

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The next Ironia Diversity & Inclusion Committee (IDIC) meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 7:30pm.
- Randolph BOE will be holding its next virtual meeting on Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 6:15pm.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

#Giving Tuesday	1
Christmas Day	1
Hanukkah	2
Kwanzaa Celebration	2
Child Library Diversification	2
Value of Inclusive Education	3
National Special Education Day	3
Book Club	3

National Day Of Giving #GivingTuesday

This year, December 1, 2020 is National Day of Giving.

National Day of Giving also known as #GivingTuesday, encourages the act of giving back.

Every year, on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, people take the time to kickoff the holiday season by giving back to their community. Whether it be donating money to a charitable cause or volunteering, National Day of Giving is a day set to benefit communities.

The idea of Giving Tuesday was first announced in September 2012, two months prior to the first Giving Tuesday occurring on November 27th of that same year. The announcement was made by Giving Tuesday founding partner and technology website, Mashable. The purpose of the day is to inspire people and companies to take action, just like Black

Friday and Cyber Monday created a framework for retailers to sell merchandise.

After we've spent the weekend shopping and looking for the best deals

On the Tuesday after Thanksgiving charities, families, businesses, community centers, and students around the world will come together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity and to give.

A few examples of ways to give are as follows:

- Set up a collection for non-perishable food at work, etc.
- Deliver the collection to a local food pantry.
- Donate gift cards to a shelter.
- Collect new toys and donate them to children spending the holidays in the hospital.



A Day To Give Back

possible, this day reminds us to give to those less fortunate.

Whether we look to our favorite causes or charities, it's a great reminder to lift others up during a generous time of year.

Read More

<https://hq.givingtuesday.org/>

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-day-of-giving-givingtuesday-usually-follows-cyber-monday/>

December 25th is Christmas Day

Every year on December 25th, also known as Christmas Day, over 2 billion people around the world celebrate Christmas Day.

Christmas, a Christian holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ has evolved into a worldwide religious and secular celebration. Nonreligious people and those of different faiths celebrate the day as a cultural event.

One of the most popular Christmas customs is gift-giving. This custom has its roots in the Magi who brought gifts to Jesus shortly after his birth.

Christmas traditions vary around the world

and have evolved over time. Some other Christmas traditions include: Christmas Trees/Decorations, Hanging Lights, Poinsettias, Christmas Cards, and Christmas Caroling.

On Christmas Day, many families open their gifts in the morning. A special Christmas dinner follows complete with lots of goodies for dessert.

The best thing about Christmas is that you

can choose which traditions you want to keep. You can also have fun coming up with new traditions.

Christmas has the power to reunite families and friends, to warm up our hearts, and remind us that we have so many things to be thankful for. So put on your cozy PJs, light up your fireplace, call your loved ones, and top off your hot cocoa with some whipped cream or fluffy marshmallows!

The Ironia Diversity & Inclusion Committee would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas!

Read More

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/christmas-december-25/>



Hanukkah Observance



Hanukkah is the Jewish Festival of Lights

This year, Hanukkah will begin at sunset in the evening of Thursday, December 10th and ends at sunset in the evening of Friday, December 18th.

It's the story of God showing his love for his people, and their desire to honor him by remembering what he did for them.

The eight-day Jewish celebration known as Hanukkah or Chanukah commemorates the rededication during the second century B.C. of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, where according to legend Jews had risen up against their Greek-Syrian oppressors in the Maccabean Revolt. Hanukkah, which means "dedication" in Hebrew, begins on the 25th of Kislev on the

Hebrew calendar and usually falls in November or December. Often called the Festival of Lights, the holiday is celebrated with the lighting of the menorah, traditional foods, games and gifts.

The Hanukkah celebration revolves around the kindling of a nine-branched menorah, known in Hebrew as the Hanukiah. On each of the holiday's eight nights, another candle is added to the menorah after sun-down; the ninth candle, called the Shamash ("helper"), is used to light the others. Jewish people typically recite blessings during this ritual and display the menorah prominently in a window as a reminder to others of the miracle that inspired the holiday.

Some other traditions include:

- Spinning the Dreidel which is a game that is played during the holidays.
- Hanukkah gifts are given to children.
- Eating fried foods which help remember the miracle of oil.

The Ironia Diversity & Inclusion Committee would like to wish everyone a Happy Hanukkah!

