

MCCSD DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year! Welcome to the January/February edition of the Middle Country Central School District's Equity and Diversity Newsletter! This month's newsletter is intended to inform the MCCSD community about events that occurred in November and December, and to highlight Poverty in America Awareness Month in January and Black History Month in February. We will also share resources, community events and upcoming religious and cultural observances.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER RECAP

November was National American Indian & Alaskan Native Heritage Month, a celebration of the cultures, accomplishments, and contributions of Native Americans and Alaska Natives. For more information, [click here](#).

December was Universal Human Rights Month, which honors the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This international document states all human beings are entitled to fundamental rights and freedoms. For more information, [click here](#).

JANUARY IS POVERTY IN AMERICA AWARENESS MONTH

Character Education Word of the Month:
Caring

For the month of January, organizations, charities, and local programs raise awareness to the growth of poverty in America. Currently, more than 40 million Americans live below the poverty line, more than 10 million are children, and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of senior citizens struggling with hunger has increased.

To learn more and/or to support this cause, click the following links for organizations that contribute to our local communities:

- [Island Harvest](#)
- [Long Island Cares](#)
- [Nana's House](#)

For nationwide organizations, click the links below:

- [Feeding America](#)
- [Feed the Children](#)
- [Meals on Wheels America](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MCCSD?

During the holiday season, teachers and students decorated their classroom doors. Here is Mrs. Miller's festive classroom door at Selden Middle School!



Dawnwood Middle School is holding their Annual Winter Jacket Drive from January to February. Thank you for all contributions!

Students are invited to write for our newsletter! Here is an article written by a 5th grade Holbrook Road Elementary School member of the Junior Leaders of Holbrook club.

Kindness by Ryan Khan

Did you know that you can be mean to someone without even realizing it? Everyone should give kindness to others, and they should give it back. Kindness can be many things. Kindness can be shown by helping others, including others, and the way you treat others. You can show kindness at home by helping and respecting your parents. At school you can show kindness by listening to your teacher and listening to your friends. You can show kindness to your neighbors by waving hello, or by inviting them to do something with you. Kindness is important because if you are not kind, you can hurt others' feelings, and no one deserves that. You should be kind to others if you want them to be kind to you. Remember to always be kind.

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**Character Education Word of the Month:
Honesty**

February is Black History Month! Dr. Carter G. Woodson, an activist, author, historian, and scholar, founded the concept of Black History Month in 1925. He has since been referred to as the “Father of Black History” for his contribution to the national acknowledgement and celebration of African Americans’ experiences, histories and achievements in American history. For more information, [click here](#).

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Middle Country Library is offering a variety of programs for all ages to honor Black History Month in February. For more information and/or to register, [click here](#).

Here is a list of a few programs that they offer:

For Adults:

- Hip Hop, Jazz and Doo Wop: A Virtual Tour of the Morrisania Neighborhood – 2/9/22 @ 7:00pm via Zoom

For Teens (7th – 9th Grade):

- Black History Month: Book Discussion: Before the Ever After – 2/22/22 @ 6:15pm via in-person

For Children (4th – 6th Grade):

- Class Act: A Book Discussion – 2/22/22 @ 5:00pm via in-person

PREVIOUS RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL OBSERVANCES

November

- Nov. 4: Diwali
- Nov. 11: Veteran’s Day
- Nov. 25: Thanksgiving
- Nov. 28 (sundown) – Dec. 6: Hanukkah

December

- Dec. 24: Christmas Eve
- Dec. 25: Christmas Day
- Dec. 26 – Jan. 1: Kwanzaa

UPCOMING RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL OBSERVANCES

January

- Jan. 1: New Year’s Day
- Jan. 17: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February

- Feb. 1: Chinese (lunar) New Year
- Feb. 14: Valentine’s Day
- Feb. 21: President’s Day

BOOK CLUB

Children’s Books

- *Firebird* by Misty Copeland
- *Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story* by Kevin Noble Maillard

Young Adult

- *What Lane?* by Torrey Maldonado
- *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan

