

DEI Committee NEWSLETTER



February is Black History Month!

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

- Read an article about Boston's newest sculpture, [The Embrace](#), to honor MLK and Coretta Scott King.
- Check out this NEC [Google drive folder](#) with Black History Month materials and lesson plans for all grade levels.
- Look through these [great resources](#) that Stephanie Couillard curated for Kevin O'Grady students, which are applicable to many others.
- Find a [new book](#) about Black history to read with your class.
- Assign these free [Black History](#) and [Black Heritage](#) text sets from CommonLit.

Calendar - February

(Source: Seramount)

February is [Black History Month!](#)

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

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 some Christians

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

February 3: Four Chaplains Day, the anniversary of the sinking of the USS Dorchester

February 5: Maghi-Purnima, a Hindu festival especially for worshippers of Lord Vishnu

February 5: Magha Puja Day (aka Maka Bucha), a Buddhist holiday

February 6: Lantern Festival, the first significant feast after the Chinese New Year

February 14: St. Valentine's Day, honoring an early Christian saint named Valentinus.

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

February 18: Lailat al Miraj, a Muslim holiday

February 18: Maha Shivaratri, Hindu festival to honor Lord Shiva.

February 19: Meatfare Sunday, observed by Orthodox Christians

February 19-21: Losar, the Tibetan Buddhist New Year.

February 20: Presidents' Day

February 21: Mardi Gras or Shrove Tuesday, a celebration in some Christian denominations.

February 22: Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent on the Christian calendar.

February 25–March 1: Intercalary Days or Ayyám-i-Há, celebrated by people of the Bahá'í faith.

February 26: Cheesefare Sunday or Forgiveness Sunday, the day before Great Lent for Orthodox Christians

February 27: Beginning of Great Lent in the Orthodox Christian faith.

February 28: [Rare Disease Day](#)

NEC DEI-related events

DEI Committee Meeting: Join us for our monthly meeting on TUESDAY, February 14th from 3-4pm at NSAU (126 Sohier Road, Beverly). See you there!

Outside PD Opportunities:

- Free CommonLit Webinars for Black History Month: [Elementary](#) and [Secondary](#)

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: Colorism

Colorism: prejudice or discrimination against individuals with a dark skin tone, typically among people of the same ethnic or racial group.

King and Johnson (2016) published a study in The American Journal of Sociology entitled "[A Punishing Look: Skin Tone and Afrocentric Features in the Halls of Justice](#)" that "indicate[s] that darker skin tone and Afrocentric facial features are associated with harsher sanctions" in criminal punishments such as sentencing.

DEI Articles of the Month

Below are two articles that can be integrated into our classrooms!

- [Black Visibility Matters: The Inconvenient Truths of Bias and Erasure](#)
- [Bringing Black Lives Matter Into the Classroom](#)

DEI Events: Celebrating Black History Month

Starting February 6th, it will be [Black Lives Matter at School Week](#). Because of differences in student and family profiles at each school, we do not have a consortium-wide observance of the week, but it is a topic that you may choose to bring up with your students or discuss with your team!

Events in the community! Get involved!:

- [Local Black Excellence Display in Lynn](#)
- [Black History Month in Salem](#)
- [Black History Event in Swampscott](#)

DEI Resource: Black History in the Science classroom

We wanted to spotlight a great resource that science teachers can use to teach Black History outside of where it is typically discussed, in History and ELA classrooms:

[BrainPOP: Alie ball](#) [Alice Ball - Challenge.pdf](#) [Famous Scientists - Alice Ball.pdf](#)

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