

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The next Ironia Diversity & Inclusion Committee (IDIC) meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 7:30pm.
- Randolph BOE will be holding its next virtual meeting on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 6:15pm.
- No school on February 12th & 15th

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February is Black History Month

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history.

Also known as African American History month, the event grew out of "Negro History Week," which began in 1926 and was the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. "Negro History Week" was celebrated for years and was chosen because of the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln on February 12th, and Frederick Douglass on February 14th.

In the 50 years that followed, according to History.com, clubs, schools, and communities across the country began taking part in the week-long celebration. Slowly, more and more U.S. cities (like New York and Chicago), declared official recognition of "Negro History Week." Particularly in the 1960s, during the civil rights movement, with wider public knowledge of the trials and triumphs of African Americans, a mere seven days turned into a month-long recognition. As such, President Ford declared February "Black History

Month" in a commemorative speech. He urged citizens to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black

including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating Black history.

While Black History Month is our nation's way of showing respect and recognition for the hard work of and sacrifices made by African Americans, "Black History Month should not be treated as though it is somehow separate from our collective American history, or somehow just boiled down to a compilation of greatest hits from the March on Washington, or from some of our sports heroes", as stated by former President Barack Obama in a 2016 speech. "It's about the lived, shared experience of all African Americans, high and low, famous and obscure, and how those experiences have shaped and challenged and ultimately strengthened America. It's about taking an unvarnished look at the past so we can create a better future. It's a reminder of where we as a country have been so that we know where we need to go."



"History has shown us that courage can be contagious, and hope can take on a life of its own." – Michelle Obama

Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month.

Other countries around the world,

Read More

<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/black-history-month>

<https://www.oprahmag.com/life/a26077992/why-is-black-history-month-in-february/>

American Heart Association Go Red Day

February 5th is Go Red Day, The American Heart Association's signature women's initiative. Go Red for Women, is a comprehensive platform designed to increase women's heart health awareness and serve as a catalyst for change to improve the lives of women globally.

Chances are we all know someone affected by heart disease and stroke because cardiovascular disease claims the lives of 1 in 3 women - that's about one woman every 80 seconds. So it is important for all women to know their heart health numbers and be aware of heart disease and stroke symptoms.

Here's what it means to Go Red:

G: GET YOUR NUMBERS

Ask your doctor to check your blood pressure and cholesterol.

O: OWN YOUR LIFESTYLE

Stop smoking, lose weight, exercise, and eat healthy. It's up to you. No one can do it for you.

R: REALIZE YOUR RISK

We think it won't happen to us, but heart disease kills one of three women.

E: EDUCATE YOUR FAMILY

Make healthy food choices for you and your family. Teach your kids the importance of staying active.

D: DON'T BE SILENT

Tell every woman you know that heart disease is our No. 1 killer.

It's no longer just about wearing red; it's no longer just about sharing heart health facts. It's about all women making a commitment to stand together with Go Red and taking charge of their own heart health as well as the health of those they can't bear to live without. Making a commitment to your health isn't something you have to do alone either, so grab a friend or a family member and make a Go Red Healthy Behavior Commitment today.

Read More

<https://www.goredforwomen.org/en>

Random Act of Kindness Day



“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted”

Random Act of Kindness Day is February 17!

The day is celebrated by individuals, groups, and organizations nationwide to encourage acts of kindness and to practice paying it forward.

Everyone can use more kindness in their lives. Scientific evidence shows us the positive effects of doing kind acts for others as well as receiving or even witnessing kindness. Even the smallest act of kindness can change a life.

Some Random Acts of Kindness Ideas include:

- Pay for the person behind you in the drive-thru
- Buy extra at the grocery store and donate it to a food pantry
- Send an encouraging text to someone
- Take a gift to new neighbors and introduce yourself

How will you celebrate Random Act of Kindness Day with your children? Consider reading a book with your children, like the award-winning children’s book, *Each Kindness*, by Jacqueline Woodson. This beautifully written and illustrated

book is about the new girl, Maya, who comes to school and tries to make friends. When Chloe, the narrator, is unkind, Maya keeps trying. Eventually Maya stops coming to school. When Chloe’s teacher gives a lesson about how even small acts of kindness can change the world, Chloe is stung by the lost opportunity for friendship, and thinks about how much better it could have been if she’d shown a little kindness toward Maya.

For more ideas and free content that promotes kindness toward others, please visit:

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

Rosa Parks Day - A Day Of Courage



Sitting Down to Stand Up.

February 4th is Rosa Parks Day also known as A Day Of Courage.

Rosa Parks Day is an American observance to honor civil rights activist Rosa Parks, who on December 1, 1955, was travelling on a Montgomery City bus when the bus driver asked her to vacate her seat for a white man. The driver’s request was standard practice of racial segregation in buses at the time. Rosa Parks refused to leave her seat on the grounds of fairness, freedom and equality. As a result, she was arrested and convicted of violating the laws of segregation, known as the “Jim Crow” laws. She appealed her conviction and formally challenged the legality of segregation. At the same time, civil rights

activists, including Martin Luther King Jr, boycotted the Montgomery bus system. The boycott lasted for 381 days, into December 1956, when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the segregation law was unconstitutional and the Montgomery buses should be integrated. This boycott kick-started other civil rights protests throughout the U.S.

Over the years, the Rosa Parks bus has become a symbol of the fight for equal rights. It has been fully restored and is now displayed in the Henry Ford Museum.

Rosa Parks Day promotes equal opportunities, civil rights, and fairness across communities in the U.S. Church leaders, politicians, and organizational leaders unite in states

like California and Ohio to promote the day with a range of events and activities. Many schools have classroom activities that focus on Rosa Parks’ struggles for equality and achievements against discrimination.

