

MONONGALIA COUNTY DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION NEWSLETTER

“LANGUAGE IS UNIQUE ALL OVER THE WORLD”



Monongalia County celebrates the different languages throughout the world in October

Monongalia County Schools is committed to providing a mutually respectful educational environment that is welcoming to all individuals from diverse backgrounds that promotes individual development, intellectual growth, and responsible citizenship

Throughout the world there are over 7,000 different languages that are spoken with more languages emerging every day. In the United States there are 347 languages that are spoken with English being the primary language.

Why so many languages? That is often asked by many people. The answer comes down to why languages are important.



Language is how we communicate with one another. We convey our feelings and needs. It can be written, oral or signed.

Most of the 7,000 plus languages were developed within tribes of people that were specific to an area or group. When someone came along that did not speak the language it showed that individual did not belong in that area.

Without language we would not be able to communicate with one another. In the times of traders or travelers it was smart to learn certain words or phrases of areas that they would travel to. It helped with the communication and building relationships

Why is it important to learn other languages? It can be beneficial to learn words or phrases of other languages because it allows us to communicate and form relationships with others.

We are living in a globalized world and interacting with individuals that speak different languages on a daily basis. Helping expose our kids to different languages can help them succeed as they go throughout the lives.

October Observations

- Down Syndrome Awareness Month
- Global Diversity Awareness Month
- Italian-American Heritage Month
- LGTB History Month
- National German-American Day- Oct. 6th
- National Stop Bullying Day- Second Wednesday in Oct.

For questions or more information please contact:

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IN THIS ISSUE

PARENT CORNER

THIS MONTH

WHAT IS MY SCHOOL DOING

PARENT CORNER

The parent corner is optional reading for parents that are looking for additional resources or ideas at home. Monongalia county schools in only providing optional resources and respects everyone's differences.

Learning a second language has many benefits to it.

- Career options can improve
- I can expand one's knowledge about other cultures
- It helps boost creativity
- Helps connect with other people.

Even learning certain words or phrases can have benefits to it. All students in K-12 have an opportunity to learn a different language.

How you can help at home

- **Help your child make time to practice**- Your child is already participating in some type of foreign language at school. Find time to talk about or practice what they learned.

This does not need to be every day, but try finding time during dinner or before bed. If you know your child is learning about different foods, then try to incorporate that into the dinner conversation.

- **Have your child teach you to say something**- Give your child an opportunity to teach you will help them and make it fun for them.

Taking an interest in what they are learning and giving them the opportunity to show you will help them stay interested and engaged in learning a new language.

- **Find events related to the language**- See what is going on in the community that celebrates the language they are learning. Providing more exposure and opportunities to learn will help with their interest in the language.
- **Ask the teacher for resources**- Ask the language teacher at school if they could send home additional resources to practice at home or if they have any recommendations.
- **Provide videos, movies and books in the language**- Again, exposing your child and giving them more opportunities to learn another language will help them. Just make sure they are geared toward children and not adults.

Learning Sign Language

Sign language has a lot of benefits to it. You always hear about the benefits that sign language has for babies and toddlers, but the benefits are there for older kids too.

- **Improves Spelling**- Research shows that learning the basic sign language skills of the alphabet can help improve spelling in young kids. It helps give them another way of remembering to spell words.
- **Improve classroom behaviors**- Teachers that have incorporated sign language into their classroom are finding it useful with better classroom management. Kids can sign that they need something (toilet, drink, pencil). It helps cut down on classroom interruptions.
- **Improves small motor skills**- Because of the dexterity it requires. Sign language helps improve small motor skills.
- **Build a better vocabulary**- nonverbal communication is a big part of our communication. Sign language helps reinforce vocabulary and meaning of words. When words can be both seen and heard it leaves a stronger impression on you.

There are benefits to starting your child learning early, but no matter the age sign language can have a lot of benefit. Basic knowledge of sign language is beneficial in jobs such as firefighters, police officers, or other civil servant jobs.

Preview to next Month

November is "Kindness to all cultures"

This month will focus on treating others with kindness. We may all have our differences, but it is important to treat everyone with kindness regardless of those differences.

