

Community Service Project: Raising Awareness

Book Donation to support Virtual Author's Visit

Would you like to help spread the message of acceptance?

Please consider donating a copy of Micheal Tyler's picture book: The Skin You Live In"

Drop off your book donation at the Bacich office by Dec. 2, 2020.

Bacich students will have the opportunity to attend a school wide webinar on Dec. 3, 2020 with the author Michael Tyler. Students will create bookmarks to be delivered along with the donated books to underfunded schools in our community and the bay area.

Thank you for your help and support!

The Bacich Social Justice Team

For more information:

A group of Bacich teachers formed a book club to discuss various social justice texts and strategies on how to implement Social Justice (SJ) across curricula at Bacich. The group attended a workshop offered by the County Office of Education on SJ curriculum writing and developed a school-wide unit "My Skin: Evolving Identity". Since the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, members of the SJ team, and many others at Bacich, have implemented student activities from the school wide SJ unit. The unit has an overarching art component based on the book, "The Skin You Live In" written by Michael Tyler, illustrated by David Lee Csicsko. It's a great introduction for students to share observations about their skin. After completion of the art based lessons, see details below*, Ms Libby posted the art project on Twitter. To her surprise, Michael Tyler responded, and a brief conversation began. Following this exchange, Ms. Libby asked Mr. Tyler if he'd be willing to do a distance learning author visit. All involved were surprised to hear that he so quickly replied with a positive response and agreed to a school wide virtual author visit webinar on Dec. 3rd, 2020. When Ms. Libby asked him what his fee would be or an amount for an honorarium. His response brought tears to our eyes and got our social justice heartbeats drumming in sync: "You certainly put the "honor" in honorarium, with that query. While compensation is appreciated, I desire a different windfall, one more psychologically and emotionally derived. My aim is to spread the message of acceptance through my book, to as many people as possible, by asking others to share it. So, if you (the school) would consider purchasing 20-30 copies of The Skin You Live In, and gifting them to the libraries of other schools, particularly those that are under resourced, then aiding that goal would make me feel whole.

Raising awareness and social actions are elements outlined in the SJ curriculum. We would like to invite KSD families to help spread the message of acceptance. If you would like to help please purchase a copy/ies of the picture book The Skin You Live in and bring it to the Bacich office by Dec. 2nd. This is a perfect opportunity extending our generosity, as an affluent school, to help our school neighbors throughout Marin County, or perhaps the Bay Area, in purchasing books for other school's libraries.

How many students will benefit from your book donation?

Potentially all students at Bacich and hundreds more, because the books you purchase will be distributed to other schools that do not have a robust budget for social justice books. The Bacich students will be proud to be involved in this meaningful Community Service Project. Giving our students a chance to research schools in need, writing letters and planning the delivery of the books will be components of our school wide "Skin" unit. Perhaps a way to directly involve our students would be a bookmark designed and signed by each KSD child and tucked into our donated books. Children can choose social justice themes to illustrate and decorate their bookmarks, or they can draw their face with a skin description, much like those written by Michael Tyler. "I have milky chocolate pudding skin. How about you?"

*A brief recap of the art lesson designed by Barbara. After the read aloud, students are instructed to paint with watercolors creating color recipe charts to mix their own skin tones and using creative words to name and describe their skin colors. Students paint one entire page of their sketchbooks with their skin tone and write their name of their skin color at the bottom of the page. In other classes, a more science-based lesson continues, where students are instructed to learn about the properties of skin and how skin is able to be such a variety of colors.

