



EQUITY IS...

Monthly Newsletter of the SDP Equity Coalition

Women's History Month

I am not free while any woman is unfree, even when her shackles are very different from my own. - Audre Lorde

Women's History Month became a nationally recognized month of celebration in 1987. The celebration grew from a week long Women's History Month Celebration that started in the Sonoma, California School District in 1978. From there, President Jimmy Carter created a nationally recognized weeklong celebration for women in 1980. This grew into what we know of today as Women's History Month. This year, our theme for Women's History Month is “**Breaking the Bias: Philly Women at Work**”. We decided to focus on the amazing women who put in the work everyday, at home, in our schools, and in the workplace. We also want to acknowledge how much is still expected of women today. We strive to uplift these women and all women who are out there breaking barriers, getting outside of their comfort zone, and taking up all the space they deserve.



[Click Here to Find Resources on Women's History Month and Working Women](#)



Historical Spotlight: Harriet Tubman



Because Harriet Tubman was born into slavery, we do not know their exact date or year of her birth, historians believe she was born in 1825. While we do not know her exact birthday we do know about the many ways she broke barriers and helped many slaves find freedom. Last month the City of Philadelphia unveiled a statue outside of City Hall as a way to celebrate her work and all she represents. If you are interested in learning more the Office of Academics has released this curriculum guide.

[Resources can be found here](#)



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

This year the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is hosting several events highlighting women of Philadelphia

Tuesday, March 8th
5:00p - 6:00p

Reshaping the Narrative: Women working in non-traditional roles

Tuesday, March 15th
5:00p - 6:00p

Women Lead at the School District of Philadelphia

Tuesday, March 22nd
6:00p - 7:00p

SDP Families: Moms and beyond

Thursday, March 24th
6:00p - 7:00p

Fixing Her Crown: Resources for moms and families

Monday, March 28th
6:00p - 7:00p

SDP's Got Talent: A showcase of art created by young women

Thursday, March 31st
TBD

Trans Day of Visibility



[CLICK HERE to register for the events above](#)

CULTURAL AWARENESS & CELEBRATIONS FOR MARCH

MARCH RECOGNIZES WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH, ETHNIC EQUALITY MONTH, GENDER EQUALITY MONTH, GREEK-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH, IRISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH, NATIONAL COLON CANCER AWARENESS MONTH, NATIONAL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AWARENESS AND EDUCATION MONTH, NATIONAL KIDNEY MONTH

Mar 1: Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)- This day is in an annual celebration of the god Shiva, the god of destruction. It is honored to commemorate the oncoming summer. The day translates to "the great night of Shiva".

Mar 2: Ash Wednesday- A Christian holiday of prayer and fasting. It marks the first day of lent.

Mar 4: Employee Appreciation Day- This day is observed the first Friday of March to recognize the invaluable contributions employees make year round to their employers.

Mar 8: International Women's Day- This year's theme for the day is #breakthebias. In honor of imagining a world of gender equality, that is free of stereotypes. The day is meant to recognize the achievements of women all over the world.

Mar 15: Pi Day- Pi Day is a day to recognize the mathematical constant π (3.14). The day is often commemorated with the eating of pie.

Mar 17: St. Patrick's Day- This is an Irish holiday that commemorates the death of Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. The day is celebrated with food, parades, and wearing the color green.

Mar 19: Holi (Hindu)- Also known as the "festival of color". This is one of the most important festivals of the hindu year. Those who observe commemorate the return of spring with festivals and by throwing colored powder at each other.

Mar 21: Naw-Ruz- This translated to "New Day, and is the Baha'i New Year celebration.

Mar 25: International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade- This day serves as an observation of those who suffered and lost thier lives at the hands of brutal slave traders.

Mar 31: International Transgender Day of Visibility- This day is celebrated to honor those who identify as trans and to celebrate the many accomplishments and contributions of trans individuals.

Philly Happenings in March

The Library Company of Philadelphia: Thurs., March 10th, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.-The Diary of Elizabeth Drinker...and the People Who Have Studied It. Talk by Sarah Heim, Former Director of Research Services, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Free & Virtual. Register [HERE](#).



City Hall: Turs, March 10th, 1:00pm: Harriet Tubman's 200th Birthday Celebration- This is a FREE event that will have a tour, speakers, live performances, and a cake cutting ceremony to honor Harriet Tubman. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts-For Women's History Month Youth and Family Programs will be centered around the exhibit "Women in Motion 150 Years of Women's Artistic Networks at PAFA. Private tours can be booked [HERE](#). You can also register for a FREE virtual art making workshop on **March 13th** [HERE](#).



The Penn Museum- Starting March 23 from 6:30-8pm- The museum will host "The Deep Dig-The Real Housewives of Ancient Egypt" a four part class. Scholarships are available – Please send an inquiry to events@pennmuseum.org



Spotlight: The Betsy Ross House

Almost everyone is familiar with Betsy Ross and the making of the first American flag, but her story is so much more than one moment in 1776. Betsy Ross was a businesswoman and working mother who led a life filled with triumph and tragedy. In that way, she was representative of so many women of her time who, although largely forgotten by history, were the backbone of colonial America.

When you visit the Betsy Ross House, you might be surprised to realize just how much modern women have in common with their sisters from the past. They juggled jobs and chores and children just like today.

What is going on this month at the Betsy Ross House?

March is a great time to come see us! Each Saturday during Women's History Month, we are highlighting different aspects of women's history. A Full list of events can be found [HERE](#).

- **Saturday, March 5-** Meet the Women of the Betsy Ross House
- **Sundays, March 6-27-** Award-winning Once Upon A Nation Storytellers will share short, interactive tales that the history books missed from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Betsy Ross House, 239 Arch Street, is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Admission is \$7 for adults and \$6 for children/seniors/students. For more information about the House and its programs, visit <https://historicphiladelphia.org/>



DEI OFFICE UPDATES

DEI Website Blog

Calling all SDP writers! The DEI Office is adding a blog to their website and we want to hear from you. Send us work tied to diversity, equity, and inclusion!



[SUBMIT YOUR WRITING
HERE](#)

New DEI Mailing List

The Office of DEI has officially launched a mailing list. Stay up to date on events, polls, educational resources and more.



[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP FOR
OUR MAILING LIST](#)

Looking Ahead to April

"Equity Is" Podcast

The "Equity Is" Podcast will be back in April! We are looking to spotlight any schools, programs or initiatives focused on equity in the district. Let us know if you suggestions on who we should feature! [CLICK HERE TO TELL US ABOUT YOUR WORK](#)



This month the Office of DEI is honoring Celebrate Diversity Month! We want to celebrate diversity and focus on how it relates to inclusion and belongingness in the district

Let us know how your school or office is advancing diversity and what you might be planning for April! Email Tori Potenza at vpotenza@philasd.org