



**T**oday, as our country begins to emerge from a pandemic that has disrupted lives and heaped economic misery on millions of families and businesses, we are confronted by yet another crippling illness. A pre-existing condition that has plagued our nation for centuries: institutionalized racism.

The tragic deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and countless other African Americans embody the everyday realities of trauma and fear that await people of color when they head to work, to school, or for a jog around the neighborhood.

As a nation that was built on the ideals of equality and justice we must individually and collectively feel a sense of urgency to find a cure for this disease.

Education will be a key component of the cure. At Creekside School we believe that anyone can learn once we learn how to teach them. We believe that with the guidance of inspiring teachers and the commitment of community, we all can embrace the inherent value of every person. We can learn to shun age-old stereotypes and celebrate new-found commonalities. Set aside past wrongs and appreciate heartfelt efforts. Push aside walls of bigotry and build bridges of understanding.

It will not be easy. But we must not avert our gaze. We must find a cure. For the sake of our nation.