

NEWSLETTER

"At the end of the day, we can endure much more than we think we can." – Frida Kahlo

From the PA DEI Committee

Welcome to our first newsletter of the 22/23 school year. As part of our commitment to ensuring that all families at UNIS are included in the DEI journey, the Newsletter is an important tool and means of communication. It provides information and resources to promote diversity, equity and inclusion for us all.

As the PA DEI Committee continues to work to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion at UNIS, we would very much appreciate your insights and experiences. Please do not hesitate to send your ideas, suggestions, and feedback to the co-chairs:

Cynthia Muffuh - cynthia.muffuh@pa.unis.org

Shaneke Bains - shaneke.bains@pa.unis.org

If this is your first UNIS PA DEI Newsletter and you like what you read, you might be interested in previous Newsletters. You will find them [here](#).



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INVITATION TO JOIN THE PA DEI COMMITTEE - 2022/2023

Soon we will hold the first committee meeting of the new school year.

Please [reach out](#) if you like to be included!

SEPT 21

World
Gratitude
Day

SEPT 23

Native
American
Day

OCT 10

Indigenous
People
Day

OCT 24



DEI & UNIS Parents



This Newsletter is just one of the initiatives of the UNIS PA DEI Committee. In the next Newsletter, we will share more about the great work that has been done so far and our plans for this school year.

The 22/23 PA DEI committee Co-chairs



Shaneke Bains



Cynthia Muffuh

COMING SOON: the PA DEI Committee will be on Instagram @unispa-dei

DEI & UNIS Students



Especially in the Tut House, our students are very active in making a more inclusive school. You can follow all their initiatives on their Insta accounts.

@unisLsu	LatinX Student Union NEW
@eib-unis	Equity & Inclusion Board
@unisjsu	Jewish Student Union
@unisblack	Black Student Union
@blackatunis	Black at UNIS
@unis.saga.club	SAGA (Sexuality and Gender Awareness) Club

Find interviews with some of the students behind these accounts in [previous PA DEI newsletters!](#)

DEI & UNIS Administration & Faculty



On the [UNIS website](#) you can read more from our DEI Director Dr. Judith King-Calnek. Each section of the school has a DEI coordinator:

- Junior School - Mohammed Souali (msouali@unis.org)
- Middle School - Amílcar Barnett (abarnett@unis.org) & Gina Voskov (gvoskov@unis.org)
- Tut House - Joey Braccino (jbraccino@unis.org) & Julien Remy (jremy@unis.org)

LATINX / HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH: 09/15 - 10/15, 2022

UNIDOS: Inclusivity For A Stronger Nation



We celebrate LatinX Heritage Month or Hispanic Heritage month, which recognizes and honors the enduring contributions and importance of LatinX Americans to the U.S. and celebrates the many heritages and cultures of Americans from or with ancestors from Mexico, the Caribbean, Spain and Central and South America. The term “Latinx” relates to people of Latin American origin or descent and is used as a gender-neutral or non-binary alternative to Latino or Latina.

The celebration started on September 17, 1968, Congress passed Public Law 90-48, officially authorizing and requesting the president to issue annual proclamations declaring September 15 and 16 to mark the beginning of National Hispanic Heritage Week and called upon the “people of the United States, especially the educational community, to observe such week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.” President Lyndon B. Johnson issued the first Hispanic Heritage Week presidential proclamation the same day.

In 1988, Senator Paul Simon (D-Illinois), submitted a similar bill that successfully passed Congress and was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan on August 17, 1988. And on September 14, 1989, President George H.W. Bush (who had been a sponsor of the original Hispanic Heritage Week resolution while serving in the House in 1968) became the first president to declare the 31-day period from September 15 to October 15 as National Hispanic Heritage Month.

“Not all of the contributions made by Hispanic Americans to our society are so visible or so widely celebrated, however. Hispanic Americans have enriched our nation beyond measure with the quiet strength of closely knit families and proud communities,” Bush said.


Mid-September was chosen because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Also, Día de la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this 30 day period.

