**Community-building Circle Instructions – Current Events & Safety**

**Purpose of Circle today:** Help students express their feelings and support each other in thinking about events that have happened recently in the U.S. and Austin.

- **You will need a centerpiece to put in the center of the circle.** Make sure your group agreements are in the center.
  Idea for today: Newspaper

- **You will need a talking piece for the group to pass around to indicate whose voice is being listened to.**
  Idea for today: something that symbolizes safety

Breakdown of Circle time:

1. **Icebreaker idea.** Go around the circle and share how you are feeling today using only sounds and gestures (no words).

2. Review group agreements. Remind students about the group agreements during today’s circle.

3. **Intention.** There have been several current events recently that have brought up the issue of safety. Today we want to take some time to talk openly about how we’re feeling about these current events (ex. school shootings such as Parkland, bombings that were happening in Austin, etc). This is a time to share feelings and thoughts, think about what parts we can control, and how we can support each other.

4. **Question 1.** What do you think about what’s been going on recently? How have these events affected the way you’ve lived your life recently?

5. **Question 2.** Where do you feel safe? What about that place makes you feel safe?

6. **Question 3.** What are some things we do have control over when thinking about events like this?

7. **Question 4.** As a school community, what can we do to help each other feel safe and support each other during difficult times?

8. **Closing.** What is one thing you will do today, tomorrow, next week in order to support each other or help address these issues?

*Students may “pass” on each round of questions if they need more time to think, but come back to them each time and reiterate that their voice is important and the group wants to know their thoughts.*

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