EQUITY IS...

Monthly Newsletter of the SDP Equity Coalition

Black History Month

"We believe that the histories, stories, and voices of Black people should be centered, honored, and uplifted in school curricula every day. We also acknowledge the importance, relevance and origins of Black History Month. In 1926, Carter D. Woodson and the ASALH (Association for the Study of African American Life and History) launched "Negro History Week" to promote the studying of African American history as a discipline and to celebrate the accomplishments of African Americans. Today, we still see the absence of Black history and experience in our textbooks, required readings, STEM, and overall curriculum of our educational system. As we enter February, Border Crossers is providing resources to be used beyond the scope of this one-month. Unless Black history is taught throughout the year, it perpetuates an "othering" of Black Lives and Black students, and is also a manifestation of anti-blackness. Ensuring the ongoing integration of Black history and experiences throughout all curriculum is imperative as educators continue to uplift every student and reinforce that Black Lives Matter everyday." **- Center for Racial Justice in Education**

Julio C. Nuñez, Assistant Principal of Philip H. Sheridan Elementary, Compiled a resource guide for educators and families to utilize for Black History Month

Click Here to Access Black History Month Resource Guide

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 to Access Black History Month Resources developed by the Office of Academics

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

Wednesday, Feb. 2
5:00p - 7:00p

Panel Discussion: Black Lives Matter at Schools
Featuring members of the BLMAS National Steering Committee

Wednesday, Feb. 16
5:00p - 7:00p

Panel Discussion: Latino Identity and Anti-Blackness in the American Context -
This panel will feature a conversation between educators, activists, and community leaders.

Thursday, Feb. 17
7:00p - 8:30p

Panel Discussion: Presented by the Paul Robeson House and Museum
Making History: Documenting Everyday Acts of Black Resistance in Philadelphia

Friday, Feb. 18
1:30p - 3:00p

In Partnership with Central High's DEI Officer Elizabeth Williams
District-wide PD Webinar: Culturally Responsive Education - **CORNERSTONE**

Tuesday, Feb. 22
5:00p - 7:00p

Presentation by Angela Crawford and Karen Williams
Black Joy & AfroFuturism: Redefining our Identities as an Act of Resistance

Register HERE for the District hosted events above

Saturday, Feb. 5
11:00a - 12:00p

PD Opportunity: Black History Nerds Saturday School - **REGISTER HERE**
Available every Saturday in February

Thursday, Feb. 10
5:00p - 8:00p

African American Museum of Philadelphia and Council member Brooks Office present
Screening and Discussion of 13th - **REGISTER HERE**

CULTURAL AWARENESS & CELEBRATIONS FOR FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY RECOGNIZES BLACK HISTORY MONTH, AMERICAN HEART MONTH, HUMAN RELATIONS MONTH, AND NATIONAL CANCER PREVENTION MONTH

Feb 1: National Freedom Day - Commemorating the day that President Abraham Lincoln signed a resolution that proposed the 13th Amendment. This amendment outlawed slavery and was ratified on December 18th 1865.

Feb 1: Chinese New Year (Year of the Tiger) - This holiday is celebrated around the first new moon of the year. In the zodiac the tiger is a sign of strength and braveness, thus the year is thought to be a year of great change and risk-taking.

Feb 14: Valentine's Day- Established in the 5th century by the Pope to replace the Pagan holiday, Lupercalia, and to celebrate Saint Valentine. However, it was not until the middle ages that the holiday was associated with love and romance.

Feb 15: Nirvana Day- This is a Buddhist holiday that remembers the death of Buddha when he reached Nirvana at the age of 80. The day is typically celebrated by meditating. In monasteries it is a social holiday celebrated with food and gift giving.

Feb 20: World Day of Social Justice - This holiday was established by the United Nations in 2007. The day was established to express how crucial social justice is to creating and maintaining peace and security for all.

Feb 21: Presidents' Day - This holiday was established to celebrate George Washington and Abraham Lincoln who's birthdays both fall in the month of February. While Washington's birthday was unofficially celebrated after his death the holiday was we know it was not established until 1971.

DEI OFFICE UPDATES

Lunar New Year

Curriculum Resources

Happy Tiger New Year!
On February 1, the School District of Philadelphia will be closed in recognition of the Lunar New Year celebrated by a large number of our students and staff. The Office of Curriculum and Instruction has created this Curriculum Resource Guide for the Lunar New Year. It contains activities, lessons and resources for K-12.

Click Here to Access Curriculum Resources

Lunar New Year Events

- **Sat. Feb. 5, 7:30p-9p:** Virtual Lunar New Year Community Celebration Organized by Woori Center & NAKASEC. Suggested Donation Tickets can be reserved **HERE**.
- **Fri. Feb. 25, 5:30p-8:30p:** Chinese New Year Banquet Organized by Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation. Tickets can be purchased **HERE**.
- **Sat. Mar. 5 12p-4p:** Chinese Lunar New Year Celebration - 2022 - 虎年春节联欢 at Parkway Central Organized by WE Cultural Exchange Institute in collaboration with the Free Library of Philadelphia Reserve Free Tickets **HERE**.

Women's History Month Preview

The DEI Office is planning for Women's History Month! If you would like to help us plan for the month here are a few ways you can help:

- If your office or school is planning any events we would love to hear about it. Contact mgolobish@philasd.org
- Fill out **this form** to tell us about some of your favorite female driven media (books, podcasts, films, etc.)
- Send us a video of you answering the following prompt: "Being a woman means..." submissions can be sent **here**.