

North Plainfield School District

Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Newsletter



APRIL 2024
VOLUME 7



SOMERSET AND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS AT KEAN UNIVERSITY

THE 2024 ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

was hosted by the Diversity Council on Global Education and Citizenship at Kean University. The program featured a keynote speaker and cross-district collaboration on matters of acceptance, countering hate, and honoring diversity. Students from Kittatinny Regional High School presented on their Holocaust Resource Center, memorials dedicated to survivors, and their "Wall Of Hope". They introduced genocide information about The Holocaust and the Rwandan Genocide, Cambodian Genocide with maps, timelines, commemorative events, and artwork. Their presentation inspired change-makers to improve their own communities. .

North Plainfield Middle and Somerset School students teamed up with peers from districts across New Jersey to tackle challenges they experience at their own schools. They began the process of creating action plans and were encouraged to think big about the issues identified at their schools. Students were encouraged to find ways to:

- Become stronger leaders
- Get involved with the Diversity Council
- End bullying
- Promote peace and end war
- Remember survivors of war and other experiences
- Represent and respect diverse cultures in the classroom
- Advocate for disability awareness



ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH, celebrated in April, recognizes and honors the contributions, culture, and history of Arab Americans to the United States. It serves as a platform to raise awareness about the diverse Arab American community and their impact on various fields such as art, literature, science, business, politics, and more. This month-long celebration aims to promote understanding, appreciation, and respect for Arab American heritage and to foster inclusivity and cultural diversity within American society. It also provides an opportunity to address issues faced by Arab Americans and to celebrate their rich cultural heritage and traditions.



DATES TO REMEMBER

ARAB-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Autism Acceptance Month

Multilingual Learner Month

April 2
AUTISM ACCEPTANCE DAY

April 9
END of RAMADAN

April 9 - April 10
EID AL-FITR

April 12
DAY OF SILENCE

April 19 - May 1
RIDVAN

April 22
EARTH DAY

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER THIS MONTH:

WHERE IN THE CURRICULUM DO THE VOICES, EXPERIENCES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF ARAB AMERICANS AND AUTISTIC/ NEURODIVERSE INDIVIDUALS DISAPPEAR?

HOW HAVE ARAB AMERICANS BEEN EXCLUDED OR VILIFIED THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD AND THE UNITED STATES?

WHAT HAS BEEN THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND LEGACY OF THE ARAB WORLD AND NEURODIVERSE PEOPLE TO OUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY?

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO INCORPORATE THESE MISSING CONTRIBUTIONS AND 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 ALGEBRA IS AN ARABIC WORD!

IN FACT, THE FATHER OF ALGABRAIC MATHEMATICS WAS A MAN NAMED AL-KHAWARIZMI WHO LIVED AND WORKED IN BAGHDAD. HE WROTE A BOOK WITH DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS FOR SOLVING LINEAR AND QUADRATIC EQUATIONS, INTRODUCED THE EUROPEAN WORLD TO THE HINDU- ARABIC NUMERALS (0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9) & THE CONCEPT OF ALGEBRA, BRINGING EUROPE OUT OF THE DARK AGES.

YOU CAN SAY "EID MUBARAK"

TO WISH SOMEONE A HAPPY EID AT THE END OF RAMADAN!



THE INFINITY SYMBOL IS REPLACING THE PUZZLE PIECE

IN FEBRUARY 2018, THE PUZZLE PIECE WAS REPLACED WITH A RAINBOW-COLORED INFINITY SYMBOL TO REPRESENT A SPECTRUM, DIVERSITY, AND DIFFERENCE. LET'S REPRESENT AUTISM ACCEPTANCE AND HONOR PEOPLE ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM AND EMBRACE ALL NEURODIVERSE PEOPLE!



- 1- Lailah's Lunchbox: A Ramadan Story by Reem Faruqi (Ages 6-8) https://www.youtube.com/embed/rjZ_EpecEkk
2. Planet Omar: Accidental Trouble Magnet by Zanib Mian (Ages 7-10)
3. Wishtree by Katherine Applegate (Ages 8-13)
4. Sitti's Secrets By Naomi Shihab Nye (Ages 5-8) <https://www.youtube.com/embed/tXb8i2Oz1t0>
5. Americanized: Rebel Without A Greencard by Sara Saedi (Ages 14-17)
6. Power Forward by Hena Kahn (Ages 7-10)
7. Saints and Misfits by S.K. Ali (Ages 14-17)
8. Crescent Moons & Pointed Minarets by Hena Kahn (Ages 3-5) <https://www.youtube.com/embed/d0GhNdow0jA>
9. The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Raúf (Ages 8-13)
10. Counting Up the Olive Tree by Golbarg Bashi (Ages 3-5) <https://www.youtube.com/embed/OVf5GxYAMbs>
11. Deep in the Sahara by Kelly Cunnane (Ages 4-8) <https://www.youtube.com/embed/C4O5Koyu-KQ>
12. Down and Across by Arvin Ahmadi (Ages 12-17)
13. Other Words for Home by Jasmine Warga (Ages 8-12)
14. The Arabic Quilt by Aya Khalil (Ages 6-8) <https://www.youtube.com/embed/XnNfG8RVldg>
15. Where the Streets Had a Name by Randa Abdel-Fattah (Ages 8-13)
16. Baddawi by Leila Abdelrazaq (10-adult) *My personal reading this month.*

