

DEI Committee NEWSLETTER



February is Black History Month!

Here are some ideas of what you could do in your classroom or at your school:

- Last year, we created a [Google drive folder](#) with materials and lesson plans for all grade levels on a variety of topics related to Black History: use it this month and every month!
- Find a [new book](#) about Black history to read with your class.
- Assign these free [Black History](#) and [Black Heritage](#) text sets from CommonLit
- Check out [Dakota's School](#) - and read about it or assign the article to your students [here](#)

Calendar - February

(Source: Seramount)

February is [Black History Month!](#)

For more information about the following events and holidays, [click here](#):

February 1: Lunar New Year, celebrated in China, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, and Mongolia.

February 1: National Freedom Day, celebrating the Thirteenth Amendment, which abolished slavery in the United States.

February 1–2: Imbolc, a Gaelic traditional festival

February 1: St. Brigid of Kildare, a feast day for some Christians

February 2: Candlemas, a holiday celebrated by some Christians

February 3: St. Blaise Day, celebrated by the Roman Catholic Church and some Eastern Catholic Churches

February 3: Setsubun-Sai (Beginning of Spring), celebrated annually in Japan

February 3: Four Chaplains Day, the anniversary of the sinking of the US Army transport Dorchester

February 5: Vasant Panchami, the Hindu festival that highlights the coming of spring.

February 14: St. Valentine's Day, honoring one or two early Christian saints named Valentinus.

February 15: Lantern Festival, the first significant feast after the Chinese New Year

February 15: Parinirvana Day (or Nirvana Day), honoring Buddha's death at the age of 80

February 16: Maghi-Purnima, a Hindu festival especially for worshippers of Lord Vishnu

February 16: Magha Puja Day (also known as Maka Bucha), a Buddhist holiday

February 21: Presidents' Day in the United States

February 25–March 1:

Intercalary Days or Ayyám-i-Há, celebrated by people of the Bahá'í faith.

February 27: Meatfare Sunday (The Sunday of the Last Judgment), traditionally the last day of eating meat before Easter for Orthodox Christians

February 28: [Rare Disease Day](#)

NEC Diversity events

DEI Drop-in Group: Join us for our monthly meeting Monday, February 28, 3-4 pm. Check your email for reminder and zoom link!

Outside PD Opportunities:

- Feb 15, 2-3:30: [Intersection of Race and Disability Webinar](#) from ADA Audio
- All month: [Black History Month Webinars](#) from [Lowell's Black Coalition](#)

Mailing List Link: tinyurl.com/nsecdiversity

Join our mailing list to get regular updates on DEI-themed PD, articles, videos and more!

DEI Keyword of the Month: Microaggression

Have you heard the term **microaggression**? [This article](#) defines it as “small, subtle, sometimes-unintended acts of discrimination.” Microaggressions are small but powerful messages and actions that reinforce stereotypes about race, gender, sexuality, religion, ability/disability or other aspects of identity.

[This video](#) uses the metaphor of mosquito bites to put the idea of microaggressions into perspective (warning: the video uses some strong language). It can be easy to think that “micro” aggressions aren’t a big deal, but over time, they add up to a powerful impact.

DEI Article of the Month - Black History Month: Teaching the Complete History

[This article](#) from Learning for Justice encourages teachers to go beyond slavery, segregation, and oppression when talking about Black history with students. That doesn’t mean we should avoid those topics, but instead tell the whole story and “commit to decentering racial trauma.” The article features links to resources to help teachers focus on other topics: Black liberation movements, Black civic engagement, Intersectional Black identity, and Black literature.

NEC Family Member Event: Mamadou Diouck and Company

Topsfield Vocational Academy staff member Meg Brady invites the NEC community to a special event hosted by her husband, Mamadou Diouck, on Sunday, February 13, from 12-4 at the Pingree School in South Hamilton. Learn about Senegalese culture, try some authentic Senegalese food, and experience the World-Class Drum-and-Dance performance. Check out [this flyer](#) for more information.

NEC Community Spotlight: MLK Day at KOG



Kevin O'Grady School celebrated the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with activities for students and staff. They created a [video](#) to share with the Beverly Human Rights Committee who had a virtual remembrance event on January 17, 2022. Watch the full video [here](#). The artwork is posted outside of Alison Dudley's door on the 2nd floor.

Check out [this folder](#) with photos from this activity.