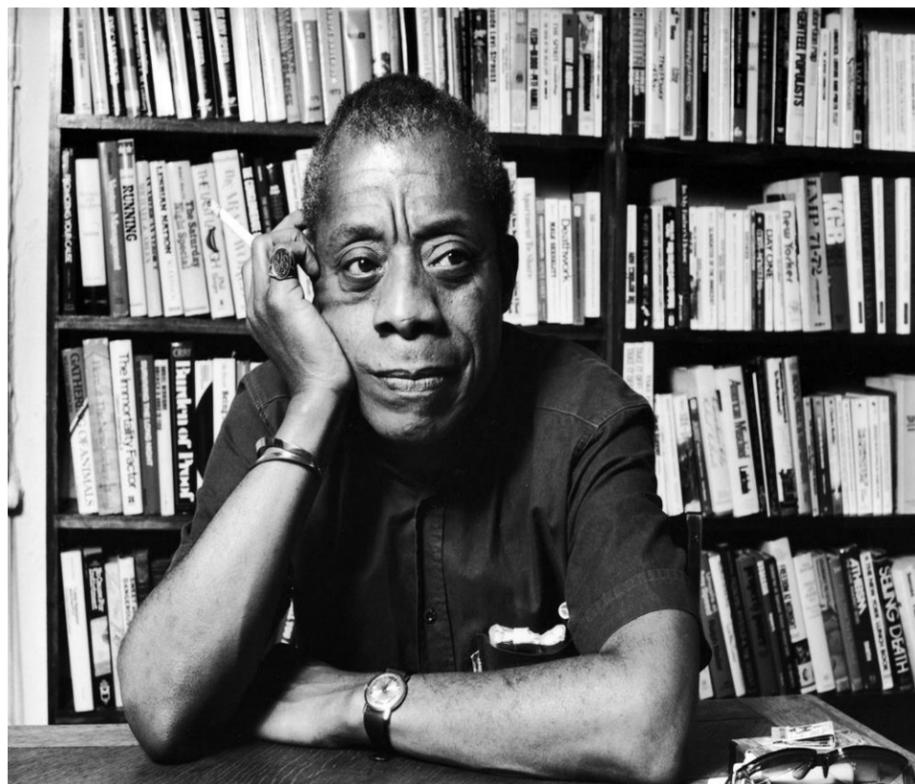
November Observations

- National Native American Heritage Month
- World Kindness Week- Week of November 13th
- World Kindness Day- November 13th

Please note that these are not all observations throughout the month. If any were missed that relates to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion it was not intentional

What is being done at Suncrest Middle School

Suncrest Middle School is embracing the cooler weather while celebrating diversity within the school halls! National Hispanic Heritage Month, Global Diversity Awareness Month, National Stop Bullying Day (Oct. 13), National German American Day (Oct.6), Italian American Heritage Month, and LGBTQ History Month will be where Suncrest Middle School puts attentions for October.



James Baldwin

On October 13th, Suncrest students will be recognizing **National Stop Bullying Day**, a holiday dedicated to the education and prevention of bullying in schools. Students and staff are encouraged to dress all in blue, and teachers will be addressing the holiday and passing out blue bracelets to students in their homerooms.

In celebration of **Global Diversity month**, Suncrest students who are skilled in other languages will be greeting their fellow students each morning in another language. These students will contribute to the morning announcements to introduce their fellow Seals to a variety of different languages.

In observance of **LGBTQ History Month**, we are highlighting two members of the LGBTQ community who have positively impacted history: Arachnologist Lauren Esposito and writer and activist James Baldwin.

Lauren Esposito is an arachnologist and co-founder of Islands and Seas, an organization that opens field stations in areas of the world with high biodiversity with little science education or science facilities. She also co-founded 500 Queer Scientists, a visibility campaign dedicated to representing and amplifying the presence of LGBTQ individuals in STEM fields. Read more about Lauren [here](#).

James Baldwin is a widely acclaimed essayist, playwright, novelist, and activist, known for his contributions to the American Civil Rights movement. His work is famous for its deep exploration of racial, sexual, and class disparities, particularly those that highlighted the black experience in America. His work still carries an incredible influence on American literature and activism. Read more about James Baldwin [here](#).

National Hispanic Heritage Month

We're continuing our celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month, which began September 15 and extends until mid October.

Students have been and will be celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month in a variety of ways. Sixth graders are gaining an understanding of Mexican culture and how Mayan culture carries an influence in our world today. Seventh

graders will be taking Salsa and Merengue lessons and coloring flags for each country in Latin America, and eighth-graders will be creating work inspired by Frida Kahlo, all of which will be put on display. Seventh and eighth graders will also have a chance to decorate their classroom with "Papel Picado" and participate in a birthday celebration with food and other festivities.

