

Monthly Message:

Women's History Month began as a week-long celebration in March of 1982. In 1987, following the petitioning of the National Women's History Project, March was declared "Women's History Month." Since then, Presidents have issued a series of annual proclamations designating March as "Women's History Month." These proclamations celebrate the contributions of women to our nation and their achievements over the course of American history, in a variety of fields. This month, the School District of Philadelphia celebrates and acknowledges the contributions women have made to our District, city, and nation.

In addition to recognizing Women's History, March also serves as Deaf History Month.

Important Dates to Remember:

March 1 - Zero Discrimination Day

- Zero Discrimination Day, observed on March 1st, aims to promote equality, inclusion, and tolerance worldwide. It calls for an end to all forms of discrimination and encourages everyone to embrace diversity and respect the rights of others.

March 3 - World Hearing Day

- World Hearing Day, observed on March 3rd, raises awareness about hearing loss and promotes ear and hearing care across the world. It aims to highlight the importance of early identification and intervention for hearing loss, as well as prevention measures to protect hearing.

March 4 - Mardi Gras

- Mardi Gras, French for "Fat Tuesday," is a festive celebration held on the day before Ash Wednesday, marking the end of the Carnival season. It is characterized by parades, masquerade balls, and indulgent foods, as people celebrate before the fasting period of Lent begins in many Christian traditions.

March 5 - Ash Wednesday

- Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a solemn religious observance in the Christian calendar leading up to Easter. It is a day of fasting, repentance, and prayer, symbolized by the imposition of ashes on the forehead in the shape of a cross. Ash Wednesday reminds Christians of their mortality and the need for spiritual renewal, encouraging introspection and preparation for the Easter season.

March 7 - Employee Appreciation Day

March 8 - International Women's Day

- International Women's Day, celebrated on March 8th, is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. It is also a call to action to accelerate gender parity and to raise awareness about women's rights and issues. International Women's Day has been observed for over a century, highlighting the ongoing struggle for gender equality and the need to empower women worldwide.

March 10 - Harriet Tubman Day

- Harriet Tubman Day, observed on March 10th, honors the life and legacy of Harriet Tubman, an African American abolitionist, humanitarian, and Union spy during the American Civil War. It celebrates her courage, leadership, and dedication to the fight against slavery, inspiring generations to come with her remarkable story of resilience and liberation.

March 14 - Holi

- Holi, also known as the Festival of Colors, is a Hindu spring festival celebrated in India and Nepal, as well as other countries with Hindu populations. It signifies the victory of good over evil, the arrival of spring, and the end of winter. Holi is celebrated with vibrant colors, music, dance, and the sharing of sweets, fostering a sense of unity and joy in the community.

Important Dates to Remember:

March 14 - Hola Mohalla

- Hola Mohalla is a significant Sikh festival that showcases martial arts, bravery, and spiritual devotion, held annually in Anandpur Sahib, India. The festival blends religious observances with displays of martial skills, symbolizing the Sikh community's historical valor and commitment to defending justice while fostering a sense of unity and cultural pride.

March 17 - St. Patrick's Day

- St. Patrick's Day, observed on March 17th, celebrates the patron saint of Ireland, St. Patrick, and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland. It is marked by parades, wearing of green attire, and the display of shamrocks, symbolizing the Trinity, in honor of St. Patrick's teachings.

March 20 - Naw-Rúz

- Naw-Ruz, meaning "New Day," marks the Persian New Year and the beginning of spring. It is celebrated by various cultures and religions, including Zoroastrians, Baha'is, and some Muslim communities. Naw-Ruz symbolizes renewal, hope, and the triumph of light over darkness, with traditions including cleaning the home, wearing new clothes, and sharing meals with loved ones.

March 21 - World Down Syndrome Day

- World Down Syndrome Day, observed on March 21st, raises awareness about Down Syndrome and promotes the rights, inclusion, and well-being of people with Down Syndrome. It aims to challenge stereotypes, advocate for equal opportunities, and celebrate the unique abilities and contributions of individuals with Down Syndrome.

March 21 - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

- International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, observed on March 21st, commemorates the Sharpeville massacre in South Africa in 1960, where police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against apartheid "pass laws." It is a day to renew efforts to combat racism, xenophobia, and intolerance, and to promote understanding, inclusion, and respect for diversity.

