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| |  | | --- | | ER Updates: Ambassadors, Student Leaders, and more!  It was August of 1955 when 14-year-old Emmett Till was killed in Mississippi by a group of White men for allegedly whistling at a White woman. In August 1963, 250,000 Americans marched in Washington, D.C., the original March on Washington, to demand fair and equitable wages, the passage of the Civil Rights Act, integrated schools, and the enactment of a bill that would prohibit job discrimination. It was at this march that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his famous, "I Have a Dream" speech. Two years later, in August 1965, the Voting Rights Act was signed, removing obstacles that had prevented many Black Americans from voting.  As I write to you now, in August of 2021, it is with the understanding that we are still struggling to realize these hard-won freedoms. This year alone, we have seen an insurrection on our capitol attempting to block the peaceful transfer of power to an elected president, and 30 state laws across 18 states have been passed and enacted in 2021 to date that restrict access to voting for people of color. The dream Dr. King spoke of on August 28, 1963, is still just that: a dream.   Though this was not from an August past, I wish to draw our attention to a different piece of writing by Dr. King, "Letter from a Birmingham Jail." In this letter, which was written a few months before his "I Have a Dream" speech, he writes, “For years now I have heard the word "Wait!" It rings in the ear of every Negro with piercing familiarity. This "Wait" has almost always meant "Never." We must come to see, with one of our distinguished jurists, that "justice too long delayed is justice denied.”"  Structural racism must be addressed now. As summer comes to a close and we head into a time of new beginnings -- perhaps new school years, new jobs, or simply new colors on the tops of trees -- I invite you to consider the urgency of our movement. We can not wait. It is a steep climb, but if we wait we will likely roll backwards.  Sincerely, *Elaine* | |

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **As we wait with anticipation for children to return to school, we don't want to forget the hardships all of our students and educators faced due to the COVID-19 pandemic. First, we congratulate all who did whatever they could to excel during a very challenging situation, both students and educators. We also want to acknowledge that not all of our children and educators had all of the tools and resources they needed to create the optimum remote learning environment. We are grateful that one of our donors, the Schroder family, made a $10,000 donation, to enable us to donate 43 3100 Dell Chromebooks to Roosevelt Union Free School District for children who did not have computers or other devices that could be used for remote learning. Dr. Deborah Wortham, Superintendent of Schools, says: “Thanks to Schroder Family’s generous donation, our students will be assisted with technology to further their education.”** | | |

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