

DEI Committee NEWSLETTER



March is Women's History Month and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month!

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

- Find a book about [Women's History](#) or [Disabilities](#) to read with your class.
- [Make a pledge](#) & follow [@PledgeToInclude](#) to spread the word and promote inclusion for all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. [Learn more here](#) and check out the [Educator Toolkit](#) to help you **organize a Pledge to Include activity at your school on March 7, 2023.**
- **World Down Syndrome Day is March 21.** Join [Lots of Socks Campaign](#) and wear mismatched socks to celebrate.
- Use or adapt [these lessons and activities](#) about Developmental Disabilities.
- Try out some of [these suggestions](#) for celebrating Women's History Month.
- Check out this list of [Influential Black Women in History](#).

Calendar - March

(Source: Seramount)

March is [Women's History Month](#), [Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month](#), and [Deaf History Month](#)! It is also [Social Work Month](#) - thank an NEC social worker this month!

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

- March 1:** St. David's Day, the patron saint of Wales
- March 2 to March 20:** Nineteen-Day Fast, in the Bahá'í faith.
- March 5:** Orthodox Sunday, the first Sunday of Great Lent.
- March 7:** Pledge to Include - see above for more info
- March 7-8:** Lailat al Bara'a, aka Barat or Night of Forgiveness, an Islamic holiday of forgiveness.

March 7-8: Purim, celebrating when the Jewish community in Persia was saved from genocide.

March 7-8: Holi, the annual Hindu and Sikh spring religious festival.

March 8: International Women's Day.

March 8-10: Hola Mohalla, a Sikh festival on the day after Holi.

March 9: Asian-American Women's and Pacific Islander Women's Equal Pay Day.

March 13–April 15: Deaf History Month, established to honor 3 important events in American History for the Deaf community.

March 17: St. Patrick's Day, a holiday to recognize the patron saint of Ireland.

March 19: St. Joseph's Day, in Western Christianity

March 20: Ostara, a celebration of spring by Pagans and Wiccans.

March 20–21: Nowruz/Norooz, Persian New Year and Naw-Rúz, the Bahá'í New Year

March 21: [World Down Syndrome Day](#) - see above for more info.

March 21: [International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#)

March 22-April 21: Ramadan, an Islamic holiday marked by fasting, praise, prayer, and devotion to Islam

March 22-31: Chaitra Navaratri – a nine-day Hindu festival

March 25: International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

March 25: Annunciation of the Virgin Mary, a Christian celebration.

March 25: International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

March 30: Ram Navami, a Hindu day celebrating the 7th avatar of Vishnu

March 31: International Transgender Day of Visibility.

NEC DEI-related events

DEI Committee Meeting: Join us for our monthly meeting **Tuesday, March 14**, from **3-4pm** at the **Topsfield Vocational Academy**. Treats from the culinary program will be provided!

Outside PD Opportunities:

- Check out [this playlist of webinars](#) from The GBH Peer Exchange, many of which contain themes related to DEI and Culturally Responsive Teaching.

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:

Let's review **Ableism** from a previous newsletter: [What is ableism?](#) A form of discrimination based on a value system that considers certain body and mind characteristics essential to living a fulfilling life, and assumes that the quality of life of people with disabilities must be very low.

[Explore the meaning of ableism and understand how it impacts the lives of those who live with disabilities daily.](#)

We think and talk about disabilities all the time in our schools, but how much do we consider the ableism our students are experiencing? [Consider these 11 forms of ableism and how they may affect your students on a daily basis.](#)

Want to hear personal narratives? Follow [Alice Wong, Disability Rights Activist](#) on social media.

DEI Article of the Month: [The Pink Socks movement](#) empowers people from all walks of life to connect with anyone, anywhere, by creating a global tribe of pink socks-wearing people who are focused on empathy, caring, and love. [Learn more here.](#)

DEI In Action: KOG celebrates Black History Month

KOG started a Professional Learning Community to talk about DEI and what that looks like at KOG. Their first project was an interactive Black History display and art activity: the freedom quilt. They also created switch operated activities to depict contributions made by figures in Black History.



NEC Community Spotlight: Spreading love and kindness on February 14:

The Speech - Language Pathology Department at KOG led students in an activity to make multi-sensory valentine's entitled, "You fill up my senses." They used scented paint (smell), tactile objects (touch), and an auditory component, with rice and beans for sound.



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