March 30 - Eid al-Fitr

- Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan, a month of fasting and spiritual reflection for Muslims, and is a time of joyous celebration, gratitude, and communal prayers. It signifies a renewed sense of spiritual accomplishment and fosters a spirit of generosity and togetherness through feasting, giving gifts, and supporting the less fortunate.

March 31 - Trans Day of Visibility

- Trans Day of Visibility recognizes and celebrates the achievements and contributions of transgender individuals, fostering a sense of pride and acceptance within the community. It also raises awareness about the ongoing challenges and discrimination faced by transgender people, promoting inclusivity and support in society.

March

Women's History Month

Equity in Practice

March - Women's History Month

Wednesday, March 11 from 12:00pm - 1:00pm

- Join us for a panel discussion where we will explore how we can collectively uplift and support women's voices and contributions within our District and Community. - [Register HERE](#)

Community Organizations:

[Girls Inc:](#)

In partnership with schools and at Girls Inc. centers, we focus on the development of the whole girl. She learns to value herself, take risks, and discover and develop her inherent strengths. The combination of long-lasting mentoring relationships, a pro-girl environment, and research-based programs equip girls to navigate gender, economic, and social barriers, and grow up healthy, educated, and independent. Informed by girls and their families, we also advocate for legislation and policies to increase opportunities and rights for all girls.

[The Evoluer House:](#)

The Evoluer House, an innovative and dynamic nonprofit organization, delivers evidence-based empowerment programs that help girls to envision a future devoid of disadvantages and filled with possibilities. We are on a mission to help produce strong female leadership in the workforce and in society, by investing in young women and girls and their collective well-being and power. The target population is girls of color in Philadelphia aged 13 to 18, who are experiencing a unique set of social and emotional challenges and barriers to success.

[Know Your Worth Girls Inc:](#)

Know Your Worth Girls Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit established in 2019 that primarily focuses on strengthening the self esteem of at-risk girls while extending support to underserved families in Philadelphia. The mission is to enhance the quality of lives of individuals by promoting self empowerment, skill development, wellness & support. Know Your Worth Girls Inc. provides a safe haven that offers programming, events and opportunities that encourage personal growth & success.

Women's History Month Learning Resources:

[National Women's History Museum](#)

[Women's Hisotry Month for the Classroom](#)

[Celebrate Women's History](#)

Ideas for School Based Celebrations

Celebrating Women's History Month? Reach out to the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at equity@philasd.org to have your celebration highlighted in the Equity Newsletter.

Classroom Biographies:

- **Preparation:** Research influential women in history and gather books, articles, and videos.
- **Activity:** Have students select a notable woman, create a biography project, and present their work.
- **Engagement:** Encourage creativity with different formats, such as posters, digital slideshows, or video presentations.

Women's History Timeline:

- **Preparation:** Compile significant events, milestones, and figures in women's history.
- **Activity:** Create a classroom timeline with student contributions, highlighting key achievements and moments.
- **Engagement:** Let students take ownership by researching and adding events to the timeline throughout the month.

Famous Women Speeches:

- **Preparation:** Collect transcripts and videos of powerful speeches by famous women.
- **Activity:** Assign students to analyze and present excerpts from speeches, discussing their historical and cultural context.
- **Engagement:** Host a class discussion on the themes of empowerment, leadership, and change within the speeches.

Book Club or Read-Aloud:

- **Preparation:** Choose age-appropriate books written by or about inspiring women.
- **Activity:** Organize a book club or daily read-aloud sessions, followed by group discussions or reflection activities.
- **Engagement:** Encourage students to connect the themes of the stories to current events and their own experiences.

Living History Performance:

- **Preparation:** Assign students historical figures and guide them in researching their lives and contributions.
- **Activity:** Have students dress up and present as their chosen figures, giving a "living history" performance.
- **Engagement:** Create an interactive experience by inviting other classes or parents to watch and ask questions.

Art Exhibit:

- **Preparation:** Gather materials and ideas for art projects inspired by women in history, such as portraits or symbolic artwork.
- **Activity:** Host a classroom art exhibit featuring student-created pieces that honor significant women and their contributions.
- **Engagement:** Allow students to curate and explain their artwork, creating a deeper connection to the figures they depict.

Other Celebration Examples

- [37 Women's History Month Activities and Ideas](#)