

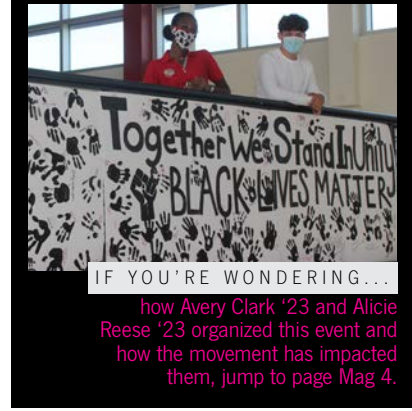
OUR PLEDGE ON THE SIGN. Avery Clark '23, Rachel Wood '23, Erica Blair-Henderson '22 and Alicia Reese's father, Randy Reese, gather around the Black Lives Matter sign to press their handprint with black paint and write their name under it. Clark and Reese gathered the signs so they could hang it in the high school lobby when school started in August.

PAINTING MY HAND. Using a popsicle stick, Kelly Whitehead '22 covers her hand with black paint so she can press it on to the sign at the Black Lives Matters event on June 14. **I GOT THE MARKER.** After rinsing her painted hand with water, Jaylin Brooks '24 takes a marker to sign her name under her handprint. "This event impacted me because it really educated me on racial injustice and how it's a bigger issue than what we all think," Brooks said. **LOOKING DOWN AT HISTORY.** Anita Gentile, social studies teacher, and daughter Jolie Gentile '21 walk from table-to-table to read about the different social injustices that have happened over the years while attending the Black Lives Matters event. "It's important to recognize your privilege and support marginalized people when you're not one of them. The only way we can create a better future is by fighting against white supremacy and anti-blackness," Jolie Gentile said. *photos by j. bishop*



KELLY WHITEHEAD '22

"I'm grateful my local community gave me the opportunity to participate in and talk about something as important as Black Lives Matter because it was impacting everyone around the country. I learned that the Black Lives Matter Movement can really bring unity among all types of people in our small town."



IF YOU'RE WONDERING... how Avery Clark '23 and Alicia Reese '23 organized this event and how the movement has impacted them, jump to page Mag 4.

WE BELIEVE

BLACK LIVES MATTER

Two students raise awareness by hosting peaceful BLM event near Carmichael Park
story by t. quarles & j. bishop design by j. bishop

BECAUSE ENOUGH IS ENOUGH
Students attend BLM Denver rallies



WHO: Mollie Laughlin '22, Mariana Palos '21 and Tonjala Galery '20
WHEN: The girls took part in the BLM march protest in downtown Denver on May 31 and June 4-5.

WHY: "I felt so hopeless and enraged watching all the injustice go down on tv and social media. At these protests, my hope was restored seeing how many people of all different races and ages joined the fight, helping the black community finally have their voice heard. I felt uplifted as we were one step closer to equality and love in the world," Laughlin said.

WHO: Cassiah Costigan '22 and Abby Clinton '22
WHEN: The girls attended the George Floyd Black Lives Matter protest in June.

WHY: "If I wanted to see something good happen, I would have to participate to see that change. The protest was incredibly peaceful and life changing to see with my own eyes. It's something I'd want to tell my kids about when I get older. I want them to know just how vital the situation are country was acing because of racial injustice," Costigan said.

STANDING AGAINST RACISM

racism and bringing awareness to the Black Lives Matter Movement was the goal of Avery Clark '23 and Alicia Reese '23, who hosted an event for community members and high school students and staff to attend on June 14 at Carmichael Park.

"We decided to do something to bring the community together to educate them and have them show their solidarity in the movement," Reese said.

As people walked up to the park, they were handed a green paper that outlined their experiences. The first experience was walking around the park to read on tables information about stories of people killed

by police brutality or white supremacist.

After reading about different social injustices, participants took a popsicle stick to paint one of their hands with black paint so they could place their handprint on the poster paper laying on the grass. Then they would sign their name under their handprint.

"We met with Ms. [Shelly] Genereux [principal] and asked her if we could hang the sign up at BHS because

it's the heart of the community. She said yes," Clark said.

Along with the high school, organizations like the Brighton Education Association, Brighton Police Department and District 27] supported the event.

"I am proud to stand with these students who brought the community together, to stand in unity in an effort to understand and become compassionate and empathetic about the struggles of individuals

of diverse cultures, races and beliefs to demonstrate that yes, black lives do matter."

PRINCIPAL SHELLY GENEREUX

The final experience people could purchase a "We Stand Against Racism" tshirt for \$15. The fund were donated to the movement.

"It was a beautiful experience to see people who we didn't know come and support black lives, and show it really does matter to people," Mariana Palos '21 said.