

DEI Committee NEWSLETTER



April is Autism Acceptance Month!

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

- [Choose a new book about autism](#) to read with your students.
- Check out this [list of resources and ideas](#) for celebrating Autism Acceptance month.
- Learn more about [ASAN, the Autistic Self Advocacy Network](#), a nonprofit founded by and for autistic people.
- Learn about how [race](#), gender identity, and [other factors](#) impact autism diagnosis and treatment.
- Watch [the youtube series "Ask an Autistic"](#) to learn more about autism from the perspective of an autistic person.

Calendar - April

(Source: Seramount)

April is [Autism Acceptance Month](#) and Celebrate Diversity Month!

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

April 2: World Autism Day, created to raise awareness around the globe

April 2-11: Chaitra Navaratri – a nine-day Hindu festival

April 2–May 2 (sunrise to sundown): Ramadan, an Islamic holiday marked by fasting, praise, prayer, and devotion to Islam

April 8: The Day of Silence, to protest the silencing of LGBTQ+ students and allies

April 10: Palm Sunday, a Christian holiday commemorating the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

April 10: Ram Navami, a Hindu day celebrating the 7th avatar of Vishnu

April 13: Equal Pay Day, to raise awareness about the raw wage gap between men and women

April 14: Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday), celebrating the Last Supper between Jesus and the Apostles.

April 14: Mahavir Jayanti, a Jain holiday commemorating the birth of Lord Mahavira.

April 14: Vaisakhi (Baisakhi), the celebration of the founding of the Sikh community

April 15: Good Friday, a day for Christians to commemorate the execution of Jesus by crucifixion.

April 15: Lord's Evening Meal, when Jehovah's Witnesses commemorate the Last Supper.

April 15–April 23: Passover, an eight-day Jewish holiday celebrating the emancipation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt

April 16: Lazarus Saturday, in some Christian Churches

April 17: Easter, a Christian holiday to recognize Jesus' return from death

April 21–May 2: The Festival of Ridvan, a Bahá'í holiday, for when Bahá'u'lláh, the prophet-founder, publicly proclaimed his mission

April 22: Earth Day promotes world peace and sustainability.

April 23: St. George's Day, celebrated by various Christian churches

April 24: Armenian Martyrs' Day recognizes the genocide of 1.5 million Armenians between 1915 and 1923 in Turkey.

April 27–28: Yom HaShoah, Israel's day of remembrance for the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust

April 29: Ninth Day of Ridvan, a festival of joy and unity in the Bahá'í faith.

April 29: Laylat al-Qadr, commemorating the night that the Quran was first revealed to the prophet Muhammad.

NEC Diversity events

DEI Drop-in Group: Join us for our monthly meeting Monday, April 25, from 3-4.

Check your email for reminder and zoom link!

Outside PD Opportunities:

- Join the Mailing List for links to DEI-related PD opportunities

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: Autism

Acceptance

Perhaps you knew April as Autism Awareness Month. This was a term created by people outside the autism community, and those from within the autism community prefer the term **Autism Acceptance**. Alaina Leary, an autistic journalist, writes in [this article](#) that to promote autism acceptance, we should, among other things, "Prioritize and center autistic voices—not just during April, but any time there's a conversation about autism or that impacts autistic people."

DEI Article of the Month: Ukrainian Refugees of Color

As educators, the Russian invasion of Ukraine brings up questions and concerns about the experience of students and staff with Ukrainian background. We found the following articles from [NBC](#) and [Time](#) important to also consider the experience of Ukrainian immigrants of color and how they are affected by discrimination and racism, amidst war.

DEI In Action: Autism Acceptance and #WearRedInstead at KOG

Vocational students at KOG created pins for students and staff to wear for Autism Acceptance Month. If you would like to purchase any, contact Janet Wallace at jwallace@nsedu.org!



KOG students & staff also [wore red for Autism Acceptance Day](#) on 4/1 [#WearRedInstead](#).



NEC Community Spotlight: Celebrating World Down Syndrome Day at NEC!

A big THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the "Rock your Socks" day last month! Check out the [photos here](#)! There is a [drive folder](#) with all of the photos that you sent in - email Kristen to add yours!

We are accepting submissions: [Contact us](#) to contribute to this newsletter in the future.