

Dear Rabbi Bregman,

My name is Rafeeq and I am from West Point Grey Academy (I gave the opening remarks when you visited last week).

I just wanted to personally reach out and thank you for taking the time to speak with us as a school. You, along with all the panelists, did something I have not yet seen in an assembly in my 13 years of schooling: you were able to take a difficult (but necessary) conversation and turn it into an incredibly engaging, education, and even fun experience. It was incredibly valuable to have all your different perspectives shed light on intolerance in our society today.

In a time where discourse fuelled by mutual understanding and empathy has broken down into name calling and a refusal to engage with the Other, your conversation with us was refreshing.

I wanted you to know also that I had multiple conversations with different students after the assembly and not one person didn't enjoy it. You were able to reach all demographics in our school, something quite rare.

Please pass on my many thanks to the other panelists as well - I wasn't able to get ahold of their information.

As and someone who believes in the immense importance and value of diversity, and as a Canadian, thank you for the work that you are doing. I know I don't need to tell you how incredibly important it is :)

Warmly,

Rafeeq