



### Beyond Differences goes to Washington!

Our **student leaders** traveled to **Washington D.C.** for three days! Just three hours after landing, Carl, Lorrie, Tyler & Mairead were at center stage for an assembly with 180 students from School Without Walls at Francis Stevens! The middle school closest to the White House! Thank you to staff and students for such a memorable event!



On Day Two we attended the **Family Online Safety Institute (FOSI) Conference**, where our **Teen Board of Directors** asked conference attendees to take the **Pledge to Be Kind Online** and gave teachers in attendance our free Be Kind Online curriculum! ([Available here](#))

Students also interviewed Google, Facebook, Ask.Fm and other technology companies, asking "How do you make the internet safer for teens?"

On Day 3 our Teen Board met with **five member of congress** to talk about social isolation and asked them to co-sponsor a resolution that declares February 12, 2016 **National No One Eats Alone Day!**

A special thank you to **Congressman Jared Huffman** and his staff, who were more than hospitable and led us on a private tour of the capitol!

**A fantastic three days in Washington!**



Our Teen leaders with Congresswoman Jackie Speier



### Parents Night Out! is Sunday, December 13!

We hope you can join us for this very special night hosted by your children! Both our high school Teen Board of Directors and middle school leadership students will perform an interactive presentation about what they have learned in Beyond Differences this year. You don't want to miss this!



Featuring very special guest speaker **Jon Isaacs** (pictured), Chief of Community Involvement and Public Affairs for Portland Public Schools. He'll speak about what every parent needs to know about the negative effects of social media on kids.

[RSVP here](#)  
[Google Calendar: Add to your Calendar here!](#)

\*All middle and high school students are expected to attend and present. Students should arrive at 4:00pm.



Have an uncle, nephew, friend or pet that goes to middle school? Tell them about **National No One Eats Alone Day** on February 12, 2016!

Any school can sign up for a **FREE** backpack with everything they need to host this transformative event! Sign up now! [www.nooneatsalone.org](http://www.nooneatsalone.org)



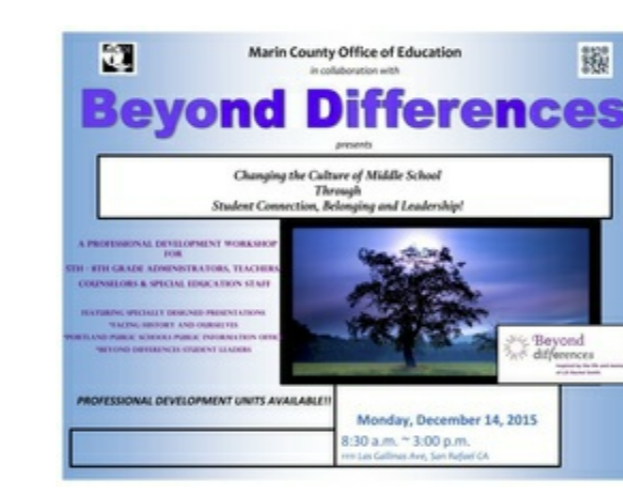
### Our second overnight retreat was a great success!

Students from **Claremont Middle School** in Oakland, **Washington Manor** in San Leandro, and **White Hill, Miller Creek, Mill Valley Middle, Hali, and Davidson** in Marin all attended our Middle School Overnight Retreat in the Marin Headlands on November 14-15!

A special thank you to **Liz Vind**, Leadership/Social Studies Teacher at Washington Manor, and **Tonia Coleman**, Assistant Principal at Claremont Middle School in Oakland, along with Outdoor Educator **Cody Murnen**, **Vetra Davis**, and **Dijnae Garrett** for staffing this wonderful weekend!

Calling all educators!

### We're co-hosting a Professional Development Day on December 14!



In partnership with the Marin County Office of Education, **Changing the Culture of Middle School Through Student Connection, Belonging and Leadership** will give participants tools to make their communities more inclusive and increase student belonging, connection and leadership.

Featuring workshops by Superintendent of San Rafael City Schools Dr. Mike Watenpaugh, Facing History & Ourselves, Chief of Public Affairs for Portland Public Schools Jon Isaacs, and teen leaders from Beyond Differences!

CEU Credits Available  
[Click here to Register](#)



To all the parents, students, volunteers, administrators, teachers, counselors and supporters of Beyond Differences:

**Thank you.**

We are grateful for your support in the fight to make every student feel valued, accepted, and like they belong.

**With Gratitude,**  
 John Finerock

Director of Student Programs, Beyond Differences

