

February 2013 Multicultural Connection



February 11 - Make a Friend Day

Do you have enough friends? The answer should be no. No matter how many friends we have, more of them increase our wealth. That's because friends are one of life's valuable assets.

Make a Friend Day is a great opportunity to meet someone new, or do something to make a new friend. Making a new friend can be easier to do than you think. There must be many ways to make new friends. It often helps by smiling and just being friendly or helpful.

Spend **Make a Friend Day** being friendly, and by doing special or nice things for others.



February 14-Valentine's Day

February has long been a month of romance and across the country, candy, flowers, and gifts are exchanged between loved ones. More than 188 million **Valentine's Day** cards are exchanged annually, making **Valentine's Day** the second-most popular greeting-card-giving occasion. This total excludes packaged kids valentines for classroom exchanges.

For additional information: www.history.com/content/valentine/

February 11 to 17 - Random Acts of Kindness Week

Kindness is a character trait that needs to be practiced on an ongoing basis. Place a 'Kindness Jar' in the classroom. When a student observes an act of kindness, he/she writes down what they have seen on a slip of paper and place it in the 'Kindness Jar'. Periodically, the slips are posted on a big paper jar on the wall near the entry to the classroom for all in the school to read.

Visit the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation website to view lesson plans for all academic levels.

<http://www.actsofkindness.org/classroom/plans/>



February 18 – Presidents' Day

Presidents' Day is celebrated on the third Monday in February to honor two of our greatest presidents, Abraham Lincoln and George Washington.



This is a good time to also remember the First Ladies, their support and the contributions they have made. Visit these websites for lesson plans, activities and biographies:

<http://holidays.kaboose.com/presidents-day/presidents-day.html>

www.alphabet-soup.net/hol/president.html

http://edsitement.neh.gov/view_lesson_plan.asp?ID=337

<http://k6educators.about.com/gi/dynamic/offsite.htm?site=http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/firstladies>



February 26- Tell a Fairy Tale Day

There are numerous folktales and mythological legends that show how friends and friendship have been valued since the beginning of the civilized world. Ask your media specialist to recommend titles of multicultural tales that focus on friendship.

Check out this website on How to Choose the Best Multicultural Books:
<http://content.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3757>

Black History Month

During February, teachers and students all over the United States will be participating in activities that commemorate **Black History Month**.

Black History Month is a federally recognized, nationwide celebration that provides the opportunity for all Americans to reflect on the significant roles that African-Americans have played in the shaping of U.S. history.



Dr. Carter G. Woodson, considered a pioneer in the study of African-American history, is given much of the credit for **Black History Month**, and has been called the "Father of Black History." The son of former slaves, Woodson spent his childhood working in coalmines and quarries. He received his education during the four-month term that was customary for black schools at the time. At 19, having taught himself English fundamentals and arithmetic, Woodson entered high school, where he completed a four3 year curriculum in two years. He went on to receive his Master's degree in history from the University of Chicago, and he eventually earned a PhD from Harvard.

Disturbed that history textbooks largely ignored America's black population, Woodson took on the challenge of writing black Americans into the nation's history. To do this, Woodson established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. He also founded the group's widely respected publication, the Journal of Negro History. In 1926, he developed Negro History Week. Woodson believed that "the achievements of the Negro properly set forth will crown him as a factor in early human progress and a maker of modern civilization."

Woodson chose the second week of February for the celebration because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced the black American population: Frederick Douglass (February 14), an escaped slave who became one of the foremost black abolitionists and civil rights leaders in the nation, and President Abraham Lincoln (February 12), who signed the Emancipation Proclamation, which abolished slavery in America's confederate states. In 1976, Negro History Week expanded into **Black History Month**.

The month is also sometimes referred to as African-American Heritage Month.

Source: <http://blackhistorypages.net/pages/cgwoodson.php>
<http://www.chipublib.org/002branches/woodson/woodsonbib.html>

For information on how to participate in the 2013 African American Read in:
www.ncte.org/action/aari

2013 National African American Read-In



The following websites might give you some ideas for observing **Black History Month**:

http://www.cnn.com/EVENTS/black_history/index.html

<http://www.timeforkids.com/TFK/specials/bhm/0,8805,97217,00.html>

<http://www.teachervision.fen.com/black-history-month/teacher-resources/6602.html>

<http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/BHM/index.html>

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/bhistory/>

<http://history.com/minisites/blackhistory/>

<http://biography.com//blackhistory/>

<http://teachingtolerance.org>