



WITH MISSION IN MIND

Volume 3

October 9, 2023

A Prayer for Inclusion

May the God who created a world of diversity and vibrancy,
Go with us as we embrace life in all its fullness. May the Son who teaches us to
care for stranger and foreigners,

Go with us as we try to be good neighbors in our communities.

May the Spirit who breaks down our barriers and celebrates community,
Go with us as we find the courage to create a place of welcome for all.

- *Clare McBeath and Tim Presswood*

Charism Highlight: Faith

Our Faith Charism guides us as we strive to be a *Community of faith that welcomes and embraces all faith traditions*. This means that FXW's objective is not only to be inclusive of community members who represent many faith traditions in ways that are welcoming and accepting outside of classroom instruction but also being inclusive inside our religious instruction. You might be wondering what this looks like inside and outside of FXW's learning spaces.

Our religion teachers have created a unique two-tract model to do just that. Our Moonbeams are our students who identify as Catholic and participate in Catholic religious classes during the sacramental years (Grades 2-3 and 7-8). During these years, the Shooting Stars, who make up our interfaith community, engage in a multi-faith religion class. In Grades 1, 4, 5, and 6, all students come together in religion class to increase their overall knowledge of world religions. Doing so provides students with windows and mirrors in the curriculum and learning environment.

--Thank you to religion teacher, Brigid Cashman, for providing valuable information for this volume's Charism Highlight.



