

The Nueva School | Social Media Campaign: Belonging at Nueva

August

“We’re so glad that you’re here”

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CD2BSHWpTyL/>



September

Today is the first day of Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month! It is important not just this month but every month for us to recognize the contributions and achievements of Americans whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

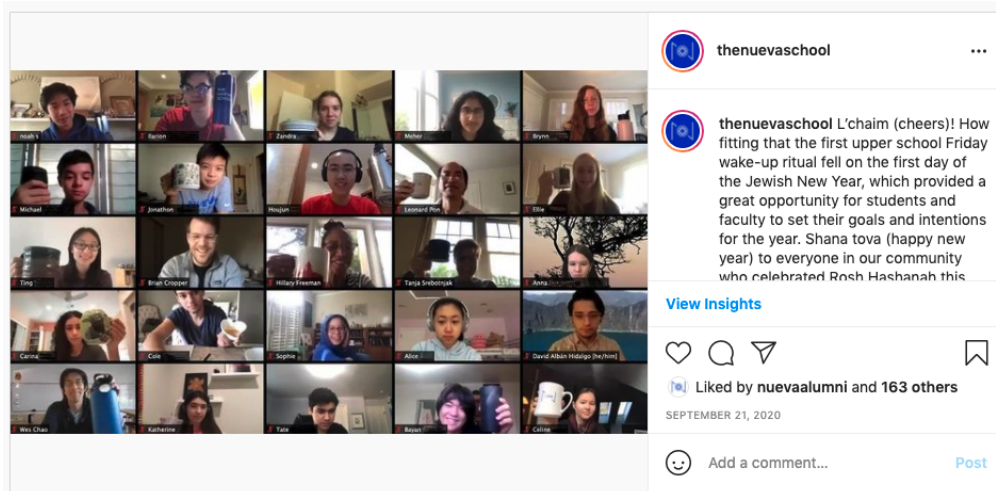
Learning about and celebrating the diversity in our own communities have always been core to a Nueva education. First grade teacher Emily Mitchell is a prime example of this! In 2005, in her first year as an associate teacher at Nueva, her second grade class walked the Mission district in San Francisco to see the famous murals, which depict the history, culture, and values of Hispanic and Latinx people who helped shape the city and the Bay.

This month, Emily and her first grade students will begin an exploration of identity by reading “Dear Primo: A Letter to My Cousin” by Duncan Tonatiuh, a story about two cousins, one in America and one in Mexico, who write letters to one another to teach each other about their lives.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CFLoUWjAeVT/>



L'chaim (cheers)! How fitting that the first upper school Friday wake-up ritual fell on the first day of the Jewish New Year, which provided a great opportunity for students and faculty to set their goals and intentions for the year. Shana tova (happy new year) to everyone in our community who celebrated Rosh Hashanah this weekend. May your year be sweet. 🍎🍊🍏
https://www.instagram.com/p/CFaqTzYAy_t/



October

"Coming out is a radical, even revolutionary, act. It is risky and scary, for some more than for others. On National Coming Out Day, even as we celebrate the importance of speaking our truth and being proud of who we are, we also honor how hard it was—and is—to come out. For those who are still in the closet, we say: take your time. We're here, we're queer, and we'll still be here for you when you're ready to make your big debut." —Chris Scott, Upper School Japanese Teacher

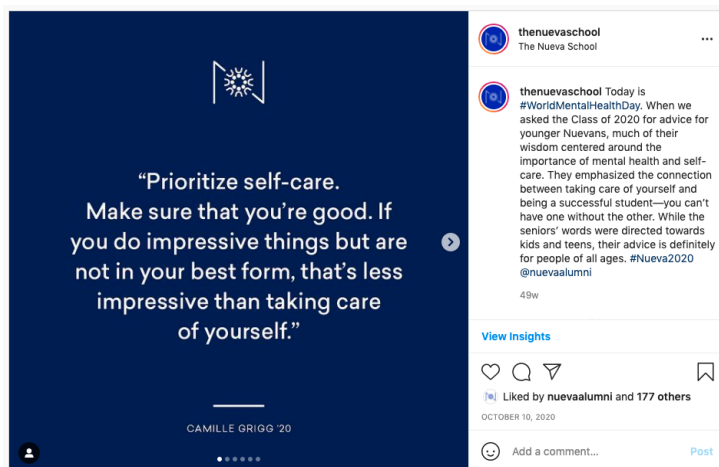
To hear from some of our out faculty and staff members, swipe through the gallery. Nueva values all identities brought into our community, and today on #NationalComingOutDay and every day, we celebrate our LGBTQ+ community members.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CGNfAsfAPIX/>



