



October 2018

Dear Families,

We are very pleased to share that PS 29 is the recipient of a DOE grant designed for the development of Identity Based Student Groups, better known as Affinity Groups. This opportunity is in direct alignment with our goals and mission around diversity, inclusion and equity. Research shows that specifically designed affinity groups offer a platform for voices often relegated to the margins of a community. For students, it allows them to build relationships that make them feel less alone with their feelings & experiences and also helps them to build a stronger sense of self.

We're going to start this initiative with an affinity group for students of color called Discovering Me, facilitated by our school counselor, Cara Turnbull. Recognizing that our students' experiences, thoughts and feelings vary based on age, we're planning to offer one group for 3rd, 4th & 5th graders and another group for kindergarteners, 1st & 2nd graders.

Our K - 2nd grade affinity group will function as a social group for the students with a parent group component. Parent affinity groups provide the opportunity for parents to gather and talk in a safe space about issues related to a shared identity and then transfer that discussion into action that makes for a more equitable experience at school.

The group meetings will be ongoing and will meet after school, one day a week. Our 1st group cycle will begin with 3rd, 4th & 5th graders on Tuesdays, beginning November 13th. The group will meet from 3:00-4:30 PM, and snacks will be provided.

If you're interested in having your child take part in the Discovering Me affinity group and would like more information please take some time to complete this [form](#) by October 30th.

Warmly,

Rebecca, Dawn, Halee, and Cara