Grade 3 First Reconciliation

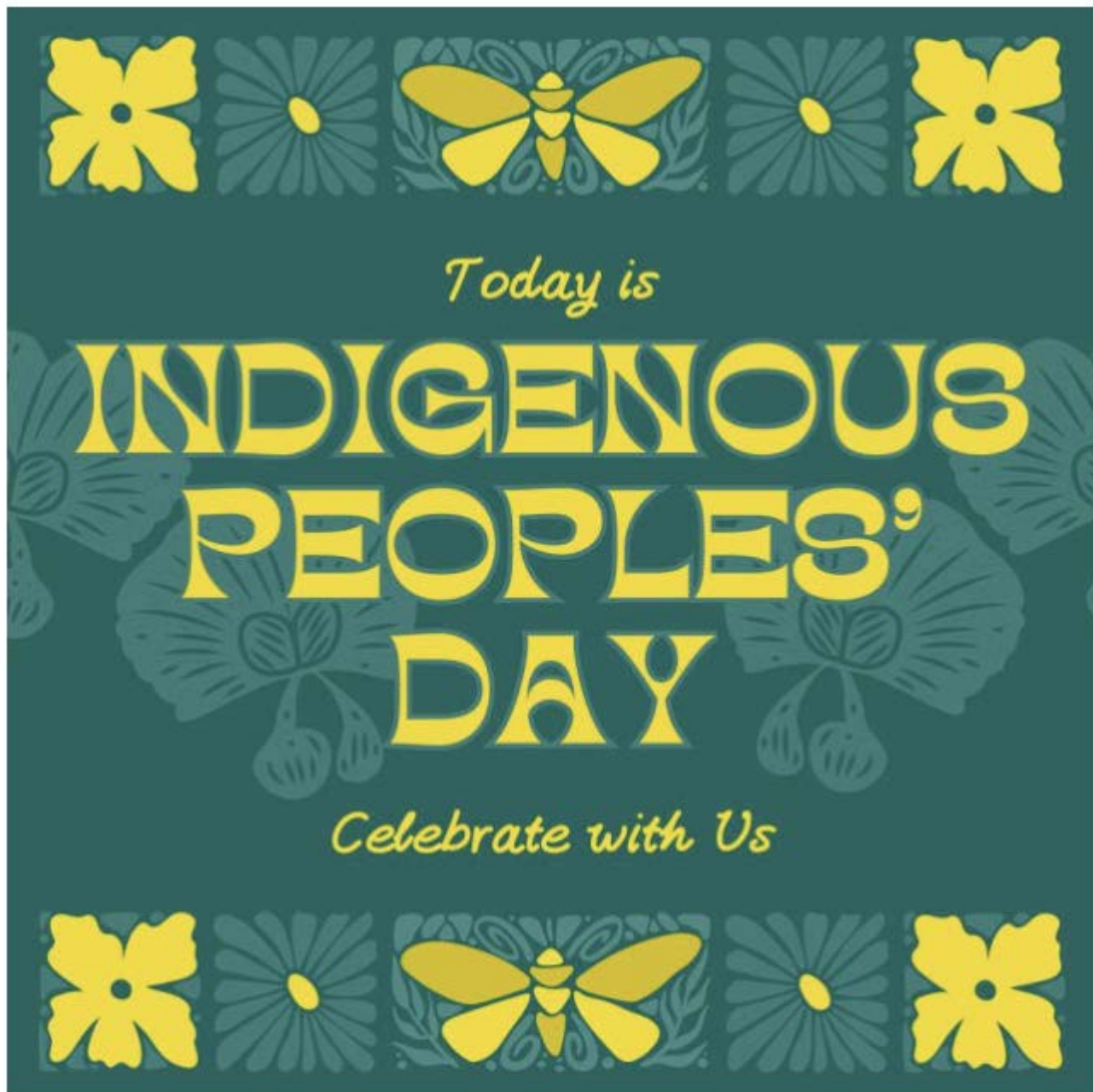


Grade 6 Seder

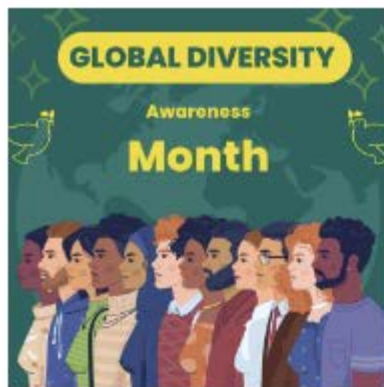


Celebration of Eid

Dates and Celebrations



"On **Indigenous Peoples' Day**, our Nation celebrates the invaluable contributions and resilience of Indigenous peoples, recognizes their inherent sovereignty, and commits to honoring the Federal Government's trust and treaty obligations to Tribal Nations. The contributions that Indigenous peoples have made throughout history are integral to our Nation, our culture, and our society." - President Joe Biden, *A Proclamation on Indigenous Peoples' Day* (2021)



While it is our goal at FXW to celebrate the vast richness of races, ethnicities, religions, backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives that make up our diverse community each and every day, it is important that we recognize and celebrate the months dedicated to particular cultures to honor, support, and raise awareness for all. This month, we honor the following heritages and raise awareness for the following causes.

Global Diversity Month
Filipino American History
Italian American Heritage
German American Heritage
Polish American Heritage
Hindu Heritage
Latinx & Hispanic Heritage
LGBTQ+ History Month
National Coming Out Day
ADHD Awareness

Each campus will highlight these heritages and causes inside and outside of our learning spaces. If you celebrate these with your family and friends and have pictures or stories to share, please email Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Terri S. Jackson at jacksont@fxw.org. We would love to see and share.



Breast Cancer Awareness Month

To support community members whose lives have been touched by breast cancer, to raise awareness of the importance of early detection, and to continue to hope for a cure, we ask that students wear pink on the dress down day that falls on Friday, Oct. 20. Throughout the month, students can also pick up a ribbon or a bracelet to wear. These will be located at the main desks at both HNC and OSP.

October's Diversity Calendar

OCTOBER 2023

Diversity Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 UN Int'l Day of Non-Violence	4	5	6 Dis German American Heritage Day, Jewish Shema Azonei, Hoshana Rabban	7
8 LGBTQ+ Int'l Lesbian Day	9 US Columbus Day, US Indigenous Peoples' Day	10 World Health Day	11 UN Int'l Day of the Girl Child, LGBTQ+ Nat'l Coming Out Day	12 Sikh Ganga Chhor Diwan	13	14
15 Hindu Navratri, US 20th Anniversary Equality Day	16	17	18	19 LGBTQ+ Spirit Day and Int'l Pronoun Day	20 Hindu Durga Puja	21
22	23	24 Hindu Dussehra	25	26 LGBTQ+ History Awareness Day	27	28
29	30	31 Int'l Halloween/Halloween, Karva Chauth, Pagan and Wiccan Samhain	<p><i>*begins at sunset the prior evening</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Down Syndrome Awareness Month • LGBT History Month • Filipino American History Month • Italian American Heritage Month • Polish American Heritage Month 			

Being intentionally inclusive means making every effort to recognize religious and cultural holidays that our community members may observe and to educate the FXW community on those some may not be aware of. It also means taking these holidays into consideration when planning events, homework, etc.

FXW subscribes to Diversity Resources' monthly calendar to help make sure that we don't forget important dates. As FXW community members, you have access to the calendar, too. [Click here](#) or on the calendar above to view all religious and cultural holidays observed in October and to subscribe to FXW's Diversity Calendar.

Parent Engagement Opportunity

The FXW community will celebrate **Diwali** November 6-10. Also known as the "Festival of Lights," Diwali is one of the major religious festivals in Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism.

Students will take part in presentations, performances, and hands-on activities on Wednesday, Nov. 8 (HNC) and Thursday, Nov. 9 (OSP).

We are looking for parents/guardians to join the planning committee. If you are interested, please contact Roshan Utamsingh (parent of Nihal and Naisha Johar, Grade 6) at rutamsingh@yahoo.com before Tuesday, Oct. 10. The more the merrier and more successful we will be. All are welcome.

Your Voice Matters!

Join an Equity & Justice Forum Committee, Lead an Affinity Group

It's almost that time. The Equity and Justice Forum committees will begin meeting next month. If you are still considering which Equity and Justice Forum subcommittee, there's still time to sign up.

We are also looking for families and faculty/staff members to serve as affinity group facilitators. You don't need to be an expert on any of the topics. Training will be provided. You simply need to be open to learning and supporting FXW's Mission and Charisms.

[Click here](#) to learn more and to sign up.

Are you ready? We will begin meeting in November!

I want to support FXW's Mission and Charisms

Comments & Questions

If there is a cultural and/or religious tradition you would like to see highlighted in *With Mission in Mind*, please click [here](#) to submit your suggestions. If there is a topic you'd like us to explore and share with the community, use the link to share your thoughts. All submissions will be reviewed by the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.



Thank you for reading!



The Frances Xavier Warde School
751 N State St, Chicago, IL 60654
120 S Desplaines St, Chicago, IL 60661

1-312-466-0700

www.fxw.org

Email: community@fxw.org