



Dear TCS Community,

Today our nation was attacked, and from within. We watched, helpless and bordering on hopeless, as armed and violent insurgents stormed our nation's capitol. The scene, one we've seen unfold before, but always elsewhere, was one we could hardly process.

In such a moment, and in those that followed, it would be easy enough to give into fear, to lose hope, to believe that we have reached our darkest days. The coming days are still uncertain, and the very real threat of continued violence still hangs over us. These are real dangers and we cannot ignore them.

At the same time, we must also remember what happened in Georgia today. The democratic process worked, and two senators were elected in fair and transparent elections, in a clear and indisputable echo of November's presidential election. The voters of Georgia exercised their right to participate in a free and fair electoral process. They did so without social unrest, without name calling, without subterfuge. They modeled integrity and a commitment to the belief that each of us succeeds only when we all do.

In the face of justice and equity, raw hate reared up today in our capitol, in the same way a bully throws a temper tantrum when he doesn't get what he wants. We cannot ignore the bullies, but we can choose to embrace a better role model. Now is the time to recognize two things: democracy is still alive and well in America and also that now is the time to act against the hate we are seeing.

As we have learned in our work to become actively anti-racist, the opposite of racism is not non-racism; it is anti-racism. In the case of violence against our fellow Americans, we cannot choose simply not to be cruel or not to participate; we must push back against violent action. We must denounce harmful rhetoric. We must talk to our children about what is happening, we must teach them about what is right and just, and they must see us standing up for our principles.

This is a dark moment, and we do not know how long it will last. What we can do, however, is choose to be the light. Let's keep this conversation going and work together to make a real and tangible statement about the value of democracy and a clear and fair social contract.

Thank you for being part of this great work,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Holly".

Here are a few resources that may be helpful when talking with your child about today's events.

- [Facing History and Ourselves](#)
- [The National Association of School Psychologists](#)
- [The American Psychological Association](#)
- [Teaching Tolerance](#)
- [Commonsense Media](#)