North Plainfield School District

Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Newsletter



FEBRUARY 2024 VOLUME 5



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 IO 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



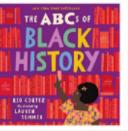








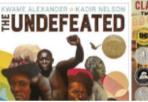




















15 Books That Share the Experience of Black Americans

- 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-Du0z34
- 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/COIPOzCe710
- 11. The Undefeated 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)



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 justenacted 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!**



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 <u>4pm</u>

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 <u>6-8pm</u>

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

