

Sope Creek Cultural Summit

Tuesday, January 25th

2:45 – 3:45

Sope Creek Media Center

Dear Sope Creek Faculty and Staff,

My name is Wendy Stewart and I am the Co-Chair for Diversity and Inclusion for the Sope Creek PTA. I am writing to tell you about an exciting program designed to foster an environment of understanding and appreciation among the various cultures and faiths of our school community and further the inclusion of all families and students in our school.

From our national parent organization, to our local school organizations, the mission of the PTA is to serve every child with one voice. The Diversity and Inclusion Committee takes this mission especially to heart. It is the goal of our committee to create programs and initiatives which expose our students to world cultures, encourage participation by all groups within our school communities, and promote understanding among ethnicities, cultures, and faiths.

On Tuesday, January 25th, the PTA Diversity and Inclusion Committee will hold a “Cultural Summit” for the faculty and staff of Sope Creek during your scheduled faculty meeting time. Representatives from across the cultures and faiths of Sope Creek will serve as panelists in an honest, open, and respectful question and answer program. You are invited to ask questions of panelists regarding topics such as their culture, traditions, faith, holidays, and, in particular, their perspectives on education. Questions may range from things like “What is a tilak?” or “Is Chanukah the most important Jewish holiday?” to “How do Hispanic parents view their role with respect to their children’s education?” or “What cultural norms or behaviors might affect classroom situations?”

There will be a strict emphasis on respect, honesty, and understanding during the meeting. No political or religious debate or argument will be allowed. This forum is strictly for the purposes of educating our faculty and staff about the participating cultures and faiths so that you can facilitate the understanding of those cultures/faiths at school and further everyone’s inclusion in school programs.

We in the PTA’s Diversity Community know that understanding and acceptance are the keys to inclusion and peace, both in the world at large as well as in your classroom. I am excited about the opportunity this Cultural Summit will provide to further understanding, acceptance, and inclusion at Sope Creek. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. I look forward to meeting with all of you!

Sincerely,

Wendy Stewart

Sope Creek Diversity & Inclusion Co-Chair

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