HR CONNECT NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026









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Notable Dates

12th- 3rd Marking Period Ends

13th - 4th Marking Period Begins

31st - Transfer Day (Holiday)

Virgin Islands History Month

Each March, we celebrate Virgin Islands History Month and honor the territory's rich history, culture, heritage and its diverse people. Virgin Islands' customs, traditions, values, music, arts, sports, folklore, cuisines and crafts are all highlighted. Virgin Islands History month provides the opportunity to reflect on our past, honor those who have contributed to the progress and enrichment of the territory, and celebrate our future.

Transfer Day: March 31st

Transfer Day refers to the day the United States purchased the Danish West Indies from Denmark for twenty-five million dollars in gold coins, becoming the Virgin Islands of the United States. The transfer occurred on March 31, 1917. While the transfer took place in 1917, the U.S. began negotiations with Denmark for purchase of the islands in 1865, during the American Civil War. War Admirals advised President Lincoln of the strategic value of the islands. Denmark had been providing the United States with Navy access for coaling and supplies at the islands' ports. The transfer aimed to protect America's economic and military interests in the Caribbean, avoid increased German presence and influence on the islands and gain more American ports, especially with the islands' close proximity to the Panama Canal. Persons recalled that the transfer ceremonies were emotional events. As the Danish flag was slowly lowered and the American flag was raised, some persons cried, while others cheered. It was the end of an era and the hopeful start of another.







Virgin Islands Word Search

M Y F K F F J M U U O G S D U E H K G Y
R Z S U G A R M I L L Z T O D F Z R L G
C E K O Z R A E W R I L C S U K Z Q N M
T Y O M M T P R E U C T P P Q R J E M J
C H B N Q U V I E N N A C A K E S U L S
C H N J O H N N Y C A K E K Q B N O K U
D S A A C G A G A X Q L C D F F C F P G
B O L R V Z N R T A M A R I N D H I A A
Y R F E L S A L T F I S H S E I R R Y R
J R Q U M O U B S L E M H B K W I E E C
C E U R N O T V N L U A F A M C S B L A
R L E O D G N T S Q G U G N A O T U L N
U V L T K D I G E C H B K A D N I R O E
Z N B I X E B D R A G I D N R C A N W P
B F E L O N M I J A M B U A A H N M C A
A Q U A D R I L L E S A I Q S O S V E T
Y B C K A L L A L O O S L U Y I T Z D E
P A S S I O N F R U I T W I K J E Y A P
Q F R E D E R I K S T E D T E R D W R Y
M P V V G F R T R A N S F E R D A Y I D

Charlotte Amalie	Christiansted	passion fruit	pate
Frederiksted	Transfer Day	johnny cake	roti
vienna cake	lemongrass	bananaquit	
sugarcane	quadrille	saltfish	
kallaloo	soursop	quelbe	
tamarind	conch	sugar mill	
Cruz Bay	fungi	yellow cedar	
Fireburn	sorrel	madras	
maubi			









International Women's Day

International Women's Day (IWD), celebrated each March 8, recognizes the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements and successes of women worldwide. It's also a call for advancing gender equality, by highlighting issues such as gender-based violence, limited roles in leadership, unequal access to opportunities and gender pay gaps. IWD began in 1915, and this year marks 111 years of collective action, advocacy, and progress toward gender equality. IWD aims to support women's rights, promote organizations supporting women, and foster a more inclusive world for women.

"Every woman's success should be an inspiration to another. We're strongest when we cheer each other on."

- Serena Williams

World Hearing Day

World Hearing Day is held on 3 March each year to raise awareness on how to prevent deafness and hearing loss and promote ear care across the world. When someone shows signs of an ear condition, they should receive an examination. Treatment depends on the nature of the condition and can include oral medicines, ear drops or ear surgery. Treating ear conditions early can prevent or reverse any hearing loss it caused.





Signs of an Ear Condition

- Pain in the ear
- Ear discharge (pus/fluids)
- Ringing in the ears
- Difficulty hearing

Hearing check-ups should be routinely done for:

- Babies and Children
- Older adults
- Those using medicines with ear damage side effects
- People often exposed to loud noises





Ear Care Tips

- Protect ears in noisy spaces
- Don’t put anything in the ear (clips, toothpicks and sticks can damage the eardrum)
- Visit a healthcare professional for removing excess earwax
- Limit music volume to 60% when using headphones
- Protect ears around water; don’t swim or wash hair in dirty water
- Avoid using hot, cold or herbal remedies on the ear

Virgin Islands Department of Education

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Sandra Antoine
Elementary Teacher
Juanita Gardine K-8 School
20 Years in the VIDE Family



What inspired you to pursue this career field?

I was inspired to pursue a career in this field because teaching offers the chance to shape lives, empower students and create opportunities for future generations.

What motivates you?

I am motivated when students grasp new concepts and develop confidence in themselves. I appreciate little 'thank you' notes from my students and getting gratitude from my parents. Lastly, I am motivated when I receive support and have opportunities to learn new strategies and grow professionally.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

One of my favorite parts of teaching is seeing a student suddenly understand a concept that they used to struggle with. I also enjoy building relationships with students beyond academics: I love opportunities to provide mentorship and encouragement and support their extra-curricular activities.

What are some activities you enjoy doing outside of work?

Outside of work I enjoying dancing, relaxing by the beach, watching the sunset, spending time with family and friends and doing community service with the various organizations I am involved with.

Interested in being in the Spotlight? Click here: https://forms.office.com/r/5G9Rfux03b

Virgin Islands Department of Education

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Jonathan Sandig
Music Teacher
Ulla F. Muller Elementary
3 Years in the VIDE Family



What is the best professional advice you've ever received?