How can you observe Rosa Parks Day? Learn more about Rosa Parks, that day in Montgomery, Alabama, and her role in the Civil Rights movement. Discover how the Montgomery Bus Boycott affected the bussing system. Several books and films offer insight into this day in history and the Civil Rights movement to follow.

Read More

<https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/rosa-parks-day>

Valentine’s Day 2021

Valentine’s Day is celebrated on February 14, and we are ready to shower our significant others with love and tokens of our affection!

Valentine’s Day occurs annually on February 14th. Across the United States and in other places around the world, candy, flowers and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine.

There are multiple legends of Saint Valentine, and different reliquaries in the Czech Republic, Ireland, Scotland, England and France all claim to have bones attributed to a Saint Valentine.

While Catholics believe that Feb. 14 commemorates the martyrdom of Saint Valentine, who was a Roman priest beheaded in

the third century, no one can agree on exactly what he did or why he was executed. Some legends say Valentine was a bishop in Terni, Italy, who healed the sick, including the blind daughter of a prison guard whom he met while in jail for practicing Christianity in a pagan world. Some say he was sentenced to death because he tried to convert Emperor Claudius to Christianity. Others say the sentence came because he was caught secretly performing weddings, defying a ban on marriage that had been imposed by the Emperor as a solution to a military recruitment crunch.

Which ever story you believe, the premise of Valentine’s Day is simple to under-

stand: Feb. 14 is a time to show appreciation for friends, families, significant others, and anyone else you might love.

This day of love is celebrated in so many ways, it is always exciting to see what new traditions are included or created year after year. Whether it is elaborate engagements, intimate dinners for two, spending time with family, or the most recent variation ‘Galentine’s Day’. It is a holiday we all can enjoy!

Happy Valentine’s Day!

Read More

<https://www.history.com/topics/valentines-day>



How Kids Learn About Race, Stereotypes, & Prejudice



Anyone who has spent much time with young children knows they have a way of forming their own ideas about the world around them, no matter what lessons family and teachers try to instill. Kids also can pick up on things that adults would rather they not. These

innate tendencies are at work when racial differences come into play. Even though race is a complex social construct, children start getting their heads around it early — within the first year of life, researchers have found.

Erin N. Winkler, an associate professor and chair in the Africology Department at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, has spent her career studying how children form their ideas about race during early stages of devel-

opment. As curious young minds begin to figure out shapes and colors, they're also considering visible differences among people and discerning their own identities, including racial concepts. Of course, this development doesn't mean that children are inherently bigoted — rather, their thinking about race stems from normal processes of observing and categorizing.

Winkler explained her research into these behaviors in an October 13, 2015, talk titled "Children Are Not Colorblind." She explained how children's conceptions of race are tied to their cognitive development as well as parental and societal messages.

Winkler argued that adults shouldn't ignore or discourage children's questions about race. In fact, she pointed to studies that indicate simply encouraging children to be "colorblind," rather than grappling with the complexities of race, can reinforce preju-

dice and make it harder for people to work against racism in the long run.

Do you remember learning any stereotypes when you were younger? Are there stereotypes that you still hear or see through the media? Which ones do you find yourself returning to and still ascribing some truth to? Why do you think it is so hard to let go of certain stereotypes?

Check out the link below to hear a wonderful TED talk about stereotypes called "The Danger of a Single Story":

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9lHs24Izeg&list=PL0Z0gDKhIsKtiN05ktPPjFuUlkSqW-cAf&index=9>

Read More

<https://www.wiscontext.org/how-kids-learn-about-race-stereotypes-and-prejudice>

World Cancer Day 2021

World Cancer Day is observed worldwide on February 4. The aim is to inform and encourage people on its prevention, early detection, and treatment.

According to the World Health Organization, Cancer is one of the leading causes of death worldwide. The Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) was established in 1993. Based in Geneva, it is a membership-based society working towards the eradication of cancer around the world and advancing medical research. Under its direction, the first International Cancer Day was celebrated in Geneva, Switzerland in the same year.

World Cancer Day was made official at the first World Summit Against Cancer in 2000. The event took place in Paris and was attended by members of cancer organizations and prominent government leaders from around the world. A document titled

the Charter of Paris Against Cancer featuring 10 articles was signed, outlining a global commitment to improving the facilitation and quality of life of cancer patients. Article X of this charter officially declared World Cancer Day to be observed on February 4.

On this day, hundreds of events and fundraisers take place around the world each year, to bring individuals, communities, and organizations together in hospitals, schools, businesses, markets, community halls, parks, etc. to campaign and deliver the powerful reminder that those hit by cancer are not alone, and we all share a responsibility in reducing the global impact of this disease.

How to observe World Cancer Day?

1. Get Social

Join the #WeCanCan, Support Through Sport, and

Thundercalp campaigns on social media. For the more adventurous, you can also check out #nohairselfie on Facebook or Twitter.

2. Take a Moment And Commit

Take a moment to reflect on cancer's impact on you—and commit to taking a positive action, whether it is donating time or money, scheduling a doctor's appointment or making a healthier choice at mealtime today.

3. Reach Out And Remember

Take a moment to connect with your loved ones who have been touched by the big "C."

Read More

<https://nationaltoday.com/world-cancer-day/>

**“Supporting
The Fighters,
Admiring The
Survivors, and
Honoring The
Taken”**

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 February, we will be reviewing the following picture books: 1) Hair Love by Matthew Cherry, 2) Whoever You Are by Mem Fox, and 3) Drawn Together by Minh Lee. The book club will meet to discuss these books on Thursday, February 25th.

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 rachelgbhatia@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.

