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“The trees act not as individuals, but somehow as a collective. Exactly how they do this, we don’t yet know. But what we see is the power of unity. What happens to one happens to us all. We can starve together or feast together.”

Kimmerer, R. (2013). *Braiding sweetgrass : Indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge and the teachings of plants*. Milkweed Editions.

I believe Kimmerer’s description of the interconnectedness of trees is reflected among people in communities. Despite our arbitrary categorization of people, places, and things we are all interconnected, and like the trees, what happens to one happens to us all. Kimmerer mentions the inexplicable ways trees try to help each other (inexplicable to *humans*). I think society needs to learn from the trees and find there is joy in helping others. I imagine the trees are showing us what equity looks like. Equity is feasting together through networks of community. Equitable access to education not only serves certain individuals, but also the health of the community.

I find the most important thing I can do in my teaching practice is build community in my classroom, and in the school. A quick way to bring people together is by overcoming challenges as a team. I will give my students ample opportunities to work together, which will hopefully inspire them to be the types of people who collaborate on challenging tasks throughout their lives.

References

Kimmerer, R. (2013). *Braiding sweetgrass : Indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge and the teachings of plants*. Milkweed Editions.