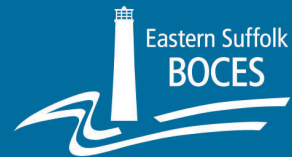


Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity

Advancing Equitable Opportunities



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

February 2025 Cultural Heritage Highlights

AMERICAN



HEART MONTH

FEBRUARY

American Heart Month

Why do we observe American Heart Month every February? Well, every year more than 600,000 Americans die from heart disease. The number one cause of deaths for most groups, heart disease affects all ages, genders, and ethnicities. Risk factors include high cholesterol, high blood pressure, smoking, diabetes, and excessive alcohol use. Do you know how to keep your heart healthy? You can take an active role in reducing your risk for heart disease by eating a healthy diet, engaging in physical activity, and managing your cholesterol and blood pressure. This is a great chance to start some heart-healthy habits!

Learn more:

[American Heart Association Heart Challenge](#)

[CDC Heart Disease Resources](#)

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month

The 2025 theme is "African Americans, and Labor" which focuses on the various and profound ways that work and working of all kinds – free and unfree, skilled, and unskilled, vocational and voluntary – intersect with the collective experiences of Black people.

Learn more:

[Virtual Black History Month Festival](#)

[New York State Museum- Information about Black History Month](#)



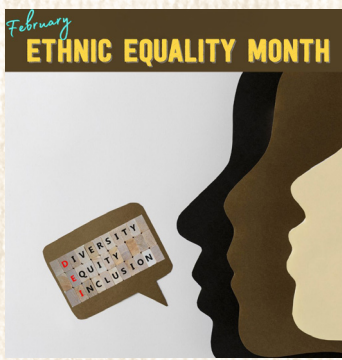
Career and Technical Education Month

The NYS Senate Proclaimed February to be CTE Month. The Technology Student Association is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a career and technical student organization, a public awareness campaign that takes place each February to celebrate the value of CTE and the achievements and accomplishments of CTE programs across the country.

Learn more:

[NYS Senate Proclaims February Tech CTE Month](#)

[Information about Career and Technical Education](#)

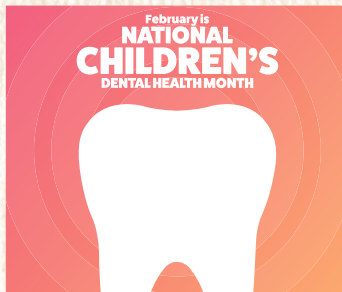


Ethnic Equality Month

Ethnic Equality Month promotes understanding and equality among all ethnic groups. It aims to highlight the importance of recognizing and addressing ethnic disparities and fostering an environment where all ethnicities are valued and respected.

Learn more:

[Information about Ethnic Equality Month](#)



National Children's Dental Health Month

This month-long health observance discusses the benefits of good oral health for children. Tooth decay is the most common childhood chronic disease, yet it is entirely preventable.

Learn more:

[Information about National Children's Dental Health Month](#)



Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

This is a national effort to raise awareness about teen dating violence. Nearly one in three teens will experience some form of abuse from someone they are dating before they become an adult. This month aims to raise awareness about what constitutes a safe and healthy relationship.

Learn more:

[Information about Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month](#)



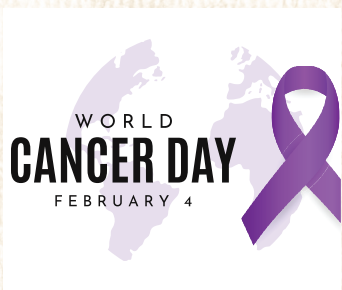
February 1-7 – World Interfaith Harmony Week

World Interfaith Harmony Week started with an idea from Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad of Jordan in 2010. He suggested this week to the United Nations to promote peace and understanding across different faiths.

It's celebrated in the first week of February each year. The week encourages people from various religious backgrounds to talk about their faiths, understand each other better, and work together for good causes.

Learn more:

[United Nations- Information about World Interfaith Harmony Week](#)



February 4 – World Cancer Day

Created in 2000, World Cancer Day is an international event that takes place annually. World Cancer Day aims to raise awareness of cancer and to encourage the prevention, detection, and treatment of cancer. Founded by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), World Cancer Day is an event that educates whilst encouraging personal, collective, and government action on a global scale in the hope of preventing unnecessary deaths from cancer. The primary goal of World Cancer Day is to support access to life-saving cancer treatment, irrespective of a person's social status or where they live in the world.

