

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebrations
Human Rights Commission
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Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." Martin Luther King Jr., as we all know, was a prominent leader in the African-American civil rights movement. During this movement he strived to end the injustice of racial segregation and discrimination in the hopes to achieve true equality economically and socially of all races. However, he did not fight in a literal sense for this "Dream," as he called it. He fought through civil disobedience and non-violent activities such as sit-ins and marches through various segregated states. Perhaps the true art of his work was his speech. Martin Luther King spoke with such unwavering conviction and inspired all who listened. When he spoke he brought together millions of people: black and white. This small-time minister from Atlanta-Georgia took his "Dream," vocalized it and made it the dream of millions. When he was put down, he got back up! When he was jailed, he made nothing of it! When he could not find a way, he made his own and never gave up for he knew success was not too far away! He demonstrated the characteristics of a man who wanted change and he was not going to stop struggling because the opposing party wanted him to. He was not afraid to continue, even when malicious threats were made to his family. On April 4, 1968, an icon fell before our eyes, assassinated in cold blood! Shortly after there were numerous burnings, lootings, and tears shed. The African-American people had lost their voice. However, they failed to realize this was not his "Dream" and this was not the way to be heard.

Gradually things got back together but not before a miraculous change had spurred throughout the nation. The "Dream" of equality and justice for all had finally been met, although it was never lost. The African-American community, with the help of Martin Luther King Jr, had been heard and was "free at last, free at last..." Today we look to Martin Luther King, this strong prominent leader, as a reminder of achieving true equality and racial justice for all and we thank him for doing so. Numerous people throughout the years have given homage to this man because of the "Dream" he worked so hard for. Of the many, here at Somerville High School, we stand by King in taking a zero tolerance policy to racial injustice. That is the reason for our strong and valuable group of mediators and the program itself! So, I stand for everyone, everywhere, when I say thank you mister Martin Luther King! And finally my heart goes out to the Haitian community for the very recent and tragic earthquake that struck and I encourage others to donate to the Haiti relief fund!

Thank you and have a very blessed Martin Luther King's Day!