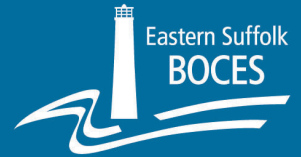


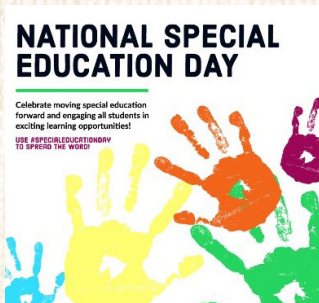
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity

Advancing Equitable Opportunities



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December Cultural Heritage Highlights



Special Education Day – December 2

Special Education Day was first observed on December 2, 2005, on the 30th anniversary of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act. It has since been observed every year as an important way to open up communication about how to advance special education by accommodating children with disabilities in ways that allow them to thrive in the classroom. *#SpecialEducationDay Shout out to everyone here at ESBOCES who supports our students and Special Education programs!*

[Find out more about Special Education Day at National Today](#)

[Explore Special Needs events on Long Island](#)

[Learn about celebrating Special Education Day in your school](#)



International Day of Persons with Disabilities – December 3

December 3 is recognized as International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) 2023. The theme this year is "United in action to rescue and achieve the sustainable development goals for, with, and by persons with disabilities".

Since its proclamation in 1992 the United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) has been celebrated annually on 3 December around the world.

The observance of the IDPD aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and to mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.

[Learn about NDIS services](#)

[Statement by the UNDP Administrator on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#)



Hanukkah – December 7-15, 2023

Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, lasts for eight days and nights. Hanukkah, which means "dedication," commemorates the miracle of light that occurred when Judah rededicated the Temple to the Hebrew God.

[Learn about Hanukkah on PBS Kids](#)

[Learn about Hanukkah on the History Channel](#)



Winter Solstice – December 21

The winter solstice has been an important occurrence for cultures around the world for thousands of years. The darkness of winter and return of sunlight has influenced yearlong calendars as well as winter customs, rituals, and storytelling. Cultures also created solar markers, structures, symbols, and communities to align with the sunlight of the solstices. Cultural heritage connected to the winter solstice can be found in many national parks today.

[About the Winter Solstice event at the Vanderbilt Museum and Planetarium](#)

[Read National Park Service article about the Winter Solstice](#)

[Watch a YouTube video about the Winter Solstice](#)



Christmas – December 25

Christmas, an annual holiday that commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ, is celebrated in unique ways in different countries. Shaped by cultural norms, Christmas celebrations often have local flair. In Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus, Christians display nativity scenes and mark their doors with crosses. They fill churches on Christmas Eve to watch an annual procession. In Syria, children wait for presents from the youngest of the three wise men's camels, not Santa. In Mexico, for example, Las Posadas is celebrated from December 16 to December 24, to commemorate Mary and Joseph's effort to find an inn and the events associated with the birth of Jesus.

[Interactive Map showing Christmas around the world](#)



Kwanzaa – December 26 - January 1

Heri Za Kwanzaa! Kwanzaa, celebrated from December 26 to January 1, is an African American and Pan-African seven-day cultural holiday that celebrates family and community. During the holiday, families celebrate with feasts, music, and dance, and end the holiday with a day dedicated to reflection and recommitment to the seven principles.

[YouTube Video All About the Holidays | Kwanzaa](#)

[Five Things you may not know about Kwanza on the History Channel](#)

