



EQUITY IS...

Monthly Newsletter of the SDP Equity Coalition

Social Justice Summit

SAVE THE DATE

Monday, January 17th 2022

9:00am - 12:00pm

The School District of Philadelphia (SDP), in keeping with our Statement on Antiracism and Board Guardrail #4, has committed to reimagining and redesigning a more equitable school district.

On **Monday, January 17, 2022**, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, the School District of Philadelphia's Equity Coalition is hosting a **virtual** Social Justice Summit. Grounded in the theme "***For Philly, By Philly: Leading, Teaching, and Organizing for Equity***," the core objective is to uplift and amplify the voices of individuals, program offices, and organizations throughout Philadelphia who are working to advance equity within the School District of Philadelphia.

Presentation Themes include:

- Culturally Responsive Teaching
- Equity Protocols and Frameworks
- Equity Centered Community & Partnerships
- Food Insecurity
- Social Emotional Learning & Wellness
- Relearning History
- Equity Leadership
- Philly Youth Vote
- Community Engaged Teacher Prep
- Equity in Curriculum

Click [HERE](#) to register to attend

Click [HERE](#) to access the flyer for this event

DEI OFFICE UPDATES

The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion has Launched it's Website!

The website includes an overview of the office's mission and vision, core initiatives, and growing Equity team. In addition, the website features quick access to the SDP Equity Framework, the results of the Equity Audit, resources to inform your professional and instructional practice, and provides updates on past and current cultural celebrations. To learn more about what's happening with the Office of DEI at SDP, click the link below.

[Click HERE to check out the new website!](#)

Lunar New Year Happenings and Events

Will your school or community be hosting any events to celebrate the Lunar New Year? If so, the **Office of DEI would love to hear from you.** We would like to include your celebration February's DEI newsletter. Please share photos and materials to Michelle Golobish-Gainer at:

mgolobish@philasd.org

Thank You and Happy Lunar New Year!



CULTURAL AWARENESS & CELEBRATIONS FOR JANUARY

JANUARY RECOGNIZES NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH, POVERTY IN AMERICAN AWARENESS MONTH, AND SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

Jan 1: New Year's Day - marks the start of a new year according to the Gregorian calendar. It marks the end of New Year's Eve celebrations in the United States and gives many Americans a chance to remember the previous year.

Jan 4: National Braille Day - celebrated since 2019, is observed to raise awareness of the importance of Braille as a means of communication in the full realization of the human rights for blind and partially sighted people.

Jan 7: Christmas (Eastern Orthodox) - Christmas falls on a different day in the Orthodox Church because they still observe the traditional Julian calendar, which has the original dates for Christian celebrations before the Gregorian calendar was introduced.

Jan 16: World Religion Day - Many organizations celebrate the day by holding interfaith events where faith leaders get together to give talks and lectures. People are encouraged to talk to and listen to people from faiths different than their own and to understand the basic tenets of other religions.

Jan 17: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Each year on the third Monday of January we observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and reflect on the work that still needs to be done for racial equality. This January 17, make the holiday more than just a day off and take time to reflect and take action on civil rights issues across the globe

Jan 18: Mahayana New Year (Buddhist) - Mahayana New Year will be celebrated on January 19 by Buddhists around the world. The term Mahayana encompasses Buddhist ideologies and philosophies. Mahayana is one of the two main branches of Buddhism, and is mostly practiced in Northeast Asia — China, Japan, Tibet, Taiwan, Mongolia, and Korea.

Jan 27: International Holocaust Remembrance Day - On this annual day of commemoration, the UN urges every member state to honor the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust and millions of other victims of Nazism and to develop educational programs to help prevent future genocides.

AS A PART OF THE DISTRICT'S COMMITMENT TO ENSURING THE OUR INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES ARE CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY INCLUSIVE THESE RESOURCES HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC SUPPORTS.

[CLICK HERE FOR RESOURCES TO CELEBRATE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY](#)

Lunar New Year Celebration

Lunar New Year marks the new year according to the lunisolar calendar. It is observed by several communities including those of Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, and Japanese decent. The New Year begins at the first new moon of the year and ends with the first full moon, so festivities begin around late January to early February. In China the celebration signified a time of rest for farmers working on the fields. Traditionally there is a focus on warding off bad luck, manifesting good fortune, health, and happiness. Common ways to celebrate Lunar New Year are with, gift giving, offerings to gods and ancestors, feasts, and lantern lightings. Here are some ways you can celebrate the Lunar New Year in Philadelphia:

Penn Museum: CultureFest!-January 29th @ 11am-4pm

The museum is offering in person and virtual events this year. Events include poetry readings, arts and crafts, and dancing. For ticketing and information [click HERE](#).



Dilworth Park: Lunar New Year Celebration- January 29th @ 5pm-7pm

Dilworth Park will be celebrating the Lunar New Year with Chinese Dancers, Prancing Lions, and delicious food. For more information [click HERE](#).

Chinatown Lion Dance January 31 @ 11:30 pm & February 1 @ 11am & 3pm

Chinatown offers its annual Lion Dance parades; both on the eve of the New Year and during the day. 10th & Race is considered one of the best spots to witness either of these events.

Free Library (Parkway Central location) Lunar New Year Celebration February 5 @ 12pm-4pm

WE Cultural Exchange Institute will be offering events ranging from Martial Arts to Chinese Opera and Calligraphy. For more information [click HERE](#).

DEI New Year's Resolutions

As we think about what goals we have for the year, now is a great opportunity to reflect on how we can be better allies and create goals that center around diversity, equity, and inclusion. ***Use these statements to help you craft your own DEI resolutions:***

- I will _____ to advance equity in my workplace and my community.
- I will continue to educate myself on diversity and other cultures by _____.
- I will _____ to be more actively engaged in equity work.
- I will participate in _____ in order to stay involved with equity work.



Reflect on these resolutions and write them down somewhere for you to come back to throughout the year. We also invite you to share your resolutions in a video so we can create a compilation to inspire others to make their own DEI resolutions for 2022! **You can upload your video [HERE](#).**