



GREAT LEADERS. GREAT SCHOOLS.

“Because whatever has happened to humanity, whatever is currently happening to humanity, it is happening to all of us. No matter how hidden the cruelty, no matter how far off the screams of pain and terror, we live in one world. We are one people....There is only one daughter, one father, one mother, one son, one aunt or uncle, one dog, one cat, donkey, monkey, or goat in the universe, after all: the one right in front of you.”

— Alice Walker, *Overcoming Speechlessness: A Poet Encounters the Horror in Rwanda, Eastern Congo, and Palestine/Israel*

THOUGHTS FOR A NEW YEAR

Origin stories matter.

It's easy to look around at our political landscape, our social environment and write off so many things as problems too large to solve. That write off, however, doesn't inspire action, doesn't activate change, and doesn't fix anything. The reality though, is that much of what we see are merely symptoms of much older and larger problems that can only be resolved by acknowledging them, and then focusing our collective efforts on healing therefrom. We can talk about “what's happening at the southern border”, or we can discuss the role the United Fruit Company played in decimating the work force throughout Central America in the early 20th century. We can say of Haiti, “that is just so sad,” or we can ask what the impact of 19 years of US occupation in that country - including the refusal to acknowledge them as a country for 60 years - has had on their modern day state of affairs. We can bemoan the electorate's seeming disregard for literacy and facts, or we can ask when we'll have a national vision for education that is strategic, thoughtful, purposeful, and aligned with what we know to be true about our future. We can wish away climate change, or we can agree to make sacrifices in service of the broader preservation of this beautiful place Mother Nature has provisioned us. We can exhaust ourselves with commentaries about communities of color, or we can acknowledge that something big happened just a couple of generations ago and that atonement is literally the only way forward. The famous philosopher, Jay-Z, once said: “You can't heal what you don't reveal,” and my, wasn't that a word? We can spend our time ignoring the implications of our country's origin story, we can wait for all of the holdovers to die, we can revise historic events, we can spin the efficacy of grassroots efforts, **OR**, we can simply acknowledge that a nation unwilling to take care of all of its people, shouldn't expect cooperation, collaboration, or community from any of its people.

In 2024, consider looking backward to move forward. What are the origin stories with which you must become familiar? How do the origin stories you understand make you feel? More important, what does the acknowledgement of critical origin stories make you want to do?

I'll be alongside you, answering those questions for myself. May 2024 find you recognizing opportunities to care of your brothers and sisters near and far; for what happens to any of our brothers and sisters, also happens to us.

With love,

Angela Perry



EPP 8 | DOING THE WORK

Congrats!



What an incredible group of education decision-makers!

These committed individuals spent six months diving deep into a collective learning experience that has fueled thoughtful actions that we can't wait to see unfold over the coming year. In a chaotic world, it is a privilege to work alongside educators who deeply desire what is best for all kids, and are willing to do the incredibly difficult work of being honest with themselves and others in order to realize some long overdue outcomes in real time. Congratulations EPP 8!