

Multicultural Resource Center



“One of the things my parents taught me, and I’ll always be grateful for the gift, is to not ever let anybody else define me.”

-Wilma Mankiller



Our screening of the film “Straightlaced” was a great success. Eighty-six teachers, parents and administrators came out for the event. We invite Jennifer Boylan, National Bestselling author of *She’s Not There: A Life in Two Genders*, to join us in our continued discussions about how our stereotypes and assumptions about gender confuse us and our students. Boylan will speak to upper school students on March 15, 2011.

Following the student presentation, our teachermembers will have the opportunity to exchange with Jennifer as well.

Jenny’s memoir not only challenges our basic assumptions of gender; it asks us to honestly look at what it means to be fully human and to fully accept who we and others are. She does this in an inspiring, witty and fearless way.

Teachers, mark your calendars!

2011-2012 Calendar

October 12, 2011

Screening of “Straightlaced” for Teachers and Parents
7PM at The Shipley School

November 2, 2011

Teachers Teaching Teachers
4:45PM at Friends’ Central School

December 1-3, 2011

NAIS PoCC at Philadelphia Convention Center

March 13, 2012

Middle School Student Leadership Conference
at The Haverford School

March 15, 2012

“A Journey of Acceptance and Identity” with Professor and Author Jennifer Boylan
for Students and Teachers
at William Penn Charter School

Derrick Bell, Law Professor and Rights Advocate

Derrick Bell died on Wednesday, October 5, 2011 at the age of 80. He was a compelling voice on issues of race and class in this society. As lawyer, activist, teacher and writer, he provoked his critics and challenged his readers with his uncompromising candor and original progressive views.

In the early days of the Multicultural Resource Center, Bell spoke on various occasions with faculty and students. His lessons are still teaching us today.

In June of 1999, he was invited to speak at Common Knowledge III held at The Haverford School, and it was requested by the MCRC Board that he “inspire us (or re-energize us) to be activists for change in our schools, despite the pressures of time and community reluctance.” He addressed the questions: How to push beyond this subtle resistance? How to renew our energies without becoming discouraged or cynical?

His “suggested syllabus,” as he referred to it at the conference, had three parts:

1. Race in America is not a black but white problem.
2. Racism may not be something that can be overcome and may be a permanent part of the American school structure.
3. There is value in struggle in even a losing cause.

He went on to discuss the details that he set before the participants.

The following October 2000, Bell agreed to join an MCRC Board of Directors meeting to continue the work and to help develop strategies. Marc Epstein, a former MCRC Board member recalls, “My main memory of Derrick is his very positive energy and thoughtfulness. At a board meeting that he attended, he challenged us to imagine a president who could lead effectively on race. It was a great ‘framing’ exercise. He also had some great stories about challenging Harvard over its hiring practices. “ In 2001, Bell was the guest speaker at the Spring Colloquium where he spoke to students from the nine-school consortium about activism.



Our Mission

The Philadelphia Area Multicultural Resource Center was founded by the National Association of Independent Schools in May 1990. The Center is dedicated to the promotion of increased diversity in our school curriculum, faculty and student body.

Our goal is to enrich our schools through increased knowledge, awareness, and understanding of diverse perspectives within our culture and others by addressing such issues as racism, sexism, social inequality, and prejudice of all forms, violent and subtle.

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