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# MCCSD DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION NEWSLETTER

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Team Middle Country,

Welcome to the May/June edition of the Middle Country Central School District's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Newsletter! This issue will highlight Personal History Awareness Month, Ramadan, Pride Month, community events, book club and upcoming cultural and religious observances.

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## MAY IS PERSONAL HISTORY AWARENESS MONTH

### Character Education Word of the Month: Self-Discipline

Historians recognize Personal History Month as an opportunity for people to learn about and preserve their personal and/or family history. Here is a list of reasons to engage in this practice, click [here](#).

Better Hearing & Speech Month is also in May. With an estimated 48 million Americans experiencing hearing loss, The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) aims to raise awareness about communication disorders. The theme for 2021 is "Building Connections."

ASHA provides free graphics and templates, and will host its annual social media campaign, *Speaking Up for Communication*. For more information, click [here](#).

May is also tribute to and a celebration of the cultures, histories, contributions, and achievements of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Jewish Americans, and Haitian Americans.

- To read more information about Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, click [here](#).

- To read more information about Jewish-American Heritage Month, click [here](#).
- To read more information about Haitian Heritage Month, click [here](#).



"To be a person is to have a story to tell." — Isak Dinesen

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## RAMADAN

Ramadan began Monday, April 12th, and ended at sundown on Wednesday, May 12th. Here are a few reminders of how to continue supporting the Muslim student community:

- Prayer, and praying during specific times, is important for Muslims who observe Ramadan. Because of this, students may step away from a lesson.
- Students who fast will not be able to participate in assignments that involve the consumption of foods or liquids during classes, and may need alternative assignments if a lesson requires physical activity.
- Not all Muslim students fast during Ramadan.

For more information about Ramadan, click [here](#).

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## JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH

### Character Education Word of the Month: Courage

Pride Month commemorates the events of June 1969 and works to achieve equal justice and equal opportunity for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) individuals. This is a time to continue to learn about the achievements and value the stories of the LGBTQ community.

Today, celebrations include people around the world participating in parades, festivals, workshops, symposia and concerts. For more information, click [here](#).

June is also Caribbean American Heritage Month. For more information, click [here](#).

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## UPCOMING RELIGIOUS & CULTURAL OBSERVANCES

### May

- May 5: Cinco de Mayo
- May 12 (sundown) - May 13: Eid-ul-Fitr
- May 9: Mother's Day
- May 31: Memorial Day

### June

- June 19: Juneteenth
- June 20: Father's Day

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## COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Middle Country Public Library is offering the following free virtual programs:

- Teens entering 6th - 12th grade will create a painted wooden flag to display LGBTQ pride on June 21st at 7:00pm. The Take-and-Make program will provide participants with the necessary supplies. For more information, click [here](#).
- Teens entering 6th - 12th grade will build community through writing about experiences relating to LGBTQIA+ on June 22nd at 6:30pm. No registration is required. For more information, click [here](#).

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## BOOK CLUB

### Children's Books

- *The Name Jar* by Yangsook Choi
- *What Color is My Hijab?* by Hudda Ibrahim

### Young Adult

- *Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai
- *The Stars Beneath Our Feet* by Barclay Moore



The DEI Committee at MCCSD is committed to ensuring that our schools are inclusive, respectful, and emotionally supportive places of learning. Our objective is to align with New York State Education Department's Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education Framework.