

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: Israel - Palestine
Sent: Tue 10/10/2023 2:23:49 PM

light reading....



[REDACTED] (she/her)
Administrative Secretary
TOPS K-8
Seattle Public Schools

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 6:53 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Israel - Palestine

Good Morning everyone,

I think everyone knows where I stand around injustice and equity in our country, and I don't generally speak on topics in other countries. AND, while the injustices in our country are, at least to me, clear and obvious, the conflicts in the middle east are objectively more complex. Without going into detail of who was there first etc, the Jewish people were placed in the middle east because the UK, US and other western country did NOT want to take them in and so "agreed" to let them be in that space without concern for the people already there. This is a problem caused by colonialism and selfishness by larger nations not caused by the Jewish or Palestinian people.

I'm not taking a side, because sides don't solve problems in this space. That being said, I do have a big concern around the upcoming rise is anti-Islam and anti-Jewish sentiment that will unfortunately happen due to the long sensitive history of this part of the world. With that, I ask that when these inevitably arise in our community, you welcome productive and safe conversations. And if you don't feel comfortable, we need to get comfortable having the difficult conversations, even getting ahead of them. The following resource is a UK based organization call Solutions Not Sides. It is a coalition of Jewish, Palestinian and Arab organizations working to support the people in that region. They have some really helpful tips for discussions around this sensitive issue.

<https://solutionsnotsides.co.uk/blog/2021/avoiding-antisemitic-islamophobic-hate-speech>

I know we all have a lot on our plate AND we know there have already been instances of antisemitism and islamophobia at our school. So please take a look at this resources to prepare incase these conflicts arise in our community.
If you have questions or need help with conversations, please don't hesitate to reach out.

In partnership,

[REDACTED]
1st Grade Teacher
TOPS K-8

"You cannot legislate goodwill. That can only come from education." -Malcolm X