

Reese Trowbridge

Grade 8

Horace Mann Community School

### LETS CELEBRATE DIVERSITY TOGETHER

Diversity means the acceptance and respect of everybody. It means understanding that everyone is different, and unique in their own way. These differences can be anything along the lines of race, gender, religious beliefs, social/economic status, age, and physical abilities. There is diversity all around us, in our schools, workplaces, even just on the sidewalk of our neighboring streets. Diversity is something we all desire to be implemented in all aspects of life, and is not hard to achieve.

Martin Luther once said, “An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity”. This means that a person can not truly live a fulfilled life until they accept that people are different. Even though a lot of people accept diversity and celebrate it, other places don't. A lot of times it's hard to change someone's views and beliefs about certain things in life, but we all must come together to spread diversity. To some, accepting everyone for who they are comes naturally, and they do it without a second thought. However, to others, it's hard to treat all people equally, when they are not like them. This is something we all have to come together to change, so we can all celebrate diversity.

Even though it's hard to alter people's views and beliefs, there are a few ways this problem can be solved within our society. A couple ideas would be to hold events within your town that include everyone. This way the whole town gets to know each other, creating a loving neighborhood where everyone is friends with everyone. It's easy to judge someone that you don't know, based on what they look like, what they believe in, or what you hear about them. But once you get to know those people that you previously made assumptions about, you come to realize that some people aren't what you assume. This is the truest form of the term “never judge a book by its cover”. By bringing a community together, we can begin the change we wish to see in the world.

In conclusion, everyone should live their lives by respecting others and accepting everyone's differences. Through educating others with the views of people who support diversity can help the cause. Our community is beginning to make the change in many ways throughout Bayonne. For example, the Bayonne Public School PEER programs hosted a "Diversity Dinner" a few months ago. This brought our schools closer together by building friendships throughout the community. In all, diversity is something that should be implemented all over our towns, nation, and around the world. However to achieve this, we all must "be the change we wish to see in the world".