Today is #WorldMentalHealthDay. When we asked the Class of 2020 for advice for younger Nuevans, much of their wisdom centered around the importance of mental health and self-care. They emphasized the connection between taking care of yourself and being a successful student—you can't have one without the other. While the seniors' words were directed towards kids and teens, their advice is definitely for people of all ages. #Nueva2020 @nuevaalumni

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CGLEOshg56L/>



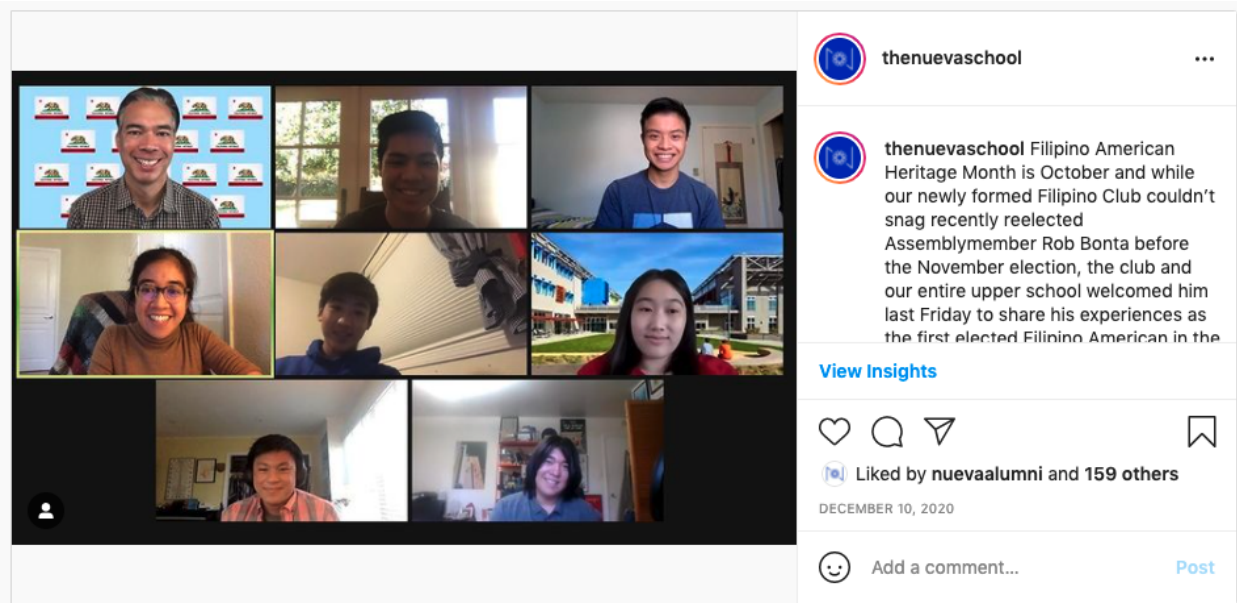
December

Filipino American Heritage Month is October and while our newly formed Filipino Club couldn't snag recently reelected Assemblymember Rob Bonta before the November election, the club and our entire upper school welcomed him last Friday to share his experiences as the first elected Filipino American in the California state legislature.

"[Assemblymember Bonta] warned that the true enemy of democracy is apathy. But I wonder if there is a related point here, one that operates on a more personal level. Apathy towards the political process is certainly an issue, but apathy can take many forms. Apathy towards heritage, an ignorance of where you come from, may be just as problematic.

By learning more about my Filipino culture and about the contributions made by other Filipinos, I'm inspired to think about what role I can play as a member of the Filipino community in creating a better democracy."

