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MS447
THE EXPLORATORY SCHOOL

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BLM At Schools WEEK OF ACTION, YEAR OF PURPOSE, LIFETIME OF PRACTICE and Black History Month



Ancestors are Our Roots - Black History Art created by Mr. Dustin and MS447 LEAP young artists

This mural is currently hanging in MS447 just outside of our cafeteria. It is a magnificent 10' X 8' piece. Whenever you are in the building you are invited to stop by and see the amazing work the artists and teaching artist, Dustin, completed to honor the lives of Black Americans, ancestors and those of the present.

Additional BLM Week of Action and Black History Month activities.



MS447 Elite Dancers
"The Ballad of Birmingham"
Thanks Ms. Bri!! for this brilliant piece.



Honoring and Celebrating Excellence and Joy



BLM 13 principles and Week of Action Demands

Restorative Practices Equity Team - RPET

RPET is excited to announce that we have formed a student Leadership Team. This team includes 8th grade students Kaiden-Ali Sanni, Alicia Terry and Erin Daniel and 7th grade students Soleil Minor and Anjali Nayar. They have started meeting together to plan our monthly RPET gatherings. We honor their voices as they lead in taking action to bring greater equity and a culture of restorative healing to our school community.

Additionally we are excited to share that RPET will be partnering with [The Circle Keepers](#) in April. The Circle Keepers is an arts based youth development program based on restorative practices. They plan to do an RJ "Teach In" at our April RPET meeting as well as a peer facilitator training for students interested in learning how to be a circle facilitator. This is such an exciting opportunity!

Know Your Rights: As ICE activity and fear of ICE is on the rise, it is important that we know and exercise our basic rights under the U.S. Constitution and civil rights laws. **Source:**  [About Us – CUNY IIE](#)

What should individuals do if approached by ICE?

Individuals have the right to remain silent and may refuse to answer any questions from ICE agents, including questions about where they were born or how they entered the U.S. If stopped, they should carry a ["Know Your Rights" card](#) that asserts their right to remain silent and request an attorney. ICE agents are not allowed to enter a home without a warrant signed by a judge; individuals should ask to see the warrant and verify that it includes their correct name and address. It is critical for individuals not to sign anything ICE provides without first consulting an attorney. Moreover, if apprehended by ICE, do NOT lie about your immigration status, as this carries serious punishment, or make an attempt to run away from being apprehended.

What legal rights and protections do non-US citizens have if they are arrested by the police or immigration officials?

Non-citizens have the fundamental right to remain silent, and contact both a lawyer and their consulate from their country of citizenship during an arrest. It is **crucial** to memorize important contact numbers or ensure family members have these numbers. When communicating with family, individuals should provide comprehensive details about their arrest, including the detention location and the name of the immigration official handling their case. Also request a copy of all immigration documents. See more information [here](#) from Legal Aid Society.

What resources are available in New York State for families impacted by ICE?

Families can access free legal and community resources to address immigration challenges. The **New York State New Americans Hotline** (1-212-419-3737 or 1-800-566-7636) connects individuals to immigration attorneys and nonprofit organizations. Schools should also collaborate with local nonprofits to offer additional support.

In New York City, there are three New York Immigrant Family Unity Project (NYIFUP) providers that specialize in representing people who are detained while they await their deportation hearing.

1. Legal Aid Society: Detained individuals and/or their family members can contact their Immigration Law Unit Helpline at (844) 955-3425, Monday- Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Collect calls from detention facilities and prisons are accepted. <https://legalaidnyc.org/get-help/immigration-deportation/>
2. Brooklyn Defenders (open to all NYC boroughs): For help regarding someone who has been arrested or detained by ICE, call their Immigration Practice at (718) 564-6290. If you are looking for advice about your immigration status, contact their Community Office at (646) 971-2722. More information here: <https://bds.org/get-help#ice-or-deportation>
3. Bronx Defenders: A public defender nonprofit for low-income Bronx residents in deportation detention can be contacted 24/7 by calling their legal emergency hotline at (347) 778-1266. One may also visit their office at 360 E 161st Street, Bronx, NY 10451. More information here: www.bronxdefenders.org/programs/new-york-immigrant-family-unity-project AND www.bronxdefenders.org/clients-community/help

Update on RJ Book Discussion Group: For Grown-Ups at home

In the midst of the busy lives of families it has been challenging to gather enough interest to do a formal reading and discussion group. So, in lieu of a formal book discussion I will be including a few chapters at a time from **Talking Stick - Peacemaking as a Spiritual Path** in the RJ Scoop. While these are low quality images of the pages, I think that for those interested in learning more about the basics of keeping circle/holding council, restorative practices, and living restoratively, they can serve as a valuable resource. You can find the images [here](#).

Talking Stick presents an opportunity to establish deeper connections with others. By learning to speak honestly and listen devoutly, we can overcome our culture's hierarchical and punitive approach to conflict and relate to each other in a sacred manner that is egalitarian, liberating, and transformational. The book explains how to apply this practice with large and small groups and on an interpersonal level. It focuses on deepening relationships, healing old wounds, and restoring harmony among people.