This month commemorates influences and contributions to American society at large. It is a way to appreciate Hispanic countries and the culture that each one has brought to the United States. It celebrates the cultures and traditions of those who trace their ancestry back to 20 countries in Latin America, including México, Central and South, and America, and the Caribbean.

The Latino past is as important to United States history, and as rich, as that of any group in U.S. society. As historian Vicki Ruíz has noted, “From carving out a community in St. Augustine in 1565, reflecting on colonialism and liberty during the 1890s, to fighting for civil rights through the courts in the 1940s, Spanish-speaking peoples made history within and beyond national borders.” Relevant scholarship on these and other topics has exploded since the 1980s, mirroring the demographic growth of the Latino population – which now stands at more than some 50 million U.S. residents – with important histories about Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Central Americans, Cuban Americans, and South Americans published every year. As those books and articles demonstrate, no brief summary can distill the diversity of this Latino population; the many ways in which these groups have shaped national institutions.

From the arrival of the Spanish in the 15th century into the early 21st century, Latinos have built missions and presidios; developed ranching, agricultural, and high-tech industries; written poetry, novels, and songs; preached on street corners and from pulpits; raised families; built businesses and labor unions; and supported politicians and critical national and international initiatives. Some trace their residency to Spanish-speaking or indigenous forebears who arrived in New Mexico or elsewhere prior to the establishment of the U.S. Others arrived more recently as immigrants or refugees in the 19th, 20th, or 21st centuries. Deeply embedded in economic and political life across many decades, Latinos have played instrumental roles in the development of the U.S., and public recognition of the Latino past is long overdue.

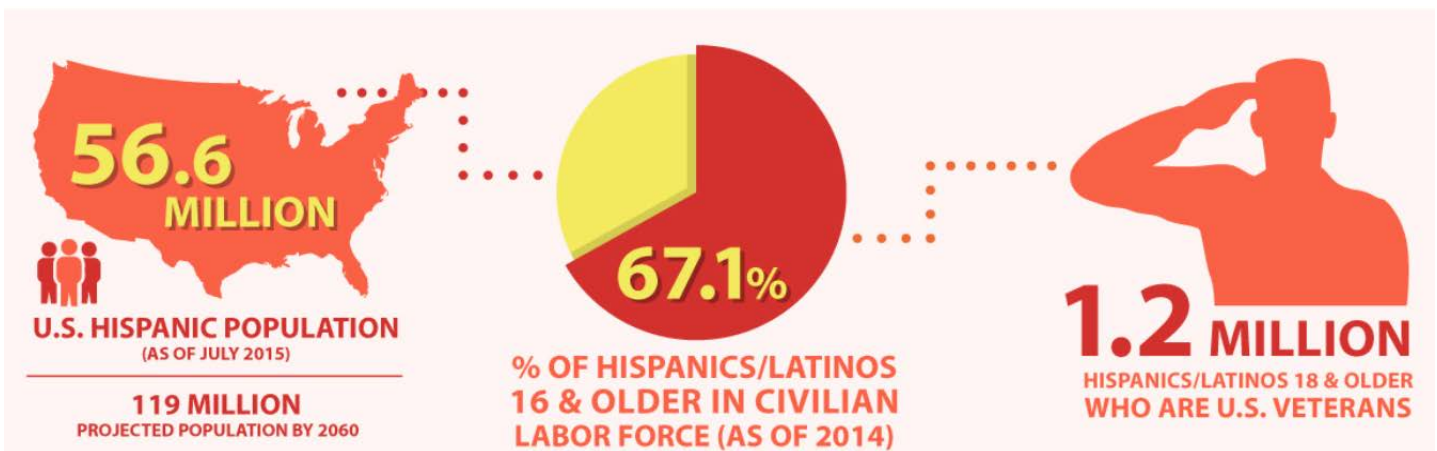
Sources: history.com, hispanicmonth.net, blackhistorynow.com, [Heritage Month Quotes](http://HeritageMonthQuotes.com), hispanicheritagemonth.gov, [CelebratingHHM](http://CelebratingHHM.com), thebronxchronicle.com, oprahdaily.com



*Join us to celebrate
75 years of UNIS*

*Saturday, 15 October 2022
7:00 - 10:00 p.m.*

*United Nations International School
24-50 FDR Drive, New York, NY 10010*



MUSEUM CORNER

Smithsonian Latino Center in Washington DC

The Smithsonian Latino Center unlocks dynamic U.S. Latino stories that shape the national experience and identity. It empowers a greater understanding and deeper appreciation for the enduring contributions of Latinos to the USA. It preserves a growing collection of diverse stories and experiences that reflect Latino presence in history and culture, and conveys conversations, inclusively, about the stories and connections that continue to inspire generations to come.



