Welcome Back!

Willkommen zurück - 迎回 - Bienvenido - Accueillir à nouveau

Another academic year is upon us!

Cesar Chavez once said, “We need to help students and parents cherish and preserve ethnic and cultural diversity, as it nourishes and strengthens this nation.” Consider making this a priority for the new school year. Challenge yourself to participate in an upcoming community event, or spend time learning more about culturally responsive teaching. Many wonderful resources are available in this newsletter. We encourage you to utilize them as much as possible!

Our Lens is a COE Diversity Committee sponsored project.

Please email ideas for future topics or upcoming events to Emily Hanson, GA, at erhanson@unomaha.edu.

COE Diversity Newsletter: Our Lens
Professional Development: Curriculum, Resources & Events

UNO Fall Study Abroad Fair: Wednesday, September 24th
Are you interested in studying abroad? Make sure to check out the UNO Study Abroad Fair on Wednesday, Sept. 24th outside Milo Bail Student Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information about the fair or studying abroad, click [here](#).

UNO Global Studies Conference: Thursday Oct. 2nd – Saturday Oct. 4th
The theme for the 37th Annual Global Studies Conference is National Security and Globalization in the 21st century, with keynote speaker Thomas R. Pickering, former United States Ambassador to Jordan, Nigeria, El Salvador, Israel, United Nations, India, and Russia. Come attend some of the many interdisciplinary panels, workshops, and performances. To view the full agenda or access the registration information, visit [the conference website](#).

6th Annual Omaha Diversity Week: October 6th – 10th
The City of Omaha will be celebrating diversity Oct. 6th – 10th. Many wonderful lectures, workshops, and events are available for you to attend. To learn more about this event or to register, click [here](#).

Cinemateca 2014
Join the UNO’s Office of Latino/Latin American Studies and the Film Streams in this month long film series. All films are presented at Film Streams’ Ruth Sokolof Theater, located at 1230 Mike Faheey Street. Films will start Aug. 29 and run through Sept. 30. For ticket information or to view the list of films being shown, click [here](#).

Urban Education July 2014 Issue: Read the latest issue of this publication, providing “thought-provoking commentary on key issues from gender-balanced and racially diverse perspectives.” Click [here](#) to access the most recent issue.

Diversity Connection (NDE Newsletter): Check out this newsletter, sponsored by the multicultural education program in the Nebraska Department of Education. It contains resources, articles, and information about local workshops that will help you increase your understanding of diversity and teaching diverse groups of students. Click [here](#) to view their website.

Focus On Learning About Each Other’s Culture: This is a National Education Association Series designed to help education employees better serve students. Five different publications were written about different cultural groups as a tool to help all groups get to know each other’s culture or group. Click on this website to learn about American Indian/Alaska Natives, Asian/Pacific Islanders, Blacks, Hispanics, and LBGT Persons: [Resources available here](#).

“Diversity is not about how we differ. Diversity is about embracing one another’s uniqueness.”
~ Ola Joseph
The following list is by no means complete. It is our hope that you use these as suggestions for places to visit and events to participate in and then branch out on your own to find other local programs.

**El Grito Festival:** Fri., Sept. 12 – Sun., Sept. 14th at S. 24th and N St. in Omaha. This annual event in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month consists of a carnival, parade, live entertainment, and much more! Click here for the full schedule of events.

**Fort Omaha Intertribal Powwow:** Sat., Sept. 13th from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Metro Community College’s Fort Omaha Campus (30th and Fort Streets). Free and open to the public, come enjoy the 23rd annual intertribal powwow. Click here for more information.

**3rd Annual African American Leadership Conference:** Friday, Sept. 19th. Come spend the day with local, regional, and national African-American leaders focused on improving the community. For more information or to RSVP, visit empoweromaha.com.

**German Day/Oktoberfest:** Sept. 19-20. This annual event is hosted by the German American Society of Omaha, NE. For full list of activities, click here.

