

Monson High School



Diversity Awareness Week

April 4 - 8, 2011

*sponsored by Students
for Tolerance, Appreciation
and Nurturing Diversity (STAND)*

THANK YOU

We would like to thank the following individuals and organizations that have helped make the 2011 Diversity Awareness Week possible.

Dr. Linkenhoker, MHS Principal
Monson Board of Selectmen
Mrs. Gustafson, Food Service Director
Mrs. Brouillette, Cafeteria Manager
Mrs. Evans & Mr. Bardwell, STAND Advisors
Mr. Morin, MHS Librarian
Mr. Degnan
Mr. Gross, MHS Custodial Staff

ALL WEEK

The Road to Freedom Photo-Text Exhibit

The Road To Freedom is a traveling photo-text exhibit that includes twenty color photographs by Gigi Kaeser and text edited from interviews conducted by journalist Peggy Gillespie and students at the Four Rivers Charter School. This powerful exhibit documents the experiences, lives, and families of children, teens, and adults whose lives are affected by the full spectrum of physical, sensory, learning, and mental disabilities including cerebral palsy, polio, cystic fibrosis, learning disabilities, bipolar disorder, post-traumatic stress syndrome, quadriplegia, blindness, deafness, stroke, multiple sclerosis, Asperger's syndrome, autism, Down syndrome and congenital heart disease.

The Road To Freedom gives people with disabilities the opportunity to tell their stories and share glimpses of their everyday lives in order to help challenge stereotypes and reduce prejudice and discrimination. Carmen Rosa Rosada, a woman in the exhibit who has quadriplegia, recently received her master's degree in mathematics. She said, "Many people stare at me and I would like them to treat me as a human being. After all, each person has their own limitations in one way or another. People with disabilities are just like everybody else."



This exhibit will be on display all week in the Library. It has generously sponsored by the Town of Monson Gift Account

MONDAY, APRIL 4

Diversity Week Kick-off Assembly **9:15 - 10:00 ~ Gymnasium**

Featured Speaker: Mr. Steven Mahoney, Principal of the Springfield Renaissance School: An Expeditionary Learning School

The mission of the Springfield Renaissance Expeditionary Learning School is to provide a rigorous academic program for college-bound students in a small, personalized setting that impels and supports students to use their minds well, to care for themselves and others, and to rise to the challenges and duties of citizenship.

Mr. Mahoney will speak about how he got to the place where he wanted to raise his family and work in a racially and socio-economically diverse community, and how he figured out what his role and responsibilities are within that community. He will talk about his work as a white man on understanding race and racism in the United States and then his work regarding diversity within a school setting.

He will conclude his remarks with an opportunity for students and staff to ask questions and engage in dialogue about diversity related topics.

About the Program

The MHS Diversity Club (Students for Tolerance, Appreciation and Nurturing Diversity) has been working hard over the past six months to make this program a reality. The mission of the club is to educate students and the greater Monson High School community about issues of tolerance, acceptance and appreciation of diversity and multiculturalism. The programs that were organized during this week attempt to provide artistic, multicultural and educational opportunities for students, staff and community members to learn about those that may look, think or act differently in some way. We encourage all participants to attend these activities with an open mind and willingness to expand their views and beliefs.

Students not currently involved with STAND are encouraged to join as a way to continue to provide a safe, welcoming and positive school climate.

Anyone who has questions or comments about the events of this week is invited to contact Bob Bardwell at (413) 267-4589x1107.

Multicultural Lunch

Cafeteria

USA Day

Oven Roasted Chicken, Potato Salad, Corn on the cob

Dessert of the Day: Red, White & Blue parfait cups

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

PERIOD ROTATION FGEH

Disability Awareness Assembly 9:15 - 10:00 ~ Gymnasium

MHS is pleased to welcome several speakers today to share their experiences with living with a disability. First to present will be members of our very own Pride program. They will provide some reflection about various types of disabilities. Then several current MHS students will share their experiences about living with a disability as a MHS student.