NATIONAL MUSEUM of the
**AMERICAN
LATINO**
Smithsonian



National Archives [Hispanic Heritage Select Photos](#) by David Valdez

HOW TO CELEBRATE LATINX / HISPANIC HERITAGE

In New York City

More than a quarter of New York City's population is Latino, with communities across the five boroughs hailing from every Latin American country. All over the city, you will find special events to learn more and celebrate this month and all year long.

The LatinX Experience in NYC: The city's page with an ever updated New York City's variety of Latino experiences, businesses and cultural offerings.

Hispanic heritage month: The 2022 agenda for events like the Latino Short Film Festival, Queens Culture Carnival, and the flagship 54th annual Hispanic Day Parade on October 14.

Nycgovparks: An overview of what's happening in NYC parks for Hispanic Heritage Month, art exhibits, talks, block parties, and more!

NewYorkPublicLibrary: Go to a New York Public Library to celebrate National Hispanic & Latinx Heritage Month with FREE events and programs: author talks and panels, book discussions, film screenings, and STEAM programs for kids, teens, and adults.

Hispanic Celebration: A cooking class on 09/15 in the Essex Market on the Lower East side as part of the monthly La Cocina de Loisaida series, where longtime Lower East Sider and home chef Maria Bido shares authentic Puerto Rican recipes and cooking techniques.

BOOK CORNER

In English and Spanish



Publisher Lee & Low Books celebrated Latinx & Hispanic culture through books all year long. But we are sharing their list for 2022 here in this Newsletter.

Penguin Random House Education celebrates Latinx & Hispanic Heritage Month, highlighting the works of their authors and illustrators from the Latinx and Hispanic community, whose stories and characters have a profound impact on our society.

LEE & LOW BOOK LIST 2022



PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE EDUCATION BOOK LIST



MOVIE CORNER



Great Latino Movies to Watch as a Family

No better time to (re)watch Disney favorites **Coco**, **Encanto** or **Vivo**. Or what about the musical movie **West Side Story**.

You will find more ideas on [Common Sense Media](#).



SPOTLIGHT

Ms. Camilo - JS Assistant Principal

I'm Ms. Alessandra Camilo, the Junior School Assistant Principal, and I joined the UNIS community in 2019.

I'm Brazilian, Gaucha from the state of Rio Grande do Sul*, and I'm happy to share with you about myself and the culture of my state and country. My mother tongue is Portuguese, even though all Brazil's neighbors are Spanish speakers. I can speak a mix of both, what we call in South America "Portuñol", the mix of Português and Español.

A cultural curiosity about myself is that, when I was six years old, I started to dance in a Gaucho's Folk Dance Group. This kind of dance group only exist in Gaucho Traditions Centers, the famous CTGs in my state. Throughout my 21 years dancing I learned multiple choreographies to tell through dance movements the history of the immigration in Rio Grande do Sul as well as how immigrants influenced the gauchos' people with their beautiful culture and traditions.

I learned how to dance twenty five folk dances. The groups I was part of, during my time from apprentice to amateur dancer, participated in several national and international competitions. We danced in Festivals in Italy, Portugal, Belgium, France, United States, Canada, Turkey, China, Argentina, Uruguay and Chile. My last international dance tourne was in 2009 in China, where we performed in thirteen different provinces. In the same year, my group won the annual biggest South American Dance Festival called ENART, Encontro de Arte e Tradição Gaúcha.



It was hard for me, after a life of dancing, to make the decision of stopping my participation in dance groups, but it was an important transition moment for my academic studies and professional preparation to become an educator.

It's been a long time since my last dance, but I would still take the risk with the same steps. The beat and the rhythm will be forever in my heart as well as in my proud gaucho's identity.

