community and the other communities to which we belong.

African Americans have contributed to and enriched the culture and evolution of this country, and this month is an opportunity to

celebrate and recognize those contributions and achievements. Why do we have a designated month for this recognition? Because while this nation is hundreds of years old, for the majority of those years, African Americans were prevented from equal participation in our society, and from the opportunities for advancement other populations enjoyed. The people of African American descent you know are likely to have family members who easily recall this time and who had direct experiences with institutionalized racism or segregation. This is also a month to honor the ways that African American people have persevered despite legal, economic, and social challenges, to contribute to ALL aspects of this country's rich culture.

Our obligation is not to confine our appreciation and understanding of the experience of African Americans to this month. It is to use this month to raise awareness and to seek to better understand the experiences of those around us and to avoid assumptions and stereotypes. To consider the impact of our use of language and our acceptance of degrading, offensive, and unacceptable terms and memes and jokes.

And I remind all of us that it is not the responsibility of our African American peers to speak up on behalf of and recognize fellow African Americans. It is the responsibility of PEOPLE to speak up and recognize fellow PEOPLE.

If you wish to learn more about the history, experiences, contributions, and achievements of African-American people, please visit our CHS library for resources. On February 15 we are hosting a Community REad book discussion about *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, the story of an African-American woman whose cells were used to create the first immortal human cell line. And on February 21 at lunch, please join us in the library for a powerful Ted Talk by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie on "The Danger of the Single Story." In addition, there are several recent movies and documentaries featuring lives or history of African Americans, such as *Hidden Figures*, *I am Not Your Negro*, and *Thirteenth*.

Finally, I'd like to read a poem entitled "BLK History Month" by Nikki Giovanni: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/nikki-giovanni>



[Nikki Giovanni | Poetry Foundation](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poets/detail/nikki-giovanni)

www.poetryfoundation.org

Nikki Giovanni is one of the best-known African-American poets who reached prominence during the late 1960s and early 1970s. Her unique and insightful poetry ...

Thank you,

Jenny

Jennifer Moore, Principal
Coronado High School
619.522.8907 x2096
www.chs.coronadousd.net