



# FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL

January 12, 2018

## JTF Message from Kelly Pierre

In addition to the many read-alouds – and even more discussions – about equality and social justice that happen throughout the year, today the Lower School participated in an assembly dedicated to the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. To say it was moving would be an understatement. It began with our Nursery students entering with posters affirming those things that help all of us to thrive, including: peace, friendship, and community. Numerous adults passed boxes of tissues around as they listened to the words, poems, singing, and music of our Lower Schoolers, along with the Upper School Chorus, who sang three songs for us, including the “You Will Be Found,” written by FCS alum Benj Pasek ’03, reminding us that there are people out there who feel alone and are struggling to be seen, acknowledged, and celebrated.

I am including the list of the poems and songs that were performed so you can reread them or sing them with your child and talk further about the messages and the significance of the words.

*Facing the Challenge* by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

*In Memory* by Erika Northrop

Excerpts from *I Have a Dream* by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

*What Can One Little Person Do?* By Sally Rogers

And an unknown poem read by PreK A:

*Martin Luther King, they always say*

*Thought of kindness everyday.*

*He always wanted you and me*

*To live together peacefully.*

At the end, I explained that their words, their singing, and their music stirred the souls of the adults around them, moving many of us to tears. And that stirring of our souls motivates people to listen better, advocate more, and fight harder. In honor of Oprah’s stirring speech at the Golden Globes last week, I reminded our community that their truth is powerful. I encouraged all of us to listen to the truths of others and, in light of those truths, to use our voices to not only advocate for ourselves, but also for others.

I hope to see many of you at our Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service on Monday at the Lower School. We will gather in the Meeting Room at 9:30 am for a story and then engage in a service project. Our work will conclude by 12:00 pm. Thank you in advance for your participation.