

North Plainfield School District

Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Newsletter



FEBRUARY 2024
VOLUME 5



NORTH PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL STEP TEAM

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Why is Honoring Black History Month Important?

*"A people without the knowledge of their past history,
origin and culture is like a tree without roots."*

~ Marcus Garvey

- Black History Month is an opportunity to teach students and young people about Black and African-American contributions, as such stories and histories have been largely forgotten and are a neglected part of the national and curricular narrative.
- Honoring Black History Month also offers students a view of the potential in themselves and helps them to reimagine what possibilities lie ahead.
- Celebrating Black History Month helps to foster a sense of identity, highlight the resilience, and empowerment among Black and African-American individuals and communities.



DATES TO REMEMBER

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FEB 10

LUNAR NEW YEAR

FEB 14

VALENTINE'S DAY

FEB 15

PARINIRVANA DAY

FEB 19

PRESIDENT'S DAY



QUESTIONS TO
CONSIDER THIS
MONTH:



- AS WE GO THROUGH THE
CURRICULUM, DO WE TAKE THE
TIME TO CONNECT ISSUES IN
THE PAST TO CURRENT ISSUES?

- DO WE HAVE DIFFICULT
CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THE
UNRESOLVED ISSUES THAT
CONTINUE TO IMPACT THE
AFRICAN-AMERICAN
EXPERIENCE?

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO
INCORPORATE MISSING
PERSPECTIVES IN OUR STUDY OF
THE AMERICAN LANDSCAPE?



READING SHELF

All books are available in our school libraries and through the North Plainfield Public Library



DID YOU KNOW?

THAT NEW JERSEY PROVIDES EASY ACCESS TO A WEALTH OF BLACK HISTORY IN-STATE AND CLOSE BY...

- **Mount Zion AME Church in Gloucester County** was founded in 1799. A trap door under the church vestibule is a souvenir of the church's part in helping enslaved fugitives and its active participation in the Underground Railroad.

- **Thomas Mundy Peterson**, born in 1824 in Metuchen, NJ, is currently buried in Perth Amboy, NJ. **He was the first African-American to vote** in an election under the just-enacted provisions of the 15th Amendment!!

- Just 1 hour from New Jersey, you can find **The Tubman Byway**. **This byway includes The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park and Visitor Center, The Harriet Tubman Museum & Educational Center and Brodess Farm**, where Tubman spent her early years.

There are so many rich and meaningful historical spaces that connect with change agents/difference makers in our history like Harriet Tubman, within or in driving distance of NJ!! Find more sites **HERE!**



15 Books That Share the Experience of Black Americans

1. *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas (Ages 14-17)
2. *Firebird* by Misty Copeland (Ages 5-8)
<https://www.youtube.com/embed/9mJq16B8HGE>
3. *Stamped (For Kids)* by Jason Reynolds & Ibram Kendi (Ages 10-18)
4. *Felix Ever After* by Kacen Callender (Ages 15+)
5. *Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer* by Carole Boston Weatherford (Ages 9-13) <https://www.youtube.com/embed/MF-4xKmHiSo>
6. *The ABCs of Black History* by Rio Cortez (Ages 5-18)
<https://www.youtube.com/embed/S60i-DuOz34>
7. *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* by Christopher Paul Curtis (Ages 8-12)
8. *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison (Ages 15-18)
9. *Parker Looks Up* by Parker Curry (Ages 4-8)
<https://www.youtube.com/embed/k-OMcF3IHOM>
10. *Ruth and the Green Book* by Calvin Alexander Ramsey (Ages 7-11) <https://www.youtube.com/embed/COlPozCe710>
11. *The Undeclared* by Kwame Alexander (Ages 6-9)
<https://www.youtube.com/embed/BLvL4tDuvp8>
12. *Claudette Colvin: Twice Towards Justice* by Phillip Hoose (Ages 13-17)
13. *Ain't Burned All the Bright* by Jason Reynolds (Ages 12-17)
14. *Freedom Summer* by Deborah Wiles (Ages 4-8)
<https://www.youtube.com/embed/wWjrSYCSfLU>
15. *Dear Martin* by Nic Stone (Ages 14-17)



Celebrate **Black** HISTORY *month*

With these NORTH PLAINFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT EVENTS

February 7 - Special Grade level assemblies with Shaun Boothe of Unauthorized Biographies- HS Auditorium

February 20 - West End School's Black History Month Celebration
6:30pm

February 20-23 - Black History Month Spirit Week - NPHS

February 22 - Voices of North Plainfield
Middle school Celebration in the MS/HS Library 4pm

February 23- "A Taste of Soul" at East End School 5:30pm

February 26- High School BHM Read-In happening in the MS/HS
library

February 28 - Somerset Intermediate School's Black History Month
Celebration in the community room 6-8pm

February 29 - High School Black History Month Celebration
Theme: African-Americans in the Arts
Join us at 6pm in the HS cafeteria

