



THOMAS GREGG
NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL

June 2, 2020

Dear TGNS Families and Staff,

The events of this past week have weighed heavily on my heart as they have for many of you as well. I have found it difficult to articulate the anger, disgust and shame that I have felt as I reflect on the recent death of George Floyd at the hands of police, the mistreatment of Christian Cooper in Central Park by a white woman as well as the ongoing backdrop of COVID-19.

I can only imagine the pain and grief that our Black students and families are experiencing, and I acknowledge the effect and impact this is having. Now, more than ever, is the time to connect with our students and families to build and sustain positive relationships. I ask all of us to reach out and be a layer of love and support for our school community during this tragic time.

At TGNS we are committed to preparing students to become contributors towards the quality of life of their community by embracing a whole-child, whole-family approach and valuing individual racial and cultural identities. Moreover, we are committed to the two-generational work we are doing so that we not only have strong student outcomes, but strong family outcomes as well.

As the proud school leader of a highly diverse elementary school in the heart of Indianapolis, I have the unique opportunity to use my position and influence to condemn racism, stand as an ally and work alongside our community to eliminate racial and systemic disparities.

Together, with our collective actions and voice, we can all be contributors towards a better quality of life in our community and in our country. It is not an easy task or one we take on lightly, rather a journey towards justice and equity that will push many of us outside our comfort zones and often ask us to look deep inside ourselves first. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once stated, *"The ultimate measure of man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."*

Be well, be safe, be strong. Be a Bulldog!

Sincerely,

Ross Pippin
Executive Director

Ross J. Pippin
Executive Director
ross@thomasgregg.org

2302 E. Michigan Street
Indianapolis, IN 46201

T (317) 226-4215
F (317) 226-4600

www.myips.org/thomasdgregg