



## January 7, 2021: We Are Living History

Dear CDS Community,

Yesterday, one of my early meetings was a Heads of School monthly dialogue group. We had started just as the news came in... from Washington, D.C. where a cherished tradition of our democracy was under way. It was devastating to see such violence threatening a free and fair election process and the peaceful transition of power that is at the heart of our democratic process.

I am sad and I am angry. Yet I'm not surprised. In a meeting late yesterday with our entire faculty and staff, many expressed how overwhelmed and sad they were and, like me, also were not surprised.

My cohorts in the Heads group agreed, and so many of our faculty and staff shared this same sentiment: if the protesters at the capitol had looked differently, say a Black Lives Matter group or Muslim, things would have unfolded with a different kind of outcome. There would have been violence, death, and arrests. We know this.

At this moment, I'm reminded of a line in our mission. *[Our students] leave CDS confident, with the humility to listen and the resolve to speak up for what they see as right.* This gives us the opportunity to stand up and what we define as right is individual AND it is based upon our shared values and beliefs. These are the touchstones that unify us. *Being Just and Courageous*, that *Differences Lift Us* and *Community Matters* are in my thoughts right now.

As hard as this seems to us, these events also set us up for an opportunity to grow. How can we take individual and collective action to ensure that we move forward in a way that prioritizes the anti-racist work we have embarked upon? How can we use this moment in history to accelerate the progress toward a more just world, where we reckon with our racist history to make the world better for all?

All of this takes time. We ALL have to do the work. We are critically engaged. Everything

that we saw taking place in Washington yesterday is exactly what CDS is against and **this is why we do the work we do** and this work is critically important. Now more than ever.

This is not a moment to sit back. The activists in our student community are inspiring me every day. As members of our community, we expect that we all take steps to threaten inequality in our spheres of influence. It is up to us now to push forward by standing up for what is right and working against white supremacy. What are you going to do?

Warmly,  
Shelly