

DEI Committee NEWSLETTER



October is LGBTQ+ History Month!

LGBTQ+ History Month was first celebrated in the United States in 1994, centering National Coming Out Day, which occurs annually on October 11th ([source](#)). Here are some ideas of what you could do in your classroom or at your school:

- Learn or teach about [these 31 influential people](#) from American History who identify as LGBTQ+.
- Choose a [new book](#) to read with your class.
- Wear purple on [Spirit Day](#), October 20. Read about last year's Spirit Day in [our Nov. Newsletter](#).
- Check out some [resources](#) from Facing History and [watch a webinar](#) or [teach a history or ELA lesson](#) to high school students.

Calendar - October

(Source: [Seramount](#))

October is:

- [LGBTQ+ History Month](#)
- Disability Employment Awareness Month
- Global Diversity Awareness Month
- Down Syndrome Awareness Month

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

October 1: Native American Women's Equal Pay Day.

October 4: St. Francis Day.

October 4-5 (sundown to sundown): Yom Kippur, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar.

October 5: Dasara, Dussehra, or Vijayadashami, a Hindu festival.

October 7-9: Eid Milad un-Nabi or Mawlid Al-Nabi, an Islamic holiday honoring the birthday of the prophet Muhammad.

October 9-16: Sukkot, a seven-day Jewish festival giving thanks for the fall harvest.

October 10: National Indigenous Peoples Day, an alternative celebration to Columbus Day.

October 10: Canadian Thanksgiving

October 10: World Mental Health Day.

October 11: National Coming Out Day (U.S.).

October 16-18 (sundown to sundown): Shemini Atzeret, a Jewish holiday also known as The Eighth (Day) of Assembly.

October 17-18 (sundown to sundown): Simchat Torah, a Jewish holiday, marks the end of the weekly readings of the Torah.

October 20: Sikh Holy Day, the day Sikhs celebrate their spiritual guide.

October 20: International Pronouns Day

October 20: Spirit Day to show solidarity with LGBTQ+ youth

October 24: Diwali, the Hindu, Jain and Sikh five-day festival of lights

October 25-26, 26-27 (sundown to sundown): Birth of Báb, and Birth of Bahá'u'lláh, Bahá'í holidays.

October 29: Latina Equal Pay Day.

October 31: Halloween, or All Hallows' Eve

October 31: Reformation Day, a Protestant Christian religious holiday

October 31-November 1 (sundown to sundown): Samhain, a Gaelic festival marking the end of the harvest season.

NEC Diversity events

Upcoming NEC DEI Events:

- Nov 1: DEI-themed All-Staff PD Day
- Nov 8: Next DEI committee meeting, located at TVA in Topsfield
- Check your email for the **survey** to get involved in the DEI committee.

Outside PD Opportunities:

10/14 - [The Equitable Educator MPY Series](#)

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: Heterosexism

For month two of our series on “-isms”, we’ve chosen a term that is relevant to the theme of the month: **heterosexism**. A similar term is **homophobia**. These terms can be [defined as](#), “the marginalization and/or oppression of people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer and/or asexual, based on the belief that heterosexuality is the norm.” LGBTQ+ young people deal with the difficulties of heterosexism on a daily basis. To learn more about how to combat heterosexism, check out this [printable brochure](#).

October 10 is Indigenous Peoples’ Day!

In many states, towns, and cities across the US, Columbus Day has been replaced with Indigenous Peoples’ Day. Click on the following links for resources you can use [for yourself](#) or your [elementary](#), [middle](#), or [high school](#) classroom. November is [Native American Heritage Month](#), so check out [last November’s Newsletter](#) for ideas to learn more about Native American Heritage at your school.

DEI at Halloween: Cultural Appropriation and Culturally Responsive Celebrations

With Halloween celebrations this month, remember that a culture is not a costume. Watch [this video](#) by Rosanna Deerchild for a helpful explanation of the differences between cultural appropriation and cultural appreciation. It’s also important to keep in mind the fact that not all cultures celebrate Halloween, and some of your students and families may not feel comfortable celebrating Halloween at school. Here are [some ideas of Halloween alternatives](#) to try this year.

NEC Community Spotlight: Heritage Month and Reading Posters

Liz Davis, Reading Specialist at the Northshore Academy Upper School, has made it her mission to link DEI education and literacy instruction for middle school and high school students. Last month, she created a poster for Hispanic



Must Reads by Latinx Authors



Heritage Month, and this month, she has created one for LGBTQ+ History Month. Want to put them up in your school? Find the printable PDFs in the Google Drive folder [here](#). Bookmark the link and check back for new posters for future heritage months.



Must Reads about... LGBTQ History