Below I'm sharing some pictures of this very special moments of my life.

*People born in Rio Grande do Sul are called *gaúchos*.





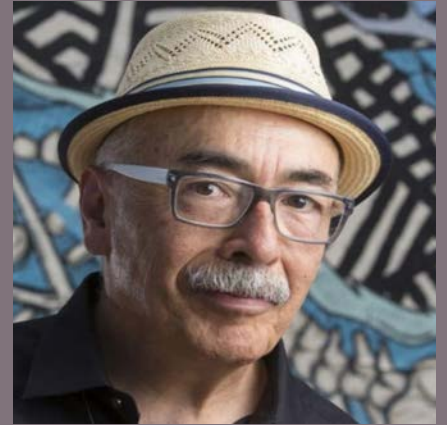
“The Latina in me is an ember that blazes forever.”

Justice Sonia Sotomayor



“To anybody who has ever questioned your identity ever, ever, ever, or you find yourself living in the gray spaces, I promise you this: There is indeed a place for us.”

Ariana DeBose



“Yes, I am the first Latino poet laureate in the United States. But I’m also here for everyone and from everyone. My voice is made by everyone’s voices.”

Juan Felipe Herrera



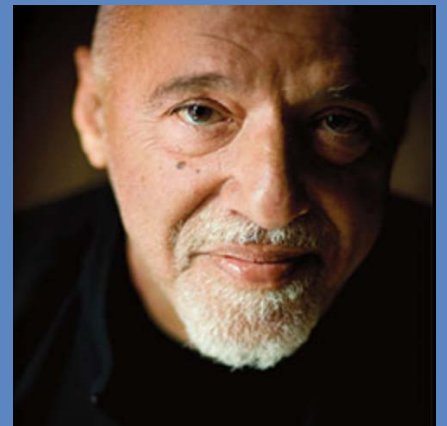
“When opportunity presents itself, grab it. Hold on tight and don’t let go.”

Celia Cruz



“I am the one thing in life I can control. I am inimitable – I am an original.”

Lin-Manuel Miranda



“Be Brave. Take Risk. Nothing can substitute experience.”

Paulo Coelho

SPOTLIGHT

Señorita Idoia Tapia Rubio

The Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee is happy to introduce Señorita Idoia Tapia Rubio, a Spanish teacher in the Junior School. Srta Tapia has been at UNIS for almost 19 years teaching Spanish in JS and specifically Language A for the last 3 years.

“I was born in the Basque Country, Spain and lived in Germany for 11 years. I have many passions and one of them is languages. I speak several and I am lucky enough to recognize that the one I speak best is shared by 21 culturally fascinating countries”. Srta Tapia believes that language is much more than words put together and that language contains worlds of meaning and ways of thinking that need to be honored and be treated respectfully. “Spanish has been nurtured and enriched by every single speaker through their own expressions, sounds and accents and no one language is over any other.

“Languages should be a way to understand each other, not to separate. Only by recognizing that we will be able to really communicate”

“In this Hispanic Heritage Month I want to pay tribute to each of these countries that share and make Spanish richer every day with their endless contributions. The following dialects gather the meaning and feeling of being **Grateful** and **Thankful!**



Añay - Quechua: an indigenous language of Peru

Tlazohtcamati - Nahuatl: an Aztecan language family

Yuum bo’otik - of the Yucatec Mayan language family

Yuspagara - Aymara: a Bolivian Andes language

Chaltu May - Mapudungun: an Araucanian language from central Chile

Grazas - Gallego: a Western Ibero-Romance language

Gràcies - Catalán: Valencian, is a Western Romance language

Eskerrik asko - Euskera: a Basque language

Gracias - Español

Muchas Gracias Srta Tapia!

COOKING

Recipe from the Monsanto Family

Our very own J4H parent Maria T Monsanto, has graciously shared her family recipe for Coquito, Puerto Rico's traditional and delicious Christmas drink & Tembleque - Puerto Rican coconut pudding.



!! 2 or 3 days before the preparation, add a few cinnamon sticks in the bottle of rum, to provide flavor to the rum. The sticks should be cut approx. ½, because with the alcohol they expand and cannot be taken out of the bottle.

