

# MY CULTURALLY INFORMED

## WEEKLY TEACHER PLANNER

# 2022-2023

As classroom relationships and  
classroom community grows,  
students, teachers and families feel increasingly  
seen, honored, and safe.

All are empowered to feel vulnerable,  
be reflective, take risks, and embrace failure.  
It is then that the deepest academic understanding and  
increases in learning can take place.

▪ This weekly planner is specifically tailored to St. Paul Public Schools (SPPS) in terms of holidays and inservice dates, but more importantly, this planner is specifically tailored to the diversity of home cultures within SPPS. As you plan your week you are invited to learn about important ceremonies, festivals, traditions, cultural norms and holidays of the home cultures of your students.

▪ Cultural knowledge alone does not make a Culturally Responsive Teacher. Instead, the content of this planner is just one tool in your box to engage with students on a cultural level. By connecting the two most important aspects of your students' lives, school and home, you honor your students' lived experiences and empower them to safely bring their whole self into the learning environment.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO MY HUSBAND CHARLIE AND MY FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES WHO HELPED MAKE THIS PROJECT POSSIBLE:  
CHRISTINA MARTINEZ, DR. ABDISALAM ADAM, PAWPAP WAH, STEPHANIE SCHROEDER, DR. TOM BORRUP AND CARI HATCHER

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SINCERELY, MEAGHAN SHOMION

# SEPTEMBER 5 - 9, 2022

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M	No School Labor Day				
P M					

NOTES:

*Feliz día  
de la independencia*

Try wishing  
students  
with these  
backgrounds

“happy  
independence day”.

‘Enkutatash’  
Ethiopian  
New Year is  
Sept 11th as  
Ethiopia  
uses a  
different  
calendar  
system.

SEPTEMBER 16TH  
IS MEXICO'S INDEPENDENCE DAY  
‘EL GRITO’  
CELEBRATING THE CALL TO ARMS  
AGAINST 300 YEARS OF  
SPANISH RULE.

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH BEGINS SEPTEMBER 15TH.

THIS DATE COINCIDES WITH THE NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAYS OF  
GUATEMALA, EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS,  
NICARAGUA AND COSTA RICA.



**Broken Promises:**  
The 1848 Treaty of  
Guadalupe Hidalgo ceded 55% of  
Mexico to the United States.  
The treaty protected the the  
property rights of the Hispanic  
population north of the new  
border. In the years that  
followed, most lost their land  
to white protestants moving  
west through the state courts  
of CA, NV, NM, and AZ.



# SEPTEMBER 12 - 16, 2022

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M					
P M					

NOTES:



map of the Spanish speaking world

9% of SPPS students have Spanish listed as their home language

Hundreds of SPPS students have Mexico, El Salvador, & Honduras listed as countries of birth.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH WAS FIRST RECOGNIZED IN 1968 BY LYNDON JOHNSON AS A WEEK LONG CELEBRATION. IN 1988 IT WAS OFFICIALLY EXTENDED TO A MONTH BY RICHARD NIXON, ENDING ON OCT. 15TH.

**Hispanic:**  
(from the Spanish *Hispano*)  
Is a person whose cultural traditions originate from Spain. This is not representative of the bulk of our Spanish speaking Students. Only that this is what the US government uses when collecting census information.  
**Ask students if they prefer Latinx.**

# SEPTEMBER 19 - 23, 2022

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M					
P M					

NOTES:



Ethiopia

SEPTEMBER 27TH IS A VERY IMPORTANT NATIONAL HOLIDAY

“MESKEL” ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX

BEGINS ON 26TH WITH FAMILIES BUILDING A PRISM OUT OF BRANCHES THAT WILL BE BURNED AFTER SUNDOWN ON THE 27TH. SINGING AND DANCING, AS THE FIRE BURNS DOWN THE ASHES ARE USED TO MARK A CROSS ON PEOPLES FOREHEADS.

FUN FACT: TEXTILE PATTERNS WOVEN INTO TRADITIONAL CLOTHING SIGNIFY RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC IDENTITIES

FUN FACT: THERE ARE 10 ETHIOPIAN RESTAURANTS IN ST. PAUL ALONE!

SPPS has a sizeable population of students speaking Oromo, Amharic and Tigrinya, Ethiopia’s major languages

September 30th: Orange Shirt Day, Wear an orange shirt to remember the American Indian children taken from their families and forced into boarding schools from 1860-1978  
Fall Feast and Drum Blessing, Know that many native SPPS families will participate in this important community gathering

# SEPTEMBER 26 - 30, 2022

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M					
P M					

NOTES:

Oct 8th is the prophet Muhammad's birthday. Somalis in Africa celebrate with large street processions and public gatherings.

OCT. 8-10 IS THE FULL MOON DAY OF THADINGYUT. AN IMPORTANT BUDDHIST HOLIDAY



IT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW THAT SOMALIS ARE A CULTURAL GROUP WHOSE ANCESTRAL LANDS GO BEYOND THE GEOPOLITICAL BOUNDARIES DRAWN BY EUROPEANS IN 1914. THE STAR ON THE SOMALI FLAG ACKNOWLEDGES THIS. EACH OF THE 5 POINTS UNITING A PEOPLE SEPARATED BY THE GEOPOLITICAL BORDERS OF DJIBOUTI, KENYA, ETHIOPIA, SOMALILAND AND SOMALIA.



