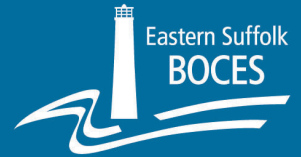


Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity

Advancing Equitable Opportunities



Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity | 201 Sunrise Highway, Patchogue, NY 11772 | 631-687-3028 | esbocesdei@esboces.org

December 2024 Cultural Heritage Highlights



December 1 – World AIDS Day

This year the global World AIDS Day 2024 campaign promotes the theme “Remember and Commit.” The World Health Organization will highlight the need for all 36.7 million people living with HIV and those who are vulnerable and affected by the epidemic, to reach the goal of universal health coverage.

Learn more:

[Information about HIV](#)

NATIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATION DAY

Celebrate moving special education forward and engaging all students in exciting learning opportunities!
USE #SPECIALEDUCATIONDAY TO SPREAD THE WORD!



December 2 – Special Education Day

Special Education Day was first observed on December 2, 2005, on the 30th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. It has since been observed every year as an important way to open up communication about how to advance special education by accommodating children with disabilities in ways that allow them to thrive in the classroom. *#SpecialEducationDay Shout out to everyone here at ESBOCES who supports our students and Special Education programs!*

Learn more:

[Find out more about Special Education Day at National Today](#)

[Celebrating Special Education Day in Your School](#)



December 3 – International Day of Persons with Disabilities

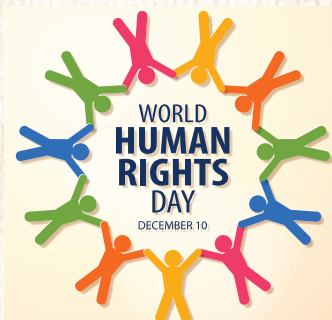
December 3 is recognized as International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) 2024. The theme this year is “Transformative Solutions for Inclusive Development: the role of Innovation in Fueling an Accessible and Equitable World.”

Since its proclamation in 1992, the United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) has been celebrated annually on December 3 around the world.

The observance of the IDPD aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and to mobilize support for the dignity, rights, and well-being of persons with disabilities.

Learn more:

[How to Celebrate International Day of Disabled Persons 2024 in the Workplace](#)
[NDIS Services](#)



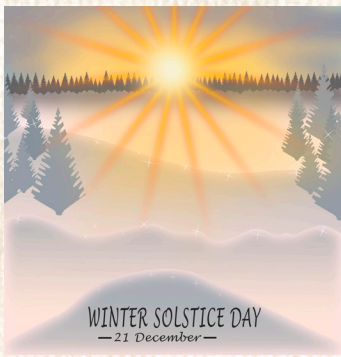
December 10 – Human Rights Day

Human Rights Day on December 10 remembers the day the General Assembly of the U.N. adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.

It is one of the most translated documents in the world and is available in over 500 languages. It has inspired countries and people alike to start treating every person with the right to life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness. On Human Rights Day, we acknowledge the importance of this document and the importance of human rights.

Learn more:

[World Human Rights Day 2024](#)



December 21 – Winter Solstice

The winter solstice has been an important occurrence for cultures around the world for thousands of years. The darkness of winter and return of sunlight has influenced yearlong calendars as well as winter customs, rituals, and storytelling. Cultures also created solar markers, structures, symbols, and communities to align with the sunlight of the solstices. Cultural heritage connected to the winter solstice can be found in many national parks today.

Learn more:

[I Didn't Know That!: Winter Solstice](#)

[YouTube video about the Winter Solstice](#)



December 25 – Christmas

Christmas, an annual holiday that commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ, is celebrated in unique ways in different countries. Shaped by cultural norms, Christmas celebrations often have local flair. In Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus, Christians display nativity scenes and mark their doors with crosses. They fill churches on Christmas Eve to watch an annual procession. In Syria, children wait for presents from the youngest of the three wise men's camels. In Mexico, for example, Las Posadas is celebrated from December 16 to December 24, to commemorate Mary and Joseph's effort to find an inn and the events associated with the birth of Jesus.

Learn more:

[Interactive Map showing Christmas around the world](#)

[Christmas: Christian Celebration of the Birth of Jesus](#)



December 25, 2024-January 2, 2025 – Hanukkah

Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, lasts for eight days and nights. Hanukkah, which means "dedication," commemorates the miracle of light that occurred when Judah rededicated the Temple to the Hebrew God.

Learn more:

[Hanukkah | All About the Holidays on PBS](#)

[Learn about Hanukkah on the History Channel](#)



December 26-January 1 – Kwanzaa

Heri Za Kwanzaa! Kwanzaa, celebrated from December 26 to January 1, is an African American and Pan-African seven-day cultural holiday that celebrates family and community. During the holiday, families celebrate with feasts, music, and dance, and end the holiday with a day dedicated to reflection and recommitment to the seven principles.

Learn more:

[5 Things You May Not Know About Kwanzaa](#)

[Kwanzaa | All About the Holidays on PBS](#)



December 31 – New Year's Eve

A time for people to come together and celebrate the end of the year and the beginning of a new one, New Year's Eve is a holiday that is celebrated on the last day of the year—the eve of [New Year's Day](#). Attending events, dancing, and watching fireworks are common New Year's Eve celebrations. Some people also make resolutions for the new year, which are promises to themselves to make more changes in their lives for the better. It's a time of joy, hope, and reflection, and is often marked by traditions and customs that vary from culture to culture.

Learn more:

[Five things you didn't know about American New Year's celebrations](#)

