

North Plainfield School District

Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Newsletter



MARCH 2024
VOLUME 6



The Canuck Dance Company



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

As we celebrate Women's History Month, it is essential to recognize the significant contributions women have made throughout history and continue to make today. From pioneering advancements in science, technology, and medicine to leading social movements for equality and justice, women have consistently pushed boundaries and opened new doors. This year, the theme of Women's History Month is, "Women who Advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion". This theme recognizes women's advocacy as a source of societal changes that have expanded possibilities and moved history forward. Women have defied expectations and broken barriers, often while simultaneously honoring considerable familial and personal commitments. As educators, let's seize this opportunity to empower our students with the knowledge of these extraordinary people and achievements and encourage them to embrace the challenges of their own futures as opportunities for greatness.



DATES TO REMEMBER

WOMEN'S HERSTORY MONTH
Irish-American Heritage
Greek-American Heritage

- Mar 2
READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY
- Mar 8
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
- Mar 10
HARRIET TUBMAN DAY
RAMADAN (Begins at sundown)
- Mar 17
ST. PATRICK'S DAY
- Mar 19
MARCH EQUINOX /OSTARA
- Mar 21
WORLD POETRY DAY
- Mar 23
PURIM
- Mar 24
PALM SUNDAY
- Mar 25
HOLI
- Mar 29
GOOD FRIDAY
- Mar 31
EASTER

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER THIS MONTH:

WHERE IN THE CURRICULUM DO THE VOICES, EXPERIENCES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF WOMEN DISAPPEAR?

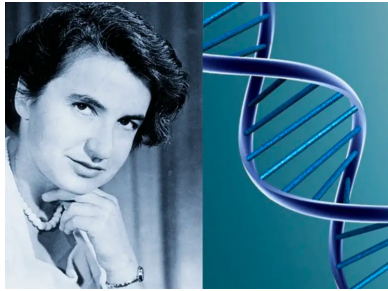
HOW HAVE DIFFERENT IDENTITY GROUPS OF WOMEN (RACE, RELIGION, ORIENTATION, CLASS, DISABILITY, ETC) BEEN EXCLUDED OR INCLUDED THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN THE US??

WHAT IS THE LEGACY OF THE WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT? INTERSECTIONALLY, HOW DOES THIS IMPACT WOMEN ACROSS RACIAL, RELIGIOUS, ORIENTATION, ECONOMIC AND ABILITY LINES?

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

WOMEN YOU MAY NOT HAVE LEARNED ABOUT IN HISTORY BUT HERE IS "HERSTORY"

Rosalind Franklin is the forgotten woman behind the discovery of the double helix structure of DNA. Francis Crick and James Watson get most of the credit for this, however, his important discovery wouldn't have happened without Franklin who used her skills in X-ray crystallography to capture a clear and concise picture of the DNA. Her picture was seen by



Watson who wrote in his memoir that "The instant [he] saw the picture [his] mouth fell open and [his] pulse began to race." In 1958 Watson, Crick, and Wilkins were awarded the Nobel Prize without any mention of or thanks to Franklin.

Mary McLeod Bethune served on FDR's "Black Cabinet" working as an activist for education and civil rights. With this position, she became the first Black woman to hold a high position in the US government and was able to work as a civil rights activist fighting for civil rights and better education. In her "Last Will and Testament," which was a penned reflection on her life, she wrote, "*I leave you a thirst for education. Knowledge is the prime need of the hour.*"



Frances Perkins was an American workers-rights advocate who served as the fourth United States Secretary of Labor from 1933 to 1945, the longest serving in that position. Perkins was the first woman ever to serve in a presidential cabinet. During several years in Washington DC, she worked to end child labor, start the federal minimum wage, and implement social security. She changed the work force as America knew it and made leaps for women in politics.



On March 2, 1955, Claudette Colvin refused to give up her seat for a white passenger—nine months before Rosa Parks would do the same. The 15-year-old Colvin was arrested for violating Montgomery, Alabama's segregation laws, and her family feared for their safety as news of the incident spread. While Colvin wasn't selected by the NAACP to challenge segregation laws in the south due to her youth, she later became one of the four plaintiffs in *Browder v. Gayle*, which ruled that the Montgomery segregated bus system was unconstitutional.



DID YOU KNOW?



DID YOU KNOW THERE ARE STORIES AND POEMS ABOUT A YOUNG GIRL NAMED SYBIL LUDINGTON WHO TOOK A MIDNIGHT RIDE VERY SIMILAR TO THAT OF PAUL REVERE'S?

Though there is little recorded evidence beyond journal entries and letters, accounts persist of Ludington's ride on April 26, 1777, during a driving rainstorm, traveling forty miles to warn the local militia near Danbury of an impending British attack on their weapons stores.

She was only 16 years old at the time and her father Henry, was a Colonel in the militia in command of 400 men.

Sybil returned home safely, later married, lived and died in relative obscurity until an account of the event was found in a letter almost 100 years later.

A statue commemorating her ride can be found along the banks of Lake Glenida in Carmel, New York