OCTOBER 3 - 7, 2022

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M					
P M					

NOTES:



Continue your Hispanic heritage learning all year long with a Learning Trunk from the CEC!

Peru  
Belize  
Huichol  
Guatemala  
Alejibres  
Mesoamerica  
Latin America Music

THERE ARE 298 LANGUAGES SPOKEN BY SCHOOL CHILDREN ACROSS MINNESOTA

American Indian Heritage Month begins in November Reserve Learning Trunks from the CEC today!

Trunk topics and themes:

Native People of the: Prairies and Plains, Western Woodlands, Pacific Northwest, Arctic America, and Southwest Indian Land Tenure, Secondary Indian Land Tenure Native Games Pow Wow Buffalo Ojibwe Dakota

WE ARE RICHLY DIVERSE, WITH 125 HOME LANGUAGES SPOKEN IN SPPS! BECAUSE OF THIS WE HAVE MANY RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO USE IN OUR CLASSROOMS.

**CENTER FOR EQUITY AND CULTURE**

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Digital Units & Lesson Plans

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Integrated Learning

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Resource Lists by Topic

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Resources by Cultural and Racial Groups

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Resources by Grade Level

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CEC Library Catalog

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Learning Trunks

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Diverse Representation in Children's Literature

SPPS Indian Education Program Resource Room

**AMERICAN INDIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM**

IMPORTANT DATES:  
SEPT. 10TH: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY (USED TO BE COLUMBUS DAY)  
11TH: NATIONAL LGBTQ+ COMING OUT DAY



OCTOBER 10 - 14, 2022

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M					
P M					

NOTES:



THE HMONG WERE TRADITIONALLY AN AGRARIAN SOCIETY WITH VERY TIGHT KNIT FAMILY STRUCTURES. DANCE, MUSIC AND NEEDLEWORK HAS HELPED THE HMONG KEEP THEIR IDENTITY AND TRADITIONS ALIVE.

16% of SPPS students have Hmong listed as their home language

The Hmong lost 10% of their people while assisting the US during the war in Vietnam.

THE QEEJ IS A TRADITIONAL INSTRUMENT IN THE HMONG CULTURE. THE MUSIC IT PLAYS IS LIKE AN EXTENSION TO THE HMONG LANGUAGE AS EVERY NOTE SYMBOLIZES ITS OWN WORD. BECAUSE OF THIS, QEEJ PLAYERS ARE KNOWN AS STORYTELLERS.



Heart, House and Elephant's Foot are just some of the symbols found in Hmong needlework.



# OCTOBER 17 - 21, 2022

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M				No School MEA	No School MEA
P M					

NOTES:



THE KAREN PEOPLE BEGAN IMMIGRATING TO MN FROM THE COUNTRY OF MYANMAR IN 2004 TO FLEE RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC PERSECUTION.

8% OF SPPS STUDENTS SPEAK KAREN AT HOME

THE KAREN ORIGINALLY MIGRATED TO THE KAYIN AREA FROM MONGOLIA THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO

Fun Fact: Most Karen are Buddhist, but most of the Karen in MN are Baptist.

In S'gaw Karen, people will say Good morning (*Ghaw Ler Ah Ghay*), Good Afternoon (*Ni Ler Ah Ghay*), Good evening (*Ha Ler Ah Ghay*) and Good Night (*Na Ler Ah Ghay*).

OCTOBER 24 - 28, 2022

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M					
P M					

NOTES:





FIRST NATIVE  
SECRETARY OF  
THE INTERIOR,  
DEB HAALAND



FIRST NATIVE DIRECTOR  
OF NATIONAL PARKS,  
CHARLES F. SAMS III

THESE TWO RECENT  
APPOINTMENTS ARE IMPORTANT BECAUSE  
OF THE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES IN  
HOW THE UNITED STATES STEWARDS ITS  
PUBLIC LANDS AND ALL  
RELATIONS WITH AMERICAN  
INDIAN TRIBES.  
SECRETARY HAALAND IS THE  
FIRST NATIVE CABINET MEMBER  
IN U.S. HISTORY.

US money: \$5 and \$20  
Andrew Jackson signed the Indian  
Removal Act in 1830. Abraham  
Lincoln approved the execution of  
39 Dakota warriors in Mankato.

Recent legislation that is trying to  
rectify the many wrongs of the  
US government:  
**Johnson-O'Malley  
Modernization  
Act** (2018).

Supports programming  
for members of  
federally  
recognized  
tribes.

**American  
Indian  
Heritage  
month**

However,  
this summer,  
SCOTUS ruled  
against tribal  
Sovereignty in  
*Oklahoma v.  
Castro-Huerta*

# OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 4, 2022

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M	P/K/E No Students				
P M					

NOTES:

This has been a very difficult year for the Somali people in the horn of Africa. After 4 straight failed rainy seasons, half of the population is facing extreme food shortages. With 4 % of SPPS students speaking Somali at home, what is happening an ocean away may affect our students

ability to connect with others and/or the curriculum.

NOV. 6-7TH IS FULL MOON DAY OF TAZAUNG MONE. AN IMPORTANT BUDDHIST HOLIDAY.

MN has the largest Somali population outside of Somalia this is also true of Liberians from West Africa and the Oromo, a cultural group from Ethiopia.

HAND WEAVING TO MAKE HOMES, CARPETS, WALLS, BASKETS AND BAGS.