Learn more:

[Information about World Cancer Day](#)



February 7 – National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

A day to address the impact of HIV/AIDS on the Black community and promote testing, education, and treatment. It aims to mobilize resources and reduce HIV-related disparities.

Learn more:

[Information about National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day](#)



February 14 – National Donor Day

An awareness day dedicated to promoting organ, eye, tissue, marrow, platelet, and blood donation, encouraging individuals to consider giving the gift of life. It serves as a reminder of the critical need for donors and the profound impact their generosity can have on saving lives.

Learn more:

[Information about National Donor Day](#)



February 14 – P.S. I Love You Day

The theme for 2025 is “A brighter tomorrow begins today”. We are humbled to see the world turn purple for the fifteenth annual celebration on February 14, 2025. The P.S. I Love You mission is to instill hope for those affected by mental illness, fostering a supportive environment and a community where everyone feels welcomed, loved and supported.

Learn more:

[Information about P.S. I Love You Day](#)



February 14 – Valentine's Day

For centuries February has been known as the month of romance. On the fourteenth, people participate in the exchange of special gifts, such as flowers, with the most popular being red roses, and chocolates. The exchange of Valentine's Day cards with declarations of love goes back to the 1500's, with people making their own handmade cards, often decorating them with ribbons and lace.

Learn more:

[Information for younger students about Valentine's Day](#)

[Information for high school students about Valentine's Day](#)



February 15 – International Childhood Cancer Day

In September 2018, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched the Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer. This initiative aims to increase the global childhood cancer survival rate to at least 60% by 2030. It also aims to improve the quality of life for children with cancer.

Learn more:

[Information about Childhood Cancer Day](#)

[St. Jude's initiative for Childhood Cancer](#)



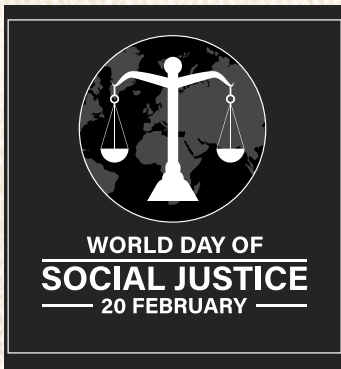
February 17 – President's Day

Presidents' Day honors all past presidents of the United States of America. Presidents' Day or officially known as Washington's Birthday, is an American Federal Holiday that is celebrated yearly on the third Monday of February. Initially established as a federal holiday in 1885 to celebrate George Washington's birthday on February 22, it was changed in 1971 when it became known simply as Presidents' Day. It has been a tradition for decades for "George Washington's Farewell Address" to be read in the Senate annually.

Learn more:

[History about President's Day](#)

[Information about President's Day](#)

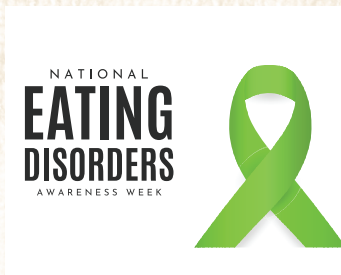


February 20 – World Day of Social Justice

World Day of Social Justice is observed annually on February 20. Internationally, the world is plagued with unfortunate issues that prohibit millions of individuals from living a fair life. Many of the world's population, through no fault of their own, are deprived of basic facilities, such as homes, jobs, healthcare, education, nutrition, and more.

Learn more:

[Information about World Day of Social Justice](#)

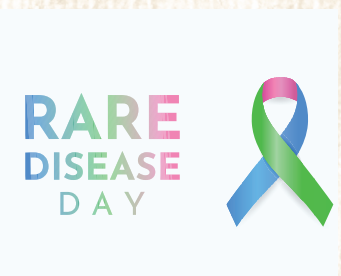


February 24 - March 2 – Eating Disorders Awareness Week

This year's theme is "The Time is Now". The ultimate goal of Eating Disorders Awareness Week (EDAW) is to educate the public about the realities of eating disorders and to provide hope and visibility to individuals and loved ones impacted by eating disorders.

Learn more:

[Information about Eating Disorders Awareness Week](#)



February 28 – Rare Disease Day

This is a day to raise awareness about rare diseases and advocate for improved access to treatment and medical representation for individuals with rare conditions. It aims to bring together patients, families, and healthcare professionals to highlight the unique challenges faced by the rare disease community.

Learn more:

[Information about Rare Disease Day](#)

