

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The next Ironia Diversity & Inclusion Committee (IDIC) meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 7:30pm.
- Martin Luther King Day is January 18th

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Ironia Diversity & Inclusion Committee

Monthly Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

JANUARY 1, 2021

Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is a federal holiday that celebrates the life and achievements of Martin Luther King Jr., an influential American civil rights leader. It is a time to remember his fight for the freedom, equality, and dignity of all races and peoples through nonviolence and is a time to remember the injustices that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. fought against.

Dr. King was an American clergyman and civil-rights leader. During the less than 13 years of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s leadership of the modern American Civil Rights Movement, from December, 1955 until April 4, 1968, African Americans achieved more genuine progress toward racial equality in America than the previous 350 years had produced.

Dr. King became pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama in 1954. He led the black boycott of segregated city bus lines in 1956 and gained a major victory as a civil-rights leader when Montgomery buses began to operate on a desegregated basis.

Dr. King organized the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), which provided a base to pursue further civil-rights activities in the South and later nationwide. His philosophy of nonviolent resistance resulted in his arrest on numerous occasions in the 1950s and 60s.

In 1963, he led a coalition of numerous civil rights groups in a nonviolent campaign aimed at Birmingham, Alabama, which at the time was described as the "most segregated city in America." The subsequent brutality of the city's

police, illustrated most vividly by television images of young blacks being assaulted by dogs and water hoses, led to a national outrage resulting in a push for



"Out of the Mountain of Despair, a Stone of Hope"

unprecedented civil rights legislation.

The 1963 Birmingham, Alabama protest earned him worldwide attention. It was during this campaign that Dr. King drafted the "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," the manifesto of Dr. King's philosophy and tactics, which is today required reading in universities worldwide.

Dr. King brought together more than 200,000 people in the March on Washington in August 1963 where he delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. In 1964, at the age of 35, he was the youngest man and the third black man to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s less than thirteen years of nonviolent leadership ended abruptly and tragically on April 4th, 1968, when he was assassinated at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee. Dr. King's body was returned to his hometown of Atlanta, Georgia, where his funeral ceremony was attended by high-level leaders of all races and political stripes.

Dr. King's birthday was first observed as a national holiday in 1986 and is the only national holiday designated as a national day of service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities. However, his life had become a fixed part of American history for years prior to this.

To many African Americans whose rights he helped expand, to many other minorities whose lives his victories touched, and to many whites who welcomed the changes his leadership brought, Dr. King's life seemed extraordinary even as he lived it. He is celebrated as a hero not only for the concrete legislation he enabled, but for his articulation of dreams and hopes shared by many during an era of upheaval and change.

Dr. King is memorialized in hundreds of statues, parks, streets, squares, churches and other public facilities around the world as a leader whose teachings are increasingly relevant to the progress of humankind. However, opened to the public in 2011, Dr. King was memorialized on the Great Mall in the nation's capitol. He is the only non-president to have a national holiday dedicated in his honor, the only non-president to be memorialized on the Great Mall and the first memorial to honor a man of color. The site was designed as a lasting tribute to Dr. King's legacy and forever serve as a monument to the freedom, opportunity, and justice for which he stood.

Read More

- <https://www.biography.com/activist/martin-luther-king-jr>
- <https://www.nps.gov/mlkm/index.htm>
- <https://thekingcenter.org/about-dr-king/>

Inspire Your Heart With Art Day



“The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls.” – Pablo Picasso

January 31st is National Inspire Your Heart With Art Day!

Inspire Your Heart With Art Day is an annual celebration observed on January 31st of every year.

Art is a thing that has been in existence since the start of human civilization. It is appreciated both for its beauty and happiness it gives to those who see it. There are different forms of arts like paintings, music, theatre, sculptures, dance or poetry and they are indeed to be celebrated on this day. Art refers to the diverse range of human activities including the painting, sculpture, photography, printmaking, and other visual media. Creation of images or objects, visual

arts marks the oldest documented forms of art. Over the years, various art forms have developed. It is appreciated for a variety of reasons although it doesn't have any practical value. Art allows people to express his or her own imagination and creativity. It is also a form of communication that bridges the gap over the language barrier.

Art plays a major role in various aspects like in the entertainment of therapy, for raising awareness and in evoking all sorts of emotions.

However, if you aren't interested in looking deeper into the things around you in your everyday life, explore new things or watch an informational

documentary. Whether the new thing is walking to class a different way, sitting in a different seat on the bus, anything that will change your perspective and view on what you do every day can trigger a newer and fresher reality for you.

Take time to visit the nearest gallery, theatre, cinema, music venue on the Inspire Your Heart With Art Day and get inspired.

Read More

<https://happydays365.org/inspire-your-heart-with-art-day/inspire-your-heart-with-art-day-january-31/>
#:~:text=Inspire%20Your%20Heart%20With%20Art%20Day%20is%20an%20annual%20celebration,to%20those%20who%20see%20it.

January Is National Mentoring Month



January is National Mentoring Month!

National Mentoring Month is a campaign held each January to promote youth mentoring in the United States.

The Harvard School of Public Health and MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership founded National Mentoring Month in 2002.

Designated nonprofit and governmental agencies are responsible for coordinating local campaign activities in communities across the country, including media outreach and volun-

teer recruitment.

Local lead partners include state and local affiliates of MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership, Corporation for National and Community Service, Points of Light Foundation and Volunteer Center National Network, America's Promise, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, Communities in Schools, America Mentors and United Way of America.

A highlight of the campaign is Thank Your Mentor Day, in which Americans

thank and honor their mentors.

People are encouraged to contact their mentors directly to express appreciation, become a mentor in their own community, make a financial contribution to a local mentoring program, or post a tribute on WhoMentoredYou.org.

