

RIDER EQUITY BUZZ

THE EQUITY OFFICE NEWSLETTER

Jan 2021



Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald Reads to Elementary Students for the Holidays

Dr. Fitzgerald shared some of his favorite holiday books by reading aloud to elementary students via the [Caesar Rodney School District's YouTube channel](#). Dr. Fitzgerald read the following books: "My Teacher is an Elf" by Joey and Melanie Acker; "The Gingerbread Pirates" by Kristin Kladstrup; "The Night Before Christmas" by Clement C. Moore; "How Santa Got His Job" by Stephen Krensky; "Santa is Coming to Delaware" by Steve Smallman; and "My First Kwanza" by Karen Katz



THE EQUITY CORNER

Socio-Economic influences affect the classroom from multiple angles.

As educators we aim to provide a learning environment that promotes scholastic success. We look for a partnership between the school and the homes of our students. We also ask that students enter our classroom prepared to learn. Unfortunately we don't always think about how environmental influences like socio-economic status can impact the learning environment.

The current climate charged by the coronavirus has illuminated some of the challenges that socio-economic status can bring. It is not only possible, but very likely that students are now being relied upon to be a part of the income equation in some house-holds. This may require their educators to be flexible with assignment deadlines and attendance policies.

In an environment where learning is taking place on virtual platforms inequities in learning spaces present challenges that embarrass some students when required to share their cameras. [Continues on Page 2]

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Associated Press, [Feb. 22.] 1956. New York World-Telegram & Sun Collection. Prints & Photographs Division

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Many students have multiple siblings attempting to learn virtually. It may be hard for these students to have privacy and spaces void of ambient noise.

[Child Fund International](#) provides the following data pertaining to poverty and education in the United States:

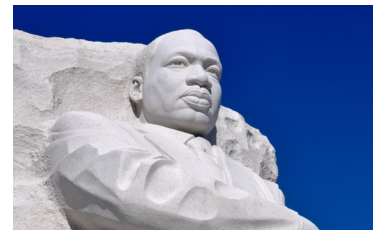
- The poverty rate in U.S. is close to 15%, meaning 1 in 6 Americans live at or below the poverty level.
- More than 1 in 5 children in the U.S are living in poverty
- The poverty rate for single-mother households is 31%, meaning almost 1 in 3 single mothers live in poverty.
- 6.8 million children, or about 1 in 11 of all children in the U.S., live at 50 percent below the federal poverty line.
- 30% of children raised in poverty do not finish high school.
- People who do not earn a high school diploma by age 20 are 7 times more likely to be persistently poor between ages 25 and 30.
- Children who grow up impoverished complete fewer years of schooling and earn much lower income than people who did not grow up poor.
- Children who grow up poor in the U.S. are more likely to be in poor health.

If we can better understand the impact of poverty on the education of our students, we can better recognize the unique challenges facing some of the students we serve.

The Caesar Rodney School District is currently participating in several initiatives targeted at ensuring equity for students from economically distressed households such as visiting teachers to aid and assist students with distance learning challenges; supplemental nutrition offerings

continued: including the district-wide summer nutrition program and food pantry sites within several of our schools; mobile hotspots to increase connect ability for students with limited internet access; and teachers throughout the district are offering extended office hours to assist student needing increased access to our instructional staff.

MLK Day 2021



The Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on Jan. 18, 2021, is the 26th anniversary of the day of service that celebrates the Civil Rights leader's life and legacy. Observed each year on the third Monday in January as "a day on, not a day off," MLK Day is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities. [Learn more](#)



International Holocaust Remembrance Day

International Holocaust Remembrance Day is an international memorial day on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 commemorating the tragedy of the Holocaust that occurred during the Second World War. It commemorates the genocide that resulted in the deaths of 6 million Jews and 11 million others, by the Nazi regime and its collaborators.

To the anti-Semitic Nazi leader Adolf Hitler, Jews were an inferior race, an alien threat to German racial purity and community. After years of Nazi rule in Germany, during which Jews were consistently persecuted, Hitler's "final solution"—now known as the Holocaust—came to fruition under the cover of [World War II](#), with mass killing centers constructed in the concentration camps of occupied Poland. Approximately six million Jews and some 5 million others, targeted for racial, political, ideological and behavioral reasons, died in the Holocaust. More than one million of those who perished were children. ([The History Channel](#))

The National Archives is the international epicenter of Holocaust-related research. NARA holds millions of records created or received by the U.S. Government during and after World War II that document Nazi war crimes, wartime refugee issues, and activities and investigations of U.S. Government agencies involved in the identification and recovery of looted assets (including gold, art, and cultural property)—as well as captured German records used as evidence at the Nuremberg International Military Tribunals. We not only hold these records, we provide access to them. ([US National Archives](#))



LOOKING AHEAD

February 1: National Freedom Day, which celebrates the signing of the 13th Amendment that abolished slavery in 1865. [Learn more](#)

February 3: St. Blaise Day (The Blessing of the Throats), the feast day of St. Blaise of Sebaste celebrated by the Roman Catholic Church and some Eastern Catholic churches. [Learn more](#)

February 3: Setsubun-Sai (Beginning of Spring), the day before the beginning of spring in Japan, celebrated yearly as part of the Spring Festival. [Learn more](#)

February 8: Lantern Festival, the first significant feast after the Chinese New Year, named for watching Chinese lanterns illuminate the sky during the night of the event. [Learn more](#)

February 8-March 9: Magha Puja Day (also known as Maka Bucha), a Buddhist holiday that marks an event early in the Buddha's teaching life when a group of 1,250 enlightened saints, ordained by the Buddha, gathered to pay their respect to him. It is celebrated on various dates in different countries. [Learn more](#)

February 9-10 (sundown to sundown): Tu B'shevat, a Jewish holiday recognizing "The New Year of the Trees." It is celebrated on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shevat. In Israel, the flowering of the almond tree usually coincides with this holiday, which is observed by planting trees and eating dried fruits and nuts. [Learn more](#)

February 14: St. Valentine's Day, a Western Christian feast day honoring one or two early saints named Valentinus. Typically associated with romantic love and celebrated by people expressing their love via gifts. [Learn more](#)

February 17: Presidents Day, a federally recognized celebration in the United States of George Washington's birthday, as well as every president proceeding Washington. [Learn more](#)

February 21: Maha Shivarati, Hindu festival celebrated each year to honor Lord Shiva. It is celebrated just before the arrival of spring. It is also known as the Great Night of Shiva or Shivaratri and is one of the largest and most significant among the sacred festival nights of India. [Learn more](#)

February 25-March 1: Intercalary Days or Ayyám-i-Há, celebrated by people of the Bahá'í faith. At this time, days are added to the Bahá'í calendar to maintain their solar calendar. [Learn more](#)

February 25: Mardi Gras, the last day for Catholics to indulge before Ash Wednesday starts the sober weeks of fasting that accompany Lent. The term "Mardi Gras" is particularly associated with the carnival celebrations in New Orleans, Louisiana. [Learn more](#)

Contact Us

Give me a call for more information about equity and diversity items and ideas.

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