This excerpt is one of the most poignant parts of junior Jack A.'s reflection on Assemblymember @robbonta's visit with the upper school students. Look for it in tomorrow's edition of Nueva Notes! https://www.instagram.com/p/Clocml6B4YL/?utm_medium=copy_link



February

Happy Lunar New Year! Swipe through to read how 7th grader Kayla L. celebrates with her family. To read more reflections from students, faculty, and parents about their Lunar New Year celebrations and traditions, click the link in our bio! <https://www.instagram.com/p/CLM76lkgUQS/>



“Black History Month is the realization that the past, present, and future are constantly interconnected, and that traditions and magic and resilience live within my DNA. Black History Month is alive. Black History Month means there is no freedom, until we are all free.” — Matthew Oakland, upper school associate teacher

Matthew, Dean of Student Life Hillary Freeman, and associate teacher Rashida Blade share the importance of celebrating and honoring Black History Month and how the past, present, and future are all interconnected.

Click the link in our bio to read Matthew’s reflection, just published in today’s Nueva Notes! Visit our website to read Hillary’s and Rashida’s pieces, which were shared earlier this month.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CLu4FBqBrk4/>



MATTHEW OAKLAND
UPPER SCHOOL ASSOCIATE
TEACHER & ADMISSION ASSISTANT

Black history is both
a veil to see the
indomitable power
of the human spirit
and the ability of the
most marginalized to
make magic out of
little to nothing.

PAST



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FEBRUARY 25



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Post

PRESENT

I ask you to hold on to the outrage you felt watching the insurrection with hopes that it will help you see, with fresh eyes, and feel, with a warmer heart, that progress in this nation can only happen if every one of us accepts our role to lean fully into destroying the social constructs that rip our country apart *in order to create the more perfect union.*



HILLARY FREEMAN
DEAN OF STUDENT LIFE, GRADES 5-12



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FEBRUARY 25



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Post

On planning lower school Black History Month programming:

These moments are important so kids even at a young age see themselves in what they are learning and have opportunities to participate, feel connected to our learning, and share that part of their culture with the class. I really want to make sure that these students have the opportunity to feel positive about who they are.

RASHIDA BLADE
KINDERGARTEN ASSOCIATE TEACHER

FUTURE

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thenuevaschool "Black History Month is the realization that the past, present, and future are constantly interconnected, and that traditions and magic and resilience live within my DNA. Black History Month is alive. Black History Month means there is no freedom, until we are all free." — Matthew Oakland, upper school associate teacher

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FEBRUARY 25

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Black History Month is not just about celebrating and honoring history; it's also about rejoicing in Black joy and Black culture. Hear from an alumna, a second-semester senior, and a PreKer about what Black joy and Black culture mean to them. These are just a few of the many stories in our community, and we hope that their words and others' serve as a beacon that Nueva can strive towards.

https://www.instagram.com/p/CLxcugghdj_/

—

Black joy is the freedom of going through the world boldly and unapologetically, without feeling pressure to explain, change, or diminish yourself. On those rare and beautiful moments when you experience this, it feels like letting go of a breath you didn't know you were holding in; putting your arms through a jacket your father holds open; smelling a whiff of something your mom hasn't made since you were a child.

—



NINA GRIGG '18

thenuevaschool ...

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29w

sarahwfrost 🍌🍌🍌 ❤️

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FEBRUARY 26

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March

“It started off small and simple. The colleague who taught me to use seltzer for the fluffiest matzo balls. The old roommate who cooked me sublime brisket and shared her family’s self-described “hippie Haggadah.” But it was meeting my now-husband, who grew up attending an Orthodox synagogue and Jewish day school, that changed my relationship to Jewish culture forever.

Passover is now our family tradition—the very first Jewish holiday we celebrated after our son was born. For us, it’s less about matzo or Manischewitz wine. It’s about giving our son a sense of connection to his rich, cultural history and making some family history of our own.” —Mitzi Mock, digital storyteller and videographer

Wishing everyone who celebrates a happy Passover, chag Pesach sameach! Hear more Passover stories from members of our faculty and staff at [nuevaschool.org/voices](https://www.nuevaschool.org/voices).
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CM8F515hEru/>



thenuevaschool ...

