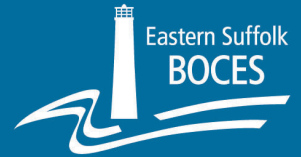


Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity

Advancing Equitable Opportunities



Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity | 201 Sunrise Highway, Patchogue, NY 11772 | 631-687-3028 | esbocesdei@esboces.org

February Cultural Heritage Highlights

"Black Resistance" is the theme for Black History Month 2023



Black History Month

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. History. Since 1976, every American President has endorsed a specific theme for Black History Month. The 2023 theme is "Black Resistance". This theme "acknowledges that black resistance strategies have served as a model for every other social movement in the country, thus, the legacy and importance of these actions cannot be understated."

Black History Month Events

[Ways to Celebrate Black History Month](#)

Black History Month Lessons and Resources

[Information about Black History Month](#)

ESBOCES DEI Virtual Event

Thursday, 2/16, in partnership with Brookhaven NAACP Branch, we will have a virtual event featuring Dr. Georgette Grier-Key, President of the Brookhaven NAACP Branch and Candace Pinn, President of Westchester Alliance of Black School Educators, on the topic "Long Island Black History and NYS Amistad Legislation." More information to follow.



Valentine's Day

For centuries, February has been known as the month of romance. On this day, people participate in the exchange of special gifts, such as flowers, with the most popular being red roses and chocolates. The exchange of Valentine's Day cards with declarations of love goes back to the 1500s, with people making their own handmade cards often decorating them with ribbons and lace. In the late 1700s, romantic cards started being commercialized. They usually depicted the images of hearts and cupid, the god of love. These images still prevail to this day as symbols of Valentine's Day.

To learn more about [Valentine's Day](#)



Presidents' Day

Presidents' Day was originally known as Washington's Birthday, is an American Federal Holiday that is celebrated yearly on the third Monday of February. Initially established as a federal holiday in 1885 to celebrate George Washington's birthday on the 22nd of February, it was changed in 1971 when it became known simply as Presidents' Day. It has been a tradition for decades for "George Washington's Farewell Address" to be read in the Senate annually.

To learn about the [History of Presidents' Day](#)



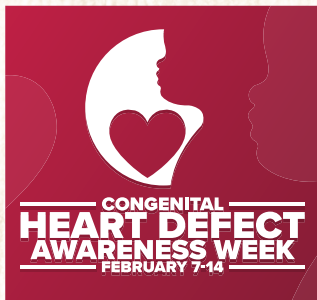
P.S. I Love You Day February 10, 2023

THEME: LOVE ALL YOUR CHAPTERS

The mission is to bring awareness to the importance of mental health and decrease bullying. By educating students earlier about mental health, the conversation will be easier to discuss and students will be able to recognize when they or others around them need help. On the second Friday of every February, communities are encouraged to wear purple in order to foster kindness and a welcoming environment, and educate others that mental health is just as important as physical health.

To find out more about [P.S. I Love You Day](#)

To register to get involved in [P.S. I Love You Day](#)



Congenital Heart Disease Awareness Week is February 7-14

This is a week to recognize children born with cardiac irregularities and highlight the treatments and advancements that have allowed these babies to survive and thrive.

To learn more about [Congenital Heart Disease Awareness Week](#)



National Freedom Day

It's National Freedom Day. The purpose of this holiday is to promote good feelings, harmony, and equal opportunity among all citizens and to remember that the United States is a nation dedicated to the ideal of freedom.

To learn more about the History of [Freedom's Day](#)