Read More

<https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/hanukkah>

Kwanzaa Holiday Celebration



"Kwanzaa - A Celebration of Family, Community, and Culture."

Kwanzaa is an African-American and Pan-African Holiday which celebrates family, community, and culture.

It was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, a professor of African Studies. After the Watts riots in Los Angeles, Dr. Karenga searched for ways to bring African-Americans together as a community. He founded "US", a cultural organization, and started to research African "first fruit" (harvest) celebrations.

Dr. Karenga combined aspects of

several different harvest celebrations, such as those of the Ashanti and those of the Zulu, to form the basis of Kwanzaa.

Kwanzaa, a seven day cultural festival, begins December 26th and ends January 1st. It joins communitarian values and practices of Continental Africa and African American Culture.

During the holiday, families and communities organize around the Nguzo Saba (The Seven Principles); Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (Self Determination), Ujima (Collective Work

and Responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity), and Imani (Faith). Participants of the Kwanzaa Celebration also celebrate with feasts (karamu), music, dance, poetry, narratives, and end the holiday with a day dedicated to reflection and recommitment to The Seven Principles and other central cultural values.

The Ironia Diversity & Inclusion Committee would like to wish everyone a Happy Kwanzaa.

Read More

<http://www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org/>

Diversify Your Child's Home Library

Are you looking to diversify your child's home library?

Our country is struggling and many parents are feeling the incredible urgency to make sure they speak to their children about difficult topics such as racism and inclusivity.

When not sure how to exactly bring up an important but challenging topic, turning to books to help

guide us is always a good option and the holidays are the perfect time to give your children the gift of books!

Here are some wonderful books that include characters of different racial backgrounds. They are also all available through the Randolph Library:

- Jabari Jumps by Gaia Cornwall

- Drawn Together by Minh Lee
- Queen of the Hanukkah Dosas by Pamela Ehrenberg
- The Day You Begin by Jacqueline Woodson

We hope these book suggestions will be a great way to encourage children to continue reading over the holidays.



The Value of Inclusive Education for Students with Disabilities



**All
Are
Welcome**

Inclusive education is when all students, regardless of any challenges they may have, are placed in age-appropriate general education classes to receive high-quality instruction, interventions, and supports that enable them to meet success in the core curriculum (Bui, Quirk, Almazan, & Valenti,

2010; Alquraini & Gut, 2012).

The school and classroom operate on the premise that students with disabilities are as fundamentally competent as students without disabilities. Therefore, all students can be full participants in their classrooms and in the local school community. (Alquraini & Gut, 2012).

Key research findings on the benefits for students with disabilities in an inclusive classroom:

- Academic gains in reading and writing, math, and social studies
- Better communication skills
- Improved social skills and friendships

- Fewer disruptive behaviors

Benefits for students without disabilities:

- Greater academic gains in reading and math.
- Learning in a multi-sensory (visual, auditory, and kinesthetic) environment
- Peer to peer teaching, collaboration and teamwork
- Demonstrate more acceptance and tolerance for students with learning differences

Read More

<https://www.njcie.org/>

<https://www.wrightslaw.com/info/lre.incls.rsrch.whitbread.htm>

National Special Education Day

On December 2nd, National Special Education Day commemorates the anniversary of the nation's first Federal special education law. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was signed into law on December 2, 1972.

IDEA made education available to all American children and this day honors the progress that has been made in special education. Before IDEA, many individuals with disabilities received little to no education. Schools were not required to make accommodations for children with disabilities.

While some states offered special schools, the education and resources were not necessarily equal. Additionally, many parents couldn't afford to send their children away to a special school.

The law stipulated that children with disabilities had a right to the same free education that every other child had access to. Between the ages of 3 and 21, there are 13 different areas where children may qualify under the IDEA for services. IDEA was instrumental in increasing graduation rates for students with

disabilities.

IDEA resulted in many changes beyond bringing students equal education. The integration of students also helps to remove the stigma of disabilities. Another result of IDEA was the stimulation of technology for students with disabilities and for the classrooms. These technologies improved the education of all students.

Read More

<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-special-education-day-december-2/>

“IDEA - Children with disabilities have a right to the same free education that every other child has access to”

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 analysis 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 December, we will be reviewing the book: Blended (Grades 4-8). The book club will meet to discuss the book on Thursday, December 17th as opposed to the 24th due to it being Christmas

Eve.

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 - 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.