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♥️ 💬 📌

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MARCH 27

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April

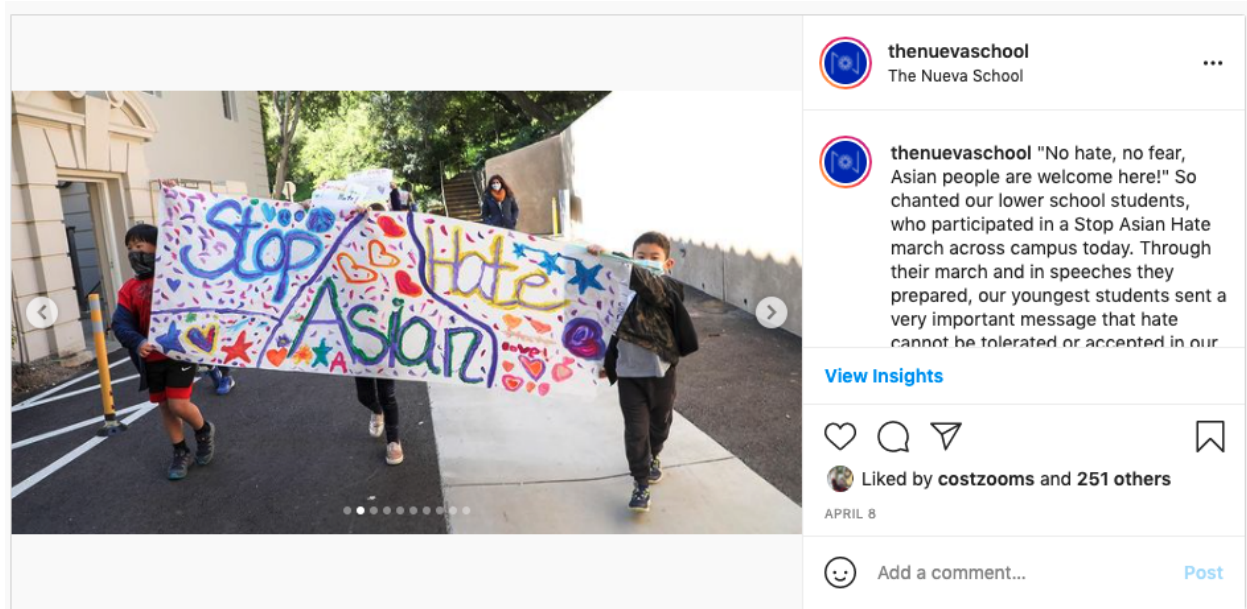
"No hate, no fear, Asian people are welcome here!" So chanted our lower school students, who participated in a Stop Asian Hate march across campus today. Through their march and in speeches they prepared, our youngest students sent a very important message that hate cannot be tolerated or accepted in our world.

Earlier in the week, students discussed why marching is important and learned about marches that have happened in the past.

"Through our march, we will spread positivity, and inspire and encourage each other to continue to do all we can to take a stand against hate," said first grade teacher Jahi Johnson. "Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, 'Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.' We are going to speak out about the injustices we see or hear about until they no longer exist. We will choose love instead of hate."

"This was so powerful and students are stopping me in the halls to tell me all about it," said Lisa Hinshelwood, lower school SEL teacher. "They feel so empowered."

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CNbCDn-h-n6/>



May

In honor of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, upper school art teacher May Wilson facilitated a school-wide art installation, using ceramic casts of ginger root made by the students in her Art and Fabrication class.

Members of the upper school community were asked to think of a word they associate with ginger, a plant originally from Southeast Asia that has spread throughout the world and impacted many culinary and medicinal traditions, and then carve that word into a ginger cast.

Pictured: a submission titled "biscuits," with an accompanying notecard sharing, "When I was growing up we were 'allowed' to have delicious ginger biscuits baked by my grandmother when we visited her!"

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CPZrXqPrOji/>



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The Nueva School



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Members of the upper school

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MAY 27



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