

January 2, 2018

Dear 5th Grade Families,

Our Social Studies Curriculum this month is all around activism and cultural criticism. We will be studying inequalities in our world today and forming our own opinions on these social issues. While preparing for our “March to Borough Hall” we will be studying Martin Luther King Jr. and watching parts of “Selma”. Some topics we will be discussing are how people historically made change happen, what it means to be an active participant in our government, how different movements organize, and the power of words. Kids have been learning about MLK since they were little, but we want to really study his words and learn from the Principles of Nonviolence he brought to the movement.

We will also be studying John Lewis and the role he played during The Civil Rights Movement and the difference he is making today. Our current read aloud book brings up Puerto Rican rights during the same time period and we will be talking about The Young Lords. We are reading ***Revolution of Evelyn Serrano*** by Sonia Manzano. And of course, we will be talking about the many rights that are still violated today and continue to be fought for in our country.

Our goal is for the class to bring these conversations home and continue learning and forming their own opinions through talking to you. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have additional ideas and resources to bring into the classroom.

“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.” *Martin Luther King Junior.*

Sincerely,

The 5th Grade Teachers