

## **Human Connections tours for third graders**

### **Meeting Notes**

Great ideas came out of the four “Human Connections” meetings the week of September 30-October 4

Please be aware that your teacher might not be aware of the Social Emotional Learning curriculum that is being rolled out in select schools each year. I marked the demographics calendar with a 1 or 2 to indicate if a school is part of one of the cohorts that is introducing the curriculum. This said, these social emotional learning skills are being integrated into all classrooms in many different ways even if the school is not formally involved with the SEL initiative.

When you call introduce the theme of this year’s tour—human connections—and share some of the topics you could cover to see if the teacher would like any focus in particular. Some teachers will not have read the email that went out describing this year’s tour and might be expecting to get ancient cultures or VTS like they have had in the past. This is not a problem!! See how you can integrate the ideas of relationships, respect, feelings, cultural pride, etc. into whatever tour they want.

For example, one of your colleagues is designing an ancient cultures tour and including some more modern artworks as well. She will look at the false door through the lense of honoring and taking care of a deceased person who was important to his community.

Someone else suggested also using the Egyptian striding figure because its body language communicates such confidence even without a head. It also supports a discussion of cultural pride.

The new painting by Aziz Osman, Wonder of the Night, in the Arts of Africa galleries is a wonderful artwork for discussing feelings, community, and cultural pride. Osman is a local, successful Somali painter.

Group responses to the Thierry Oussou painting, Confidant, next to the Osman painting were mixed. It might be a very difficult artwork for third graders, subject matter and style wise.

When we talked about feelings check-ins the idea was brought up that you could acknowledge the fact that you know you are a stranger or a new person to them.

Some ideas that docents have used in the past include:

What do you know about me by looking at my face?

Journey into a landscape painting and pick a place in the painting you would like to be

Think about when you are having your picture taken...

Kara has agreed to create and manage a document for docents to share their tours and ideas.  
Thank you, Kara!