



STORY OF A NAME: MS. JAFFRI

My name is Zehra which is Arabic for "flower". My name was chosen by my mom and my dad. As a child, I really didn't dislike my name but I guess I didn't like that people had a hard time pronouncing it. I remember my teachers' facial expressions as they came across my name on the attendance sheet on the first day of school. Sometimes we had a substitute teacher who would say "I might not be saying this right but..." and my name. My teachers always called me "Zeera" throughout elementary school and I never felt confident enough to correct them. Apparently, neither did my parents because that was how my name was pronounced all throughout school until I went to an Islamic private school in 8th grade where my name was no longer uncommon. I always wished my name was spelled in a simpler way. Whenever I tell someone my name, I get compared to the store Zara which is not how my name is pronounced but I just say "yea like that" because it's exhausting to correct everyone. My name is pronounced "Ze-ra" with a short "E" sound, as in the word "era."

RAMADAN AND EID AL-FITR

The month of Ramadan runs from May 5th closing with the celebration of Eid al-Fitr on June 4th. During this time, some of our Muslim students may choose to observe Ramadan by fasting from sunrise to sunset, and will go without eating or drinking throughout the school day. It is important to provide an environment for Ramadan-observing students where they feel supported during this period. Here is a [guide](#) on Eid al-Fitr which provides opportunities for recognizing and celebrating Eid al-Fitr with students with info about this holiday season to honor our students who observe it and to educate those that don't.

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DIALOGUE & DRINKS

We meet on Monday, May 20th @ 8:30 @ [Commonwealth](#). This month we will be discussing [The Leavers](#) by Lisa Ko. Parent Member, Swati Parikh will be facilitating. RSVP to diversity@ps39.org



May Newsletter Issue #18

AT HOME: BOOK OF THE MONTH

The May book of the month selections are now on our [Webpage](#), along with discussion questions. This month's theme is Immigration and Migration.

- K/1st: [Mango, Abuela, and Me](#) by *Meg Medina*
- 2nd/3rd: [Three Balls of Wool](#) by *Henriqueta Cristina*
- 4th/5th: [First Generation: 36 Trailblazing Immigrants and Refugees Who Make America Great](#) by *Sandra Neil Wallace and Rich Wallace*.

Books can be purchased on our [Amazon Wish List](#). If you have purchased any prior Books of the Month that you are willing to donate to the PS39 classroom libraries in support of the "Windows and Mirrors" project, please drop them with Parent Coordinator, Karen Herskowitz.

FEATURED MEDIA

[ProPublica](#) has been documenting individual hate crimes and bias incidents. If you don't know that this is a national problem, now you know.

CONTACT US!

If you have any questions or input or are interested in a leadership role on the committee, please [Contact Us @ diversity@ps39.org](mailto:diversity@ps39.org)

DEFINING A TERM

Migrant / 'mīgrənt/: any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a state away from their habitual place of residence, regardless of (1) the person's legal status, (2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; (3) what the causes for the movement are or (4) what the length of the stay is.

Our "[Your Story our Story](#)" partnership with the Tenement Museum continues this year. Launching in early, May. The project asks that you share a story with your child about an object that has been passed down or is cherished; an object that represents your family's immigration or migration story. Take a picture of that object and you and your child can write a few sentences to share your story to be returned to school by May 22nd. To help with setup of the cards around the schoolyard, please sign up [here](#).

WORTH FOLLOWING

This month's Twitter worth following is [@AlidaGarcia](#), lawyer turned activist and organizer with a focus on immigration.