

Justice is the Pointe

“A willing search for the truth”

Last month our Justice is the Pointe message celebrated Juneteenth. When we submitted it, we did not know that June 19 was about to become a National Holiday. We are delighted that it did.

But now we are concerned that, holiday status notwithstanding, some might try to prohibit Grosse Pointe students from learning about the origin and meaning of that momentous day in 1865. Why?

It's best to start at the beginning. Long ago some whites created the ideas and structures of a hierarchical system of categorizing people by their racial characteristics in order to justify colonial conquest. A system of racialized enslavement of nonwhite humans on a massive scale subsequently took root.

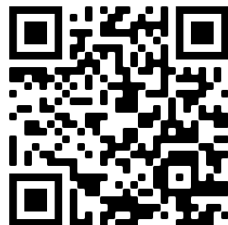
There has long been opposition to this living organism of racial hierarchy. Today, as in the past, we continue the fight against racial stereotyping and discrimination. We are well aware that adherents and defenders of white supremacy remain zealous and implacable opponents of any change they perceive as disruptive to the status quo.

Which brings us to the current struggle over what to teach or not teach about race in Grosse Pointe schools. Disputes over teaching about settler colonialism, slavery, Jim Crow segregation, lynchings, the forced removal of Indian children to reeducation schools where many died, racially motivated massacres of Black, Red, Brown and Yellow people and the role of federal policy in creating racially segregated suburbs are not new. The fact that until recently very few white people had even heard of Juneteenth is itself an example of how school curriculum has always been a battleground.

We stand for a simple idea. It is the truth that will set us free. Without it, the racial progress we have made would not have been possible. As we have said before in this space, we applaud those who courageously stood up in the face of fierce opposition to bring Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. to speak at GP South on March 14, 1968. His words from that speech inspire us now. “I do not see how we will ever solve the turbulent problem of race confronting our nation, until there is an honest confrontation with it and a willing search for the truth and a willingness to admit the truth when we discover it.”

Join us! We welcome your thoughts, questions, requests for signs, solidarity and financial donations.

You can learn more at:
we-gp.org/Justice-is-the-Pointe



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