CULTURAL AWARENESS & CELEBRATIONS FOR MAY

MAY IS NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH, FOSTER CARE MONTH, AND ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

For classroom resources in honor and celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage month click HERE.

May 1: Beltane, an ancient Celtic festival celebrated on May Day, signifying the beginning of summer.

May 5: Cinco de Mayo, a Mexican holiday commemorating the Mexican army’s 1862 victory over France at the Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War (1861-1867). This day celebrates Mexican culture and heritage, including parades and mariachi music performances.

May 9: Laylat al-Qadr, the holiest night of the year for Muslims, is traditionally celebrated on the 27th day of Ramadan. It is known as the Night of Power and commemorates the night that the Quran was first revealed to the prophet Muhammad.

May 12-13 (sundown to sundown): Eid al-Fitr, the first day of the Islamic month of Shawwal, marking the end of Ramadan. Many Muslims attend communal prayers, listen to a khutuba (sermon), and give Zakat al-Fitr (charity in the form of food) during Eid al-Fitr.

May 17: International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, a global celebration of sexual-orientation and gender diversities.

May 21: World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, a day set aside by the United Nations as an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to learn to live together in harmony.

May 31: Memorial Day in the United States, a federal holiday established to honor military veterans who died in wars fought by American forces.

The District-Wide Surveys are now open! If you are a teacher, principal, school support staff, parent/guardian, or student in grades 3-12, please take the survey today! Click here or go to philasd.org/dws to get started! Surveys close on May 14.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Education is a progressive discovery of our own ignorance.”

-WILL DURANT
Maria Andrea Giraldo Gallo, a member of the Research/Systems Change/Policy sub-committee, suggested we read Cultural Proficiency: A manual for school leaders. Cultural Proficiency: A manual for school leaders was written by By Randall B. Lindsey, Kikanza Nuri Robins, and Raymond D. Terrell. It states, "Culture shapes behaviors, values, and institutions—and everyone is influenced by norms and expectations. To provide equitable education, educators must assess their own culture and learn to manage the dynamics of difference."

Ms. Giraldo Gallo stated that, "Our team did a book study in 2017 and we found very valuable contents and activities to do as a team. It helps administrators identify common mistakes when addressing diversity and inclusion. It gives specific examples on how other school districts have handled challenges around culture through case studies, and it has resources sorted by: expertise of the facilitator, readiness of the group, time of the activity."

Recommendations from our Equity Spotlight

Julio C. Nuñez:

Podcast: Nicole Hanna Jones for This American Life, The Problem We All Live With.

Book: Pedagogy of the Oppressed by Paulo Freire. It transformed my thinking.

COMMUNICATION & MARKETING

Create copy and edit March Newsletter, which will keep all Equity Committee members updated on what is going on in every subcommittee ad include a student interview for Equity Is Spotlight.

We are creating and working towards recording an "Equity Is" Podcast that will interview those doing equity work in Philly.

Building and writing the copy for the Equity Committee website.

Next Meeting: 5/04/21 at 3:45

WANT TO GET INVOLVED OR ADD SOMETHING TO THE UPDATES?

EMAIL EQUITY@PHILASD.ORG
April was Sexual Assault Awareness Month

We recognize that sexual assault is an ongoing issue that is not time bound. To commemorate Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the SAAM planning committee has put together a virtual gallery filled with art, poems, comics, and posters that speak to us. We are encouraging our SDP community to interact with the pieces that are there, share your own pieces of art or one’s that you love, and take some time to reflect on how we can create a culture of consent within SDP and beyond! Our hope is that this gallery can live as a growing archive of community voices that are often unheard and give us an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment as an organization to equity.

Additionally please find below some resources should you or someone you know experience sexual assault.

Click here to access the Gallery Walk

Click here to access resources for individuals experiencing sexual assault

Equity Partners Fellowship Kicks Off!

On Tuesday, April 27th our district launched the Equity Partners Fellowship, featuring an inaugural cohort of individuals from varying roles throughout the district. This fellowship includes teachers, students, and central office staff members. These 16 individuals will engage in a year long professional learning journey to infuse equity into their personal and professional practice. The Fellowship is a personalized, experiential learning opportunity designed to help educators and students create interpersonal, institutional, and ideological change around race and equity. It will develop, support, and sustain a group of diverse and exceptional students and leaders who are primed to drive transformational change in our District.

Click here to meet our inaugural cohort of Equity Partners Fellows