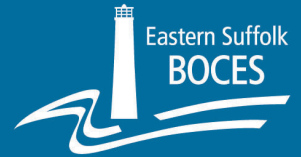


Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity

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 History Month

The 2024 theme is “African Americans and the Arts” spanning the many impacts Black Americans have had on visual arts, music, cultural movements, and more.

African American artists — poets, writers, visual artists, and dancers — have historically served as change agents through their crafts.

Find out more:

[Explore Black History Month on Long Island with events, resources, and social media](#)
[New York State Museum Black History Month 2024 events](#)



Career and Technical Education Month

NYS Senate Proclaims February 2023 Tech CTE Month. The Technology Student Association is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a career and technical student organization (CTSO). See [Six Ways to Celebrate Career and Technical Education Month®, or CTE Month®](#), a public awareness campaign that takes place each February to celebrate the value of CTE and the achievements and accomplishments of CTE programs across the country.

Find out more:

[NYS Senate Proclaimed February 2023 Tech CTE Month](#)



P.S. I Love You Day – February 9

We are humbled to see the world turn purple for the 14th annual celebration on February 9, 2024. The P.S. I Love You mission is to instill hope for those affected by mental illness, fostering a supportive environment and a community where everyone feels welcomed, loved, and supported. Always remember you are the gatekeeper of something so much bigger. P.S. We Love You.

[Learn more about the mission of P.S. I Love You Day](#)



Lunar New Year – February 10

The Chinese lunar new year begins February 10, 2024, and starts the Spring Festival season that ends fifteen days later on the evening of the Lantern Festival. 2024 is the Year of the Wood Dragon. The Chinese New Year also entails specific rituals. Such as giving red envelopes holding money to children, setting off firecrackers to scare off Nian, hanging upside down Fu posters for good fortune, and dragon and lion dances. Every year, sometime between late January and early February, an estimated 2 billion people across the globe, many of them in East and Southeast Asia, celebrate the Lunar New Year.

Find Out More:

[Year of the Dragon with the Smithsonian Museum virtual and in-person events](#)
[Visit the Smithsonian American Art Museum's online Lunar New Year Family Zone](#)



Ash Wednesday – February 14

This year, Ash Wednesday takes place on February 14, 2024, coinciding with Valentine's Day. Those who plan to get ashes will go to a church service and receive the ash crosses on their foreheads. The ashes are meant to symbolize both death and repentance in order to begin Lent in a solemn, humble way. All around the world, different cultures celebrate in different ways.

[Learn about the meaning of the cross of ashes with National Geographic](#)



Valentine's Day – February 14

For centuries, February has been known as the month of Romance, on the 14th 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.

Find out more:

For younger students: [Watch this video to learn more](#)

For high school students: [Watch this video to learn more](#)



International Childhood Cancer Day – February 15

In September 2018, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched the [Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer](#). This initiative aims to increase the global childhood cancer survival rate to at least 60% by 2030. It also aims to improve the quality of life for children with cancer.

[Learn about International Childhood Cancer Day from St. Jude's Hospital](#)



Presidents' Day – February 19

Presidents' Day honors all past presidents of the United States of America. Presidents' Day or officially 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.

[Learn about Presidents' Day on the History Channel](#)



Eating Disorders Awareness Week – February 26-March 1

This year's theme is, "Healing in Community." Community can be such a powerful tool in healing - we are so much better together.

The ultimate goal of NEDA (National Eating Disorders Association) Week, is to promote awareness of eating disorders and spread hope for those in recovery and their families. This year, it is observed from February 26 to March 1. It is an initiative by The National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA). Did you know that about 8% of the population of the United States suffers from eating disorders? Let's explore the significance of NEDA Week.

[Join the conversation on social media about food, body image, and exercise issues](#)

