
MCCSD EQUITY AND DIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

Team Middle Country,

Welcome to the first edition of the Middle Country Central School District's Equity and Diversity Newsletter! This newsletter is intended to feature equity-driven initiatives and events across the District and in our greater community; recognize upcoming holidays and observances; and share equity-based resources. The March/April issue will highlight Gender Equality Month, Celebrate Diversity Month, resources, community events and upcoming religious and cultural observances.

MARCH IS GENDER EQUALITY MONTH

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

Gender Equality Month is a global initiative promoting gender equality and women empowerment. Presidential proclamation is issued every year in the month of March to honor women's extraordinary contributions in American history. The National Women's History Alliance selects an annual theme for this recognition and celebration. Because many women's suffrage centennial celebrations originally scheduled for 2020 were limited, the theme for 2021 has been extended to **Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to Be Silenced**. You can read more [here](#).

**“Women recognize their rights,
proudly raise their chins,
and face the struggle.”**

Jovita Idar



Jovita Idar (1885-1946)
Teacher, journalist, nurse, and civil rights activist

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The 20th Annual Women's EXPO presented by the Middle Country Library Foundation provides a venue for women entrepreneurs to market their products. This year, it will be held virtually from 10am-8pm on April 15th.

The New York State Museum presents "Women of Science." A free program providing viewers the opportunity to meet women scientists and learn about their research. For more information, click [here](#).

The Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center will lead a virtual guided tour focusing on the experiences of women during the Holocaust. For more information, click [here](#).

WOMEN IN HISTORY RESOURCES

PBS American Masters features a series of twenty-six short films and a one-hour documentary profiling diverse female change makers in American history. You can access this resource [here](#).

APRIL IS CELEBRATE DIVERSITY MONTH

Character Education Word of the Month: Fairness

Celebrate Diversity Month encourages communities to celebrate their differences and common interests. Within the month, World Autism Awareness Day is April 2nd. This annual observance aims to spread awareness, promote acceptance and increase understanding of people with autism.

UPCOMING RELIGIOUS & CULTURAL OBSERVANCES

March

- March 17: St. Patrick's Day
- March 27 (evening) – April 4: Passover (Jewish)
- March 28 (evening) – March 29: Holi (Hindu)

April

- April 2: Good Friday (Christian)
- April 4: Easter (Christian)
- April 4 – April 11: Holocaust Days of Remembrance
- April 12 (sundown) – May 12: Ramadan (Islamic)
- April 22: Earth Day

COVID-19 RESOURCES FOR THE AUTISM COMMUNITY

The Autism Society of America has published a COVID-19 toolkit on their website, which provides information and resources by topic, including Mental Health & Respite, Modifying Routines, Lifestyle Supports, and more. Resources are also available in Spanish. For more information, click [here](#).

BOOK CLUB

Children's Books

- *Nothing Stopped Sophie: The Story of Unshakable Mathematician Sophie Germain* by Cheryl Bardoe & Barbara McClintock
- *The Girl Who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin* by Julia Finley Mosca

Young Adult

- *I Am Malala (Young Readers Edition)* by Malala Yousafzai
- *Women in Sports: 50 Fearless Athletes Who Played to Win* by Rachel Ignatofsky



The Equity & Diversity Committee at MCCSD is committed to ensuring that our schools are inclusive, respectful, and emotionally supportive places of learning. Our objective is to align with New York State Education Department's Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education Framework.