The best professional advice I've ever received is to always teach with both head and heart. Knowledge is important, but what students remember most is how you made them feel. It's important to make sure students feel valued, supported, and capable. That advice reminds me to balance high expectations with compassion in everything I do as a teacher.

What inspired you to pursue this career field?

I've wanted to become a teacher since childhood. I honestly don't know what inspired me, I just felt drawn to teaching. As I grew older, I realized that this career is truly fit for me. Teaching allows me to make a difference in students' lives, share my passion for learning and help them grow both academically and as individuals. This realization continues to inspire me everyday.

What are some activities you enjoy doing outside of work?

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time at the beaches here on St. Thomas. I feel lucky to be working in such a beautiful place, and going to the beach helps me relax, recharge, and appreciate the paradise around me.

Where did you grow up and how did that place influence who you are today?

I grew up in the Philippines, and that experience shaped me in many ways. Growing up there taught me the value of family, respect, and community. Life wasn't always easy, but it gave me resilience and a strong work ethic. It also instilled in me a deep sense of hospitality and adaptability, qualities that have helped me thrive as I've moved abroad and embraced new opportunities. Today, those lessons influence the way I work, how I connect with people from different cultures, and how I stay grounded in my values no matter where I am.

Interested in being in the Spotlight? Click here: https://forms.office.com/r/5G9Rfux03b

World Planting Day

Each March 21, we're called to join in planting trees, shrubs, flowers and edible plants. World Planting Day promotes a healthier, greener planet and highlights the impact that we have in reducing air pollution and beautifying spaces. Plants take in carbon dioxide during photosynthesis, releasing oxygen into the atmosphere, helping to reduce pollutants.



Start a Vegetable Garden in 4 Simple Steps

Choose a Sunny Location
Pick a flat spot that gets at least 8 hours of direct sunlight

Start Small
Pick a few small pots or get a small planting bed to start

Improve Your Soil
Use compost or organic matter to enrich your soil before planting

Pick Easy Crops
Try planting lettuce, green beans, radishes, tomatoes, zucchini, or peppers, which are ideal for beginning gardeners





Vacancies at VIDE

St. Croix

Program Assistant
Financial Analyst
Substitute Teacher
Social Studies Teacher
Computer Science Teacher
English Teacher
Science Teacher
Mathematics Teacher
Foreign Language Teacher
Guidance Counselor
Music Teacher
Physical Education Teacher
Elementary Teacher
School Nurse

St. Thomas/St. John

Program Manager
Chief Information Technology Officer
Coordinator of Student Services
Financial Control Officer
Network Systems Manager
Special Education Teacher
Language Arts Coordinator
School Nurse
Substitute Teacher
Social Studies Teacher
Computer Science Teacher
English Teacher
Science Teacher
Mathematics Teacher
Foreign Language Teacher
Guidance Counselor
Music Teacher
Physical Education Teacher
Elementary Teacher

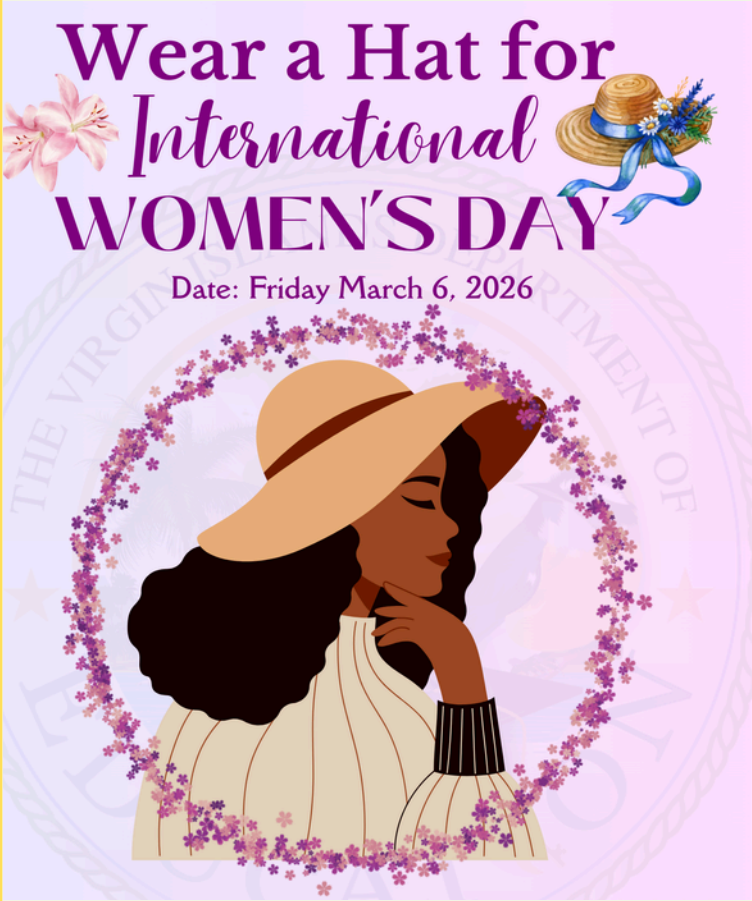
Territorial

Director of Budget Control
Internal Auditor
Director of Federal Grants
Webmaster

Reminders:

Complete your annual Mandatory Reporting Policy training on or before March 13, 2026.





Please be reminded to WEAR A HAT on Friday, March 6th as we honor and recognize women's contributions to their families, our community and our world. Please email your photos to us at: amiquah.freeman@vide.vi or michael.jimenez@vide.vi