The final component of the program will feature Christopher Doyle, a former Marine Corps Reservist, husband and father of four young children and a six-year veteran of the Wilbraham Police Department when he saw his career and, very nearly his life, end at 9:43 p.m. on Feb. 17, 2006. when he was working a detail and a drunk driver struck his parked patrol car.

After spending two weeks in a coma and 18 months in physical therapy learning how to walk, stand and talk and regain his motor skills, Doyle is still dealing with the daily challenges of living with a disability. He speaks for the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts and for Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Multicultural Lunch

Cafeteria

Mediterranean Day

Lemon Pepper Chicken, Roasted Vegetables, Spanish Rice w/Black Beans or Greek Salad

Dessert of the Day: Raspberry Churros

THURSDAY, APRIL 7

Day of Silence



DAY of SILENCE

The National Day of Silence brings attention to anti-LGBT name-calling, bullying and harassment in schools. Each year the event has grown, and now hundreds of thousands of students participate to encourage schools and classmates to address the problem of anti-LGBT behavior. Founded in 1996, the Day of Silence has become the largest single student-led action towards creating safer schools for all, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. The Day of Silence allows students to work toward improving school climate for all students.

Students interested in participating must purchase a sticker for \$1.00 during the week, sold during both lunches. Students are also encouraged to wear a tie-died tshirt. Specific instructions about the expected behavior of students participating that day will be distributed along with the sticker.

Multicultural Lunch

Cafeteria

Asian Day

Yakisoba, Vegetable Stir Fry, Teriyaki Chicken, Chow Mein Noodles & Pineapple Tidbits

Dessert of the Day: Fortune Cookie

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

SAP Debriefing 8:57 - 9:24

Students will report to their regular SAP groups today and have a chance to discuss the events from the week, including last Friday's Mix It Up Day activity. Advisors and students will be encouraged to discuss the reactions and impressions about the activities held throughout the week. Thoughts and ideas about how to improve upon the program or what to offer for next year will be welcomed.

Button Making - Both Lunches

During both lunches, students will have the opportunity to make a FREE button representing their favorite country, ethnicity or other diversity-related topic. Basic supplies will be provided and students must come up with the design or logo.

Multicultural Lunch	Cafeteria
Italian Day	
Pasta Platter, Green Salad & Italian Bread	
Dessert of the Day: Sherbet	

TUESDAY, APRIL 5

Disability Awareness Day

A sampling of MHS students will have the opportunity to assume a disability identity for the day. Participating students will become "disabled" by either using a wheelchair, crutches, slings, braces, blindfolds or earplugs. This new identity will help participating students to understand the challenges that physically disabled people deal with on a daily basis as well as show their peers and faculty just how challenging life is when we lose the ability to be mobile or have full functionality.

Multicultural Lunch	Cafeteria
Polish Day	
Kielbasa Dogs, Sauerkraut, Cheese Perogies & Seasoned Noodles	
Dessert of the Day: Assorted Jell-O	



Welcome

Diversity Awareness Week is being held at Monson High School as a forum to explore issues of culture and diversity. The goal is to make MHS and the greater Monson community a more tolerant and accepting place regardless of one's race, gender, ethnicity, social class, sexual orientation, religion, age or ability. You can take part in accomplishing this mission by attending one or all of the programs at our school and by taking a stand against intolerance, prejudice and hate.

This program gives the times, locations and details about all of the events this week. We hope you enjoy the activities and thank you for your support.

A WORLD of DIFFERENCE® Pledge

I pledge from this day onward to do my best to interrupt prejudice and stop those who, because of hate, would hurt, harass or violate the civil rights of anyone. I will try at all times to be aware of my own biases against people I don't understand. I will speak out against anyone who mocks, seeks to intimidate or actually hurt someone of a different race, religion, ethnic group or sexual orientation. I will reach out to support those who are targets of harassment. I will think about specific ways my school, other students, and my community can promote respect for people and create a prejudice-free zone. I firmly believe that one person can make A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® and that no person can be an "innocent bystander" when it comes to opposing hate.

By signing this pledge, I recognize that respect for individual dignity, achieving equality and opposing anti-Semitism, racism, ethnic bigotry, homophobia or any other form of hatred is a non-negotiable responsibility of all people.

My signature

Witness signature

Date