



Dr. Kimberly Miles, Principal

Gresham-Barlow School District No. 10Jt

East Gresham Elementary School | 900 SE 5th St, Gresham OR 97080
P 503.661.6050 | Fax 503.258.4725

@EastGreshamElem #WhyEastGresham

Dear East Gresham Community,

It's been our privilege to partner with you as your child's teachers this year. Having to adapt so quickly to the abrupt changes brought on by Covid-19 was a lesson in resilience for all of us and we are proud of what we accomplished together.

Although the main focus in our work is ensuring students have the academic skills and knowledge to be successful; our role as educators has moved far beyond this and requires us to nurture and strengthen children's social and emotional development as well. These are the responsibilities we agree to each day.

We show our children they are important and keep them safe. We acknowledge their feelings and show them how to safely deal with those feelings. We show interest and concern for the things going on in their lives so they know they can trust us and come to us when things get tough.

During this time of distance learning, our counselor shared weekly wellness activities that showed our students a variety of safe and healthy ways of taking care of themselves. These activities will continue to be available to you throughout the summer should your children or family be in need of these ideas and resources.

With the incidents of racism and injustice that have surfaced in the news and social media in the past few weeks in addition to the feelings of loss, grief and stress brought on by COVID19; many of us may be feeling intense emotions and finding we need to use these coping skills ourselves. It is vital during this time that we practice self-care and reach out to people we trust.

Messages of hope and change encourage us to speak out and talk about what has happened and share our own experiences and this can be an opportunity to introduce conversations with our children. They are not too young to talk about race and most children think about it and talk about it more than we realize. Teachers and families play a powerful role in helping children of all ages develop positive attitudes about race and diversity.



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When you're ready to start this conversation, our staff has reviewed some resources that are developmentally appropriate. Students can easily engage with learning through storytelling and books so we are including some links to read alouds to help get you started. We understand there might be hesitation about introducing this topic but would encourage you to keep in mind that children may be exposed on their own through their access to technology and media so starting the conversation will let them know we are safe people to openly talk to about their questions and thoughts. We are also the people they look to for hope and reassurance.

And finally, we've included links to up-to-date community resources for needs that may arise while we are away from school. Thank you again for being our partners in education and we wish you a safe and happy summer.

Be Well. Be Brave. Be Kind.

~Your East Gresham Family

[Virtual Library with English/Spanish books](#)

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ftT4-n1a835_PvBPKdSn8rdLmh2rkWbPe2Ds3ueKB5E/edit?usp=sharing

[Books](#)

The Skin You Live In by Michael Tyler

<https://safeshare.tv/x/iEvwTx-96AI#>

A Kids Book About Racism by Jelani Memory

<https://safeshare.tv/x/ss5ed94d763c0fe#>

Something Happened In Our Town by Marianne Celano

http://www.viewpure.com/something_happened_in_our_town

Gresham-Barlow School District recognizes the diversity and worth of all individuals and groups. It is the policy of this district and the board of education that there will be no discrimination or harassment of individual or groups in any educational program, activities or employment. Gresham-Barlow provides equal access to individuals with disabilities.



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Coping Skills Activities

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1pQS5ILGz6SGVjlVk_TFMu1Ja-Q7Cf70HW5vaOEiBQ-4/edit?usp=sharing

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/120EC9kBopcHPYWge4I_igUE5h2e2Jq0u9IJ-srQfs9Q/e/dit?usp=sharing

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1VMXB9-AWVs719D-sVfUqIzvpJ5pifnthPY6h3isfE40/edit?usp=sharing>

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1kdbTqlAeocJR21I7BKP8GKPBMy3tON65NwSkOct3IA>

Community resources

Gresham-Barlow Community resource List

<https://padlet.com/singleterry/gct2m4obmdz1>

Sign-up for culturally specific resource newsletter through Multnomah County

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfPvYqfaiiSqDjkULGYDioCDJKfwaSIFtKcLmpXb9pgmcpNHg/viewform>