

Monson High School

Diversity
Tolerance
Acceptance
Appreciation
Open-minded
Differences
Similarities

Diversity Awareness Week

April 9 - 13, 2012

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

ALL WEEK

In Our Family: Portraits of All Kinds of Families Photo-Text Exhibit

In Our Family is a museum-quality traveling photo-text exhibit about twenty families representing a breadth of diversity and family configurations including: adoptive and foster families; divorced and stepfamilies, single parent households, multiracial families, families facing chronic illness and death; families living with mental and physical disabilities; lesbian and gay-parented families; interfaith families, multigenerational households, and immigrant families.

Designed for audiences of all ages - from early childhood to adults - In Our Family challenges stereotypes and helps dismantle prejudice by celebrating and affirming differences of all kinds. The traveling photo-text rental exhibit consists of ready-to-hang framed photographs and text (including special K-2 text you can use for younger viewers). The positive and realistic photographs, along with the candid interviews with family members of all ages, affirm an inclusive and expansive vision of family life today.



This exhibit will be on display all week in the Library. The program is supported in part by a grant from the Monson Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

MONDAY, APRIL 9

Welcome to Sci-Tech students

We welcome today students and chaperones from the High School of Science & Technology to MHS for the day to learn about our school culture and the Monson community. Sci-Tech is an urban school of over 1300 students located in Springfield, MA. Monson students will travel to Sci-Tech in May to observe and participate in a typical day there. We are most excited to host and learn from these students as they experience life in a small public high school.

Diversity Week Kick-off Assembly **1:15 - 2:00 ~ Gymnasium**

Donna Hébert's fierce fiddle rhythms and Max Cohen's impeccable groove guitar link to create an orchestra of sound from a simple fiddle-guitar duet. Said Irish fiddler and Gaelic Roots concert series director Seamus Connolly at their recent Boston College concert:

"Donna is a gem – one of the best. And the 'Raven's Wing' she and Max have written is a brilliant tune!"

Concerts draw from Donna's 40 years of French-Canadian and Celtic fiddling with seminal folk bands. Her original tunes and songs are shared with Max's effervescent guitar solos and original songs. Demonstrating their amazing musical chemistry, their joint composition, *Raven's Wing*, has become an audience favorite – a perfect example of the magic they create together!



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11

Student Panel Assembly

9:15 - 10:00 ~ Gymnasium

STAND is pleased to present student speakers today who will speak to their peers and share their experiences about being different and how that makes them feel and how they may have been or are treated differently because of those differences. A variety of diversity and ethnic related topics will be explored and time will be available for students to ask questions of the panelists.

Multicultural Lunch

Cafeteria

USA Day

Oven Roasted Chicken, Potato Salad, Corn on the cob
Dessert of the Day: Red, White & Blue parfait cups

Tie Die

2:15 p.m. - Room 214

With the support of the Art Department, students participating in and/or supporting Diversity Awareness Week are invited to come and tie die. The theme for this year is "I will not STAND for _____. Students should bring their own white t-shirt if they wish to participate.

TUESDAY, APRIL 10

Bead Yourself - Both Lunches

During both lunches students will have the opportunity to make a necklace or bracelet that represents their ethnicity or just to celebrate the rainbow diversity colors. Pony beads and cord will be available for students to make their own beaded creation that best represents them and then wear it proudly during the week.



Multicultural Lunch

Cafeteria

Spanish Day

Chicken Fajita Soft Wrap, Spanish Rice w/Beans, Mandarin Orange Cup
Dessert of the Day: Churros

Multicultural Lunch

Cafeteria

Italian Day

Cheese Pizza, Spinach Salad & Pineapple Tidbits
Dessert of the Day: Italian Ice



THURSDAY, APRIL 12

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 T-shirt. Specific instructions about the expected behavior of students participating that day will be distributed along with the sticker.

Multicultural Lunch

Cafeteria

Polish Day

Kielbasa Dogs, Sauerkraut, Cheese Perogies & Peach Cup

Dessert of the Day: Assorted Jell-O

FRIDAY, APRIL 13

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. 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.

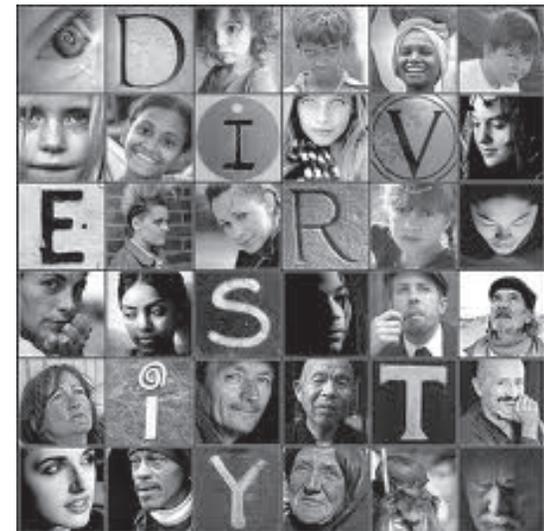
Multicultural Lunch

Cafeteria

Fenway Opening Day

Hot Dog on a Roll, Whole Grain Chips, Salsa, Baked Beans

Dessert of the Day: Cookie



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.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank the following individuals and organizations that have helped make the 2012 Diversity Awareness Week possible.

Dr. Linkenhoker, MHS Principal

Monson Cultural Council

Mrs. Gustafson, Food Service Director

Mrs. Brouillette, Cafeteria Manager

Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Walat & Mr. Bardwell,

STAND Advisors

Mr. Morin, MHS Librarian

Mr. Gross, MHS Custodial Staff

Ms. Wilis & Mrs. McDonough, MHS Art teachers

Ms. Morawitz, Guidance Intern

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