

Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Darkness can not drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." Light and love will always be the greater power over darkness and hate. When we use positivity, negativity will cower in the shadows. The definition of diversity is "a range of different things." The city of Richardson is a diverse community, meaning there is a range of all different types of people. Whether it is skin color, religion, age, culture, etc.; Richardson has it all. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. taught the world many things, including that it does not matter what a person looks like on the outside. It is what is on the inside that counts. We can use the teachings of MLK to realize that just because someone looks different than you doesn't mean you cannot be friends or that they are lesser than you. We are all people who were put in this world to make a difference. We are all unique, yet we are also similar in so many ways. No one should ever be punished or bullied because of how they look. For as long as people have been recording what the world is like, there has always been hate. Hate towards people of different colors; hate towards those who have disabilities; hate against the people we do not agree with. There will always be hate in this world, but if we come together we can become bigger than the hate, to the point where we can overcome it. Martin Luther King Jr. hoped his children would "one day live in a nation where they were not judged by their skin color but rather by the content of their character." I believe MLK did not only mean his children but of ALL the children to come. The world has become much more inclusive than it once was, but there are still kids, teenagers, and adults missing out on opportunities because of the color of their skin. What many people don't realize is that racism is a made-up thing. The idea of a specific skin color being "bad" was created thousands of years ago by some middle-aged men who thought the world was flat. If those middle-aged men had never come up with the idea of racism, would it still be here today? I honestly do not know. But what I do know is that **we** can be the ones to determine that everyone is equal. **We** can choose to look at the inside of a person rather than their physical appearance. **We** can be the ones to include everyone. **We** have the opportunity to change the world. As a community, we can stop these

hateful acts from happening. I can use the teaching of Dr. MLK to include others around me. I can participate and help with multicultural events. There are endless opportunities for others and myself to contribute to our diverse community!