Dear White Oak Family,

This month all of the Lanier Cluster Schools will be recognizing our community’s efforts to reduce bullying and prejudice in Sugar Hill. Lanier High School, Lanier Middle School, Sugar Hill Elementary, Sycamore Elementary and White Oak will be celebrating "No Place for Hate" week in collaboration with the Anti-Defamation League, which was founded in 1913 to secure justice and fair treatment for all. The No Place for Hate program is geared toward giving students an opportunity to understand the damaging impact that bullying and prejudice have on individuals as well as the social fabric of schools. The initiative is designed to rally our Lanier/White Oak Community around the goal of stopping all forms of bias and bullying as well as fostering a culture of respect and learning.

White Oak will be celebrating the No Place For Hate message through school-wide activities all week long. This is our fourth year participating with the Anti-Defamation League and the NPFH message is something about which our students are aware and proud. Students regularly support one another and act as allies to other students that are being mistreated by telling aggressors that, "We are a No Place For Hate school and we don’t do that at White Oak."

**The week’s activities will include:**

**Monday:** Each class will receive bookmarks with the "No Place For Hate Promise". Each student will be asked to sign this bookmark as their promise to our community.
* I promise to do my best to treat everyone fairly.
* I promise to do my best to be kind to everyone even if they are not like me.
* If I see someone being hurt or bullied, I will tell a teacher.
* Everyone should be able to feel safe and happy in school.

This 'school promise' will also be on a banner in our main hallway for all classes to sign as our 'school-wide' promise.

**Tuesday:** "Diversity Day" A lot of bullying behaviors stem from discomfort about differences. Today we will focus on the fact that we are all different and each able to offer our own unique talents and abilities to the world. Each of us has to learn to appreciate the qualities of those that are different from us before we can expect others to appreciate us.
**Wednesday:** “Allies and Upstanders” Each class will be responding to the prompt, "One way that I can be someone’s ally is……." or “I am an Upstander when…..” either through drawing or writing.

**Thursday:** Building a confident community with the “Em-power Tools”. Our fifth graders have created video skits demonstrating how to stand up to bullying and how to be an ally for someone who is being mistreated. Today will be the premier viewing of the 5th Grader's Empower Tools!

**Friday:** "We are White Oak Day!" ‘Everyone should feel safe and happy in school’ is the last line of the No Place For Hate promise. We encourage all students and staff to wear White Oak spirit wear to show that though we are all different, together we make up what White Oak Elementary is about and that is …. being Thinkers, Learners & Leaders!

“Read for Respect” – Over the last two weeks, White Oak has been visited by students from Lanier High School for this program. The high schoolers read to all of our 3rd and 4th grade classrooms books that were purchased by Starbucks in support of No Place For Hate and connecting students with the message that our entire community wants our schools to be a place where everyone is treated fairly and with respect. This week, our 5th grader Peer Leaders will be visiting the K, 1st & 2nd grade classrooms reading books about bullying and diversity sharing the same message from our oldest to our youngest!

**K-2 Student Poster Contest:** A poster contest will be held with the younger students. Students are encouraged to answer the question, “What would a world without hate look like?”

**3-5 Anti-Defamation League Student Contest:** The Anti-Defamation League is holding a contest this year for the second time. Individual winners will be invited to an anti-bullying summit and schools with the most entries will be recognized as well. Last year one of our fifth graders won an “Honorable Mention” award! They are encouraging upper elementary students to respond to these questions:

- Theme: “Imagine a world that is no place for hate.”
- Respond to this theme through written word OR artistic expression.
- Consider the following:
  - What would it feel like to live in a world without hate?
  - What would a world without hate look like?
  - What would a world without hate sound like?
  - What can we do to make our real world a place where all people are accepted and appreciated for who they are?
  - Who has inspired you to make the world no place for hate? How did this person inspire you? (This can be someone you know personally or a historical figure.)

Be imaginative! The contest is not limited to written essays. Feel free to use art, video,
music, poetry, or performance, as well as essays, for your entry. Rules are available at the website listed below.
All entries are due to Mrs. Diaz by next Friday, the 14th. She will send all entries into the ADL in one package.

Information about "No Place For Hate" can be found at www.noplaceforhate.org. The classroom resource guide is available on the website and is an excellent resource for parents and families as well as for teachers.

If you have any questions, please contact our school counselor, Jennifer Diaz at jennifer_diaz@gwinnett.k12.ga.us or at 678-546-5539. For those of you that have read ALL of this to the very bottom, stop by my office for a piece of chocolate! 😊