Read More

<https://nationalmentoringresourcecenter.org>
<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-mentoring-month-january/>
<http://www.nationalmentoringmonth.org/>



“They’re Not Too Young To Talk About Race”

Do you want to talk to your young child about issues of social justice, but don't know how?

You're not alone. Most adults find topics like race, gender, and class difficult to talk about with children.

However, if we don't find ways to talk about it, children will learn whatever they can glean from unspoken messages, and that doesn't often work out very well. Young children notice and think

about race. Adults often worry that talking about race will encourage racial bias in children, but the opposite is true. Silence about race reinforces racism by letting children draw their own conclusions based on what they see.

Teachers and families can play a powerful role in helping children of all ages develop positive attitudes about race and diversity and skills to promote a more just future but only if

we talk about it!

Do some learning of your own to get ready for conversations with your children. Here are some good places to seek information and training:

- Teaching Tolerance - tolerance.org
- Raising Race Conscious Children - raceconscious.org
- Embrace Race - embracerace.org
- Teaching for Change - teachingforchange.org

New Year's Day 2021



**Happy
New
Year
To All
Randolph
Families!**

Civilizations around the world have been celebrating the start of each New Year for at least four millennia.

Common traditions include attending parties, eating special New Year's foods, making resolutions for the New Year and

watching fireworks displays.

In many countries, New Year's celebrations begin on the evening of December 31—New Year's Eve—and continue into the early hours of January 1. Revelers often enjoy meals and snacks thought to bestow good luck for the coming year.

In many parts of the world, traditional New Year's dishes feature legumes, which are thought to resemble coins and herald future financial success; examples include lentils in Italy and black-eyed peas in the southern United States. Because pigs represent progress and prosperity in some cultures, pork appears on the New Year's Eve table in Cuba, Austria, Hungary, Portugal and other

countries. Other customs that are common worldwide include watching fireworks and singing songs to welcome the new year.

In the United States, the most iconic New Year's tradition is the dropping of a giant ball in New York City's Times Square at the stroke of midnight. Millions of people around the world watch the event, which has taken place almost every year since 1907. Over time, the ball itself has ballooned from a 700-pound iron-and-wood orb to a brightly patterned sphere 12 feet in diameter and weighing in at nearly 12,000 pounds.

Read More

<https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/new-years>

Global Family/World Peace Day

Global Family Day is an annual celebration observed on January 1st of every year.

People all over the world find little to no time to spend with their family. The reason varies from person to person due to their work, living atmosphere, and so on. To change this scenario, Global Family Day has been established.

The day is celebrated as the global day of peace and sharing in the United States and its aim is in promoting peace and sharing.

The purpose of this Day is to make all the families gather as one single society on the first day of every year to welcome the New Year since spending time with the family members has reasonably reduced in recent years.

Celebrating Global Family Day is quite simple. The primary thing to be done on this Day is by gathering in families to share love and peace. Spend some time with your family and talk about things. Encourage people around you to spend and share time with their family members for a day.

You can share your love with others by giving gifts and sharing meals.

Make the world a better place to live in by making personal commitments to follow nonviolence. Spread a message of peace among all people from different backgrounds on this Day.

Share your family day celebrations on social media using the hashtag #GlobalFamilyDay.

Read More

<https://happydays365.org/family-day/global-family-day-january-1/>

"You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them." –

Desmond Tutu

IRONIA DIVERSITY & INCLUSION COMMITTEE - BOOK CLUB

The Ironia Diversity & Inclusion Committee - Book Club will be selecting books from scholastic.com that we feel should be reviewed for consideration of introduction to the curriculum.

A recommendation will be submitted monthly to the appropriate Grade Level Team of Teachers based upon the committee's analy-

sis and discussion of selected books for review. The Grade Level Team will then review the book to determine if it should be submitted for Mentor Text approval.

For the month of January, we will be reviewing the picture book: If Kids Ran The World (Grades k-3). The book club will meet to discuss the book on Thursday, January 28th.

Read More

<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/book-lists-and-recommendations/life-experiences-values/multicultural-books-kids-ages-6-10.html>



Ironia Elementary School



**Ironia Diversity & Inclusion
Committee**

**Ironia Diversity & Inclusion
Committee - Book Club Members**

Hazel Ball	Kayleigh Leppert
Rachel Bhatia	Rasheedah Lovett
Maite Biggan	Irma Pace
Patricia Bourke	Thomas Rathjen
Amy Baruch	Maureen Rockaway
Selina Brodsky	Carrie Sabatino
Mary Daly	Alma Scott
Jennifer DePeri	Tessa Schultz
Rebecca Fisher	Erin Skidmore
Valencia Hutchinson	Mary Anne Smallwood
David Kricheff	Megan Thompson

This Newsletter is edited and published by Rasheedah Lovett, a member of the Ironia Diversity & Inclusion Committee: An Educators & Parents Group.

The Ironia Diversity & Inclusion Committee is dedicated to the fostering of Diversity and Inclusion within the Ironia Elementary School to ensure that every family and every child feels a sense of welcome and joy in our community. We believe that this philosophy is not only the proper way to treat families, but it also helps nurture the hearts, minds, and bodies of Ironia students.

For more information about the Ironia Diversity & Inclusion Committee or to contribute an article towards a future newsletter, please send an email to Rasheedah Lovett at SheedahQ@gmail.com.



Reminders.....

The Ironia Diversity & Inclusion Committee Meetings take place on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm.

The Ironia Diversity & Inclusion Committee Book Club meets every 4th Thursday of the month at 7:30pm.

To become a member of the Ironia Diversity & Inclusion Committee, please send an email to Rachel Bhatia at rachelgghatia@gmail.com. Upon joining, you will be added to the monthly general meeting invite distribution list and be invited to join the Ironia Book Club.