Ingredients

- 1 Bottle of White Rum (750ml or 1L - depending how strong you want it)
- 6 Cans of carnation milk (or evaporated)
- 2 Cans of condensed milk (12-14 oz).
- 2 Cans of Coco Lopez (cream of coconut 11-12 oz)
- 1 to 1 ½ Tablespoons of Vanilla Extract
- Cinnamon sticks
- Grounded Cinnamon and/or Nutmeg.
- 4-5 bottles of glass (1 or 2 L) empty and clean (to store the Coquito).

Mixing Preparation

In a stainless steel pot or a glass container:

- Pour carnation (evaporated) milk, condensed milk, Coconut Cream, and vanilla extract and use a wip to mix the ingredients.
- Slowly add the bottle of rum while you continue whipping the ingredients. You can pour rum in the can and use a spatula to remove any left ingredients in the can.
- You can add optional liquors as per the section below.
- Then add Ground Cinnamon and/or nutmeg based on taste.
- Leave the mix in the container for 30 mins for the flavors to blend.

Bottling Instructions

- In the empty glass bottles, add the cinnamon sticks placed in the rum a few days before plus a few new sticks.
- After 30 mins have passed, mix the ingredients again to avoid any sediments in the bottom of the pot/container.
- Use a funnel to pour the Coquito into each of the bottles. Make sure the caps are closing well (tight).
- Place the bottles in the fridge laying down (not standing). Every 24hrs you must shake them and turn around to avoid sediment build up in the bottles.
- Please allow at least 2-3 days before serving the beverage so the flavors are properly mixed in the bottles.
- It can last up to 3 weeks in the fridge. The longer you wait the stronger it will get.

Low Fat Modifications (optional)

- You could use low-fat carnation milk but it will make the mix more liquid.
- You could replace one of the condensed milk for low-fat condensed milk. But the thickness of the mix will be greatly reduced.
- You can also add the following liquors to the mix preparation (will make the mix stronger): Amaretto (2-3 caps) Grand Manier (1-2 caps) if you like an orange flavor, Brandy (1-2 caps).

THE EASY VERSION - Tembleque

- 4 cups of undiluted coconut milk (from 2 coconuts or 1 can Coco Lopez is ok, too! (DIABETICS- TRY another CANNED COCONUT MILK... since Coco Lopez is very sweet!)
- ½ cup of cornstarch
- 2/3 cup of sugar (DIABETICS - try Equal or Nutrasweet... aspartame equivalent... use to taste) check with your MD.
- ½ tblsp of salt
- 1 tblspn. orange blossom water (optional)

In a saucepan, dissolve cornstarch and milk, then add the rest of the ingredients. Cook at medium-high heat, stirring constantly! As it thickens, lower heat until it boils thick. Pour right away into wet molds, pans or cups. Refrigerate for 2 hours. Top with cinnamon or candy sprinkles.



Now on Instagram!
UNIS LatinX Student
Union

SAVE THE DATE - UNIS UN DAY



On Friday, October 21st, our school will celebrate UN Day.

United Nations Day, officially on 24 October, marks the anniversary of the day in 1945 when the UN Charter entered into force.

Keep an eye out for your principal's newsletter to learn about special activities that day.

About the PA DEI Committee at UNIS

“The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee was formed during the 2020-2021 academic year to collaborate on efforts across the school community in support of the fundamental UNIS principle that acknowledging, understanding, respecting and accepting diverse beliefs, ethnicities, cultures, and lifestyles are critical underpinnings of a successful education.

This committee will work vigorously towards equal access for all community members to participate fully in the life of the school, particularly to better involve Black American families at the school and to bring to light current events related to racism in the U.S. and globally.”



MORE DEI at UNIS



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[@unisblack](#)
[@blackatunis](#)
[@unis.saga.club](#)

LatinX Student Union
 Equity & Inclusion Board - [unis.org/eib](#)
 Jewish Student Union
 Black Student Union
 Black at UNIS
 SAGA Club



[About UNIS - Diversity Equity Inclusion](#)

[To join the PA DEI Committee](#)