

# RIDER EQUITY BUZZ

THE EQUITY OFFICE NEWSLETTER

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## POSTLETHWAIT IS TOP 5

Postlethwait Middle School was recently recognized by the sports entertainment icon ESPN as a Top 5 Special Olympics Unified Champion School for excellence in inclusion of students with disabilities. Postlethwait was selected from a field of more than 7,600 Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools. It is the first time a Delaware school has earned this honor. Postlethwait was accompanied by Theodore Roosevelt High School (Des Moines, IA); University of Minnesota Twin Cities (Minneapolis, MN), Mayfield High School (Las Cruces, NM); and Champlain Valley Union High School (Hinesburg, VT).

Inclusion is a foundational pillar of equity in the education setting.



*"Being recognized as a [Unified Champion School] is a true testament to the school and community that Postlethwait Middle School is committed to ensuring that all students have an opportunity to participate in a program where everyone is welcome and [everyone] belongs," - Kristina Failing, Principal*

## THE EQUITY CORNER

As educators we must remember that the students are our "why!" They are the reason we commit to doing this work. We must be mindful that equity is not about giving all students the same tools to succeed, it's about giving each student the tools necessary to enable her/him to succeed.

Equitable learning environments are much like a tailored suit in the fact that it may look very similar to another, but it is unique. It may have the same color, fabric, and pattern, but the fit is custom designed to the dimensions of the person. Equitable learning environments are specifically tailored to the needs of each student to foster an environment conducive to that individual's success.

### In This Issue

- Postlethwait Is Top 5
- The Equity Corner
- Native American Heritage Month
- Transgender Day of Remembrance
- Shirley Chisholm
- Looking Ahead



## Native American Heritage Month

On August 3, 1990, President of the United States George H. W. Bush declared the month of November as National American Indian Heritage Month, thereafter commonly referred to as Native American Heritage Month. During this month we call upon Federal, State and local governments, groups, organizations and the citizens of the United States to celebrate the contributions and culture of America’s indigenous people with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.” [Learn more](#)

## A Local Presence to Celebrate

We are extremely fortunate to have a local presence of the indigenous people of Kent County represented by the Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware. The local Lenape are led by their Principal Chief and Under Chief. Their mission is to protect the cultural identity of the Lenape people of Delaware and to promote their physical and economic health of their citizens through specialized health and economic development programs tailored to their needs. We also advocate for the civil and human rights of our community and our citizens. [Learn more](#)



County representatives of the Lenape Tribe of Delaware are led by Dennis J. Coker. Coker’s leadership to protect the culture of the Lenape people through educational programs and the physical and economic health of their citizens through specialized health and economic development programs tailored to their needs. We also advocate for the civil and human rights of our community and our citizens. [Learn more](#)

## LGBTQ+

Transgender Day of Remembrance

November 20th is Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR).

(TDoR) is a day to memorialize those who have been killed as a result of transphobia, or the hatred or fear of transgender and gender non-conforming people, and acts to bring attention to the continued violence endured by the transgender community.

The Transgender Day of Remembrance was founded in 1998 by Gwendolyn Ann Smith. [Learn more](#)



## '72 CHISOLM FOR PRESIDENT

Shirley Chisholm had long been known for breaking barriers. Four years before, she'd become the first black U.S. Congresswoman in history as a Representative of her New York district. When she launched her primary campaign in January of '72, she became the first black person to seek the presidential nomination from one of the two major parties (the first woman was Margaret Chase Smith, who sought the Republican nomination in 1964). Her slogan was: "Unbought and Unbossed."

Her opponents were all white men, but there was one in particular who stood out in relation to her: George Wallace, the former governor of Alabama who famously called for "segregation now, segregation tomorrow and segregation forever." It was incredible that a black woman and the man who had been the face of southern segregation were competing in the same primary.

Chisholm arrived at the Democratic convention with 152 delegates, far too few to win the nomination but her candidacy opened the door for other Black and female candidates to run for President.



## SHIRLEY CHISHOLM: AN AMERICAN [S]HERO

Born in Brooklyn, NY in 1924, Shirley would split time between her place of birth and the West Indian home of her parents (Barbados). It was during her time in Barbados that she received her early education in a one-room school house. It was that experience that she credited for her ability to write and speak well. Shirley would later return to her birthplace in 1934.

Shirley would complete her high school education and earn a bachelor's degree in Brooklyn, NY before going on to earn a master's degree from Columbia University. Upon completion of her studies, Shirley held various positions in early childhood education in Brooklyn and Manhattan, including running day care centers. In the late 1950s and 1960s she got involved in local politics, including the League of Women Voters.

Chisholm's first elected position was as a member of the New York State Assembly from 1965-68. After her time in the Assembly, Chisholm decided to make a run for Congress in 1968. She became the first black woman elected to Congress, as well as the first black representative from Brooklyn. She would go on to be reelected six times and have a very productive career as a representative before retiring in 1982.

[Learn more](#)

# LOOKING AHEAD

**December 1:** World AIDS Day, commemorating those who have died of AIDS, and to acknowledge the need for a continued commitment to all those affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. [Learn more](#)

**December 3:** International Day of Disabled Persons, designed to raise awareness in regards to persons with disabilities in order to improve their lives and provide them with equal opportunity. [Learn more](#)

**December 10:** International Human Rights Day, established by the United Nations in 1948 to commemorate the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. [Learn more](#)

**December 10-18:** Hanukkah, a Jewish holiday that is celebrated around the world for eight days and nights. Hanukkah celebrates the victory of the Maccabees, or Israelites, over the Greek-Syrian ruler, Antiochus, approximately 2,200 years ago. [Learn more](#)

**December 25:** Christmas Day, the day that many Christians associate with Jesus' birth. For more than two millennia, people around the world have been observing it with traditions and practices that are both religious and secular in nature. [Learn more](#)

## Contact Us

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

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