



## City of Edmonds Media Release

Office of the Mayor ~ 121 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Edmonds

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### **Edmonds Diversity Commission Donates Special Collection of Children's Books to Local Elementary Schools**

***Diversity-Themed Books Aim to Support School District's Mission to Provide a More Inclusive and Equitable Curriculum***

**(Edmonds, WA)** – In an effort to promote a greater understanding of diversity, equity and inclusion among Edmonds youth and support the Edmonds School District's mission to provide a more equitable and diverse curriculum for its students, the City of Edmonds Diversity Commission has kicked off the new year with a substantial donation of children's books to local elementary schools. The books focus on themes of diversity, equity, and inclusion and are intended to be available as resources for teachers, librarians, and students to help inform, engage, and encourage discussion.

“At its November meeting, the Diversity Commission was reviewing the year's budget and projected an unexpected positive balance of several hundred dollars,” explained City of Edmonds Diversity Commission Member Anabel Hovig. “After a discussion of how to spend the unexpected balance to help further the Commission's mission, a suggestion was made to purchase books related to diversity, equity and inclusion for local elementary schools, as had been done in other communities. We hope these books will be a valuable and cherished resource for both students and teachers.”

A small subgroup of Commissioners, including Hovig and Diana White, explored books which would support the Commission's efforts to better promote diversity and equity in our community. The following six books were vetted and accepted by the Edmonds School District and delivered to schools at the end of January.

- \* *Why am I me?* - Paige Britt, Sean Qualls, Selina Alko
- \* *Jasmine Toguchi - Mochi Queen* - Debbi Michiko Florence
- \* *You Hold Me Up* - Monique Gray Smith, Danielle Daniel
- \* *A Different Pond* - Bao Phi
- \* *I Got the Rhythm* - Connie Schofield-Morrison
- \* *We're All Wonders* - RJ Palacio

Ten sets of books were purchased and delivered for use in libraries and classrooms of the following schools:

Sherwood Elementary  
Westgate Elementary  
Madrona K-8  
Chase Lake community  
Edmonds Elementary  
Seaview Elementary  
Maplewood k-8  
College Place Elementary  
Meadowdale Elementary  
Edmonds Heights Elementary

For more information on the City of Edmonds Diversity Commission, please go to <http://www.edmondswa.gov/diversity-commission-home.html> on the City of Edmonds website.

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