

# DEI Committee NEWSLETTER



## January is a great time to set a DEI resolution

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

- Reflect on your DEI goals for the year (teachpoint or otherwise) - what positive progress have you made and what can you still do?
- Read [this list of DEI resolutions](#) and choose one to incorporate into your life, your student or family interactions, or your classroom.
- Read this article about [DEI resolutions](#) from the Glen Urquhart School in Beverly.
- Take Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as an opportunity to bring up racial justice with your students. Here's a great [list of activities](#) for all grade levels.
- Display [this poster](#) for Mental Wellness Month.

## Calendar - January

(Source: Seramount)

January has no heritage months.

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

**January 1:** New Year's Day

**January 1:** Feast Day of St. Basil, Eastern Orthodox Church

**January 3:** Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus, in the Catholic church

**January 4:** World Braille Day, celebrated on the birthday of Louis Braille, the inventor of Braille

**January 5:** Twelfth Night, celebrated by some Christians.

**January 6:** Epiphany or Dia de los Reyes (Three Kings Day) observed by some Christians

**January 6:** Christmas, Armenian Orthodox Christians

**January 7:** Christmas, Eastern Orthodox Christians

**January 7:** Mahayana New Year, a holiday celebrated by the Mahayana Buddhist branch.

**January 9:** Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, a Sikh Guru.

**January 13:** Lori-Maghi, an annual Sikh festival.

**January 14:** Makar Sankranti, a harvest festival in parts of India.

**January 16:** Martin Luther King Jr. Day, in memory of his birthday on January 15.

**January 17:** World Religion Day, observed by the Bahá'í faith

**January 18–25:** The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

**January 19:** Timkat, an Ethiopian Orthodox holiday

**January 22:** Lunar New Year, celebrated in China, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, and Mongolia.

**January 26:** Republic Day of India, recognizing Independence and the Constitution of India

**January 26:** Vasant Panchami, the Hindu festival that highlights the coming of spring.

**January 27:** The International Day of Commemoration to remember the victims of the Holocaust; Holocaust Remembrance Day in the US; UN Holocaust Memorial Day.

### NEC DEI-related events:

**DEI Committee Meeting:** Join us for our monthly meeting on January 10, 2023 at 3 p.m. at TVA (248 Boston St. Topsfield).

**Mailing List Link:** [tinyurl.com/nsecdiversity](https://tinyurl.com/nsecdiversity)

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

### DEI Keyword of the Month

**Anti-Bias Curriculum:** Incorporates an inclusive curriculum that reflects diverse experiences and perspectives, instructional methods that advance ALL students' learning, and strategies to create and sustain safe, inclusive, and respectful learning communities. (It levels the playing field). For more information: check out [this article about an Anti-Bias Learning Environment](#) or [this guide](#).

**Black History Month Curriculum Resources** KOG has utilized these resources in the past for Black History Month in February. We wanted to share our resources with you to help prepare for next month! Let us know if you find any of the resources useful with your students! [Black History Month](#)

### DEI In Action: Anti-bias holiday celebration at school

At KOG staff have been investigating how to celebrate holidays in an inclusive way. When we think about Thanksgiving, not all cultures see thanksgiving as something to celebrate. Many immigrants may not be familiar with "American Thanksgiving" and the "First Thanksgiving" can give harmful stereotypes around indigenous people. **How can teachers reframe Thanksgiving in an inclusive way?** Many countries have a harvest festival so incorporating the concept of harvest into your classroom is an option. Also, focusing on gratitude and thankfulness is another inclusive concept. For more information, read [this article about anti-bias holidays](#), or [this one about culturally responsive holiday instruction](#).

At KOG the Latino family group requested their typical after school gathering to take place during the school day so that the teachers could enjoy the potluck dishes they made. It was also a way for families to show appreciation to the teachers for all they do every day. See pictures below from this gathering.



### NEC Community Spotlight: YAMA & Grooversity All School Performance

Kevin O'Grady All School Performance by [Grooversity](#). An Afro-Brazilian percussion performance outdoors by Marcus Santos and his team took place in October 2022. KOG is lucky to have a partnership with Young Audiences, who supports 1-2 all school performances each year and an Artist in Residence Program each spring with particular classrooms.

The mission of **Young Audiences of Mass** is to educate, inspire, empower, youth through the arts. We believe that arts are an essential component of both formal education and youth development, and that all students, regardless of backgrounds, talents, and abilities, deserve access to the rich educational opportunities inherent to arts learning.