**Family Fiesta:** Join the Henry Doorly Zoo Sunday, Sept. 21 from noon to 5 p.m. for a fiesta! This annual celebration highlights Latin American culture via dance, a live mariachi band, and much more! Events are free with the regular paid zoo admission.

**ONI Insight Lunch & Learn:** Wed., Sept. 24th from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 4125 S. 72nd St., Omaha. Come listen to working-age blind and visually impaired adults share their stories and experiences over this informational lunch. Click here to RSVP or for more info.

**Japanese Ambience Festival:** Sat., Oct. 4th and Sun., Oct. 5th at the Lauritzen Gardens. Enjoy activities like calligraphy, koinbori, food tasting, martial arts demonstrations, taiko drumming, and more. Most activities are free with garden admission or membership. Click here for details.

**Dia de Los Muertos Community Ofrenda Celebration:** Sat., Nov. 2nd from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Plaza de La Raza (24th and N, Omaha). Come make or look at alters created for the dearly departed. Visit the Dia de Los Muertos Omaha Facebook Page for all holiday events and registration information.

**15th Annual Omaha Blues, Jazz, and Gospel Festival:** Fri., Nov. 7th at 7 p.m. at Metro Community College’s Fort Omaha Campus. Event information is available at the North Omaha Foundation’s website. Click here to learn more or to purchase tickets.
Hispanic Heritage Month Sept. 15 – Oct. 15

Each year, the United States observes National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15. It celebrates the histories, cultures, and contributions of Americans citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. Many Latin American countries also celebrate independence days during this time.

Hispanic Heritage Month is the perfect opportunity to incorporate multicultural education into your classroom. Below is a list of lessons plans you might consider integrating into your classroom during this time.

- Tolerance: Comparing the Cultural Holidays of Halloween and El Dia de los Muertos
  [Click here to view full lesson plan]
- Latino Poetry Blog: Learning how culture, personal experiences, and history influence a poetry
  [Click here to view the full lesson plan]
- Common Visions, Common Voices: Analyzing cultural similarities & differences through art
  [Click here to view the full lesson plan]

National Mix It Up At Lunch Day

Join in this great multicultural activity on Tuesday, October 28th!

This national campaign, created by Teaching Tolerance, encourages students to break down social boundaries. Mix It Up At Lunch Day asks students to move out of their comfort zones and connect with someone new over lunch. This simple act can significantly reduce prejudice.

Click [here](#) for more information about this day.

Teaching Tolerance also has many activities and lessons plans you can utilize on this day for all students Pre-K through 12. Click [here](#) to view these plans.
Young Adult Literature:
Shooting Kabul by N. H. Senzai. Escaping from Taliban-controlled Afghanistan in the summer of 2001, eleven-year-old Fadi and his family immigrate to the San Francisco Bay Area, where Fadi schemes to return to the Pakistani refugee camp where his little sister was accidentally left behind. (Description via Worldcat).

Whale Talk by Chris Crutcher. Intellectually and athletically gifted, TJ, a multiracial, adopted teenager, shuns organized sports and the gung-ho athletes at his high school until he agrees to form a swimming team and recruits some of the school’s less popular students. (Description via Worldcat).

Children’s Literature:
Angel Child, Dragon Child by Michele Maria Surat. Ut, a Vietnamese girl attending school in the United States, lonely for her mother left behind in Vietnam, makes a new friend who presents her with a wonderful gift. (Description via Worldcat).

Jack and Jim by Kitty Crowther. Jack the blackbird and Him the seagull become friends, but Jack is sad that the other seagulls do not seem to like him. (Description via Amazon).

Need more resources for your classroom or school project? Please contact, Melissa Cast-Brede, Research Services Unit/Education & Psychology Liaison at mcast@unomaha.edu.

The Name Jar: Beginning-of-the-Year or Literacy Unit

Based on the book, The Name Jar by Yangsook Choi

Click here to read the full blog on the unit and to access related printables.

Featured Pin

Using social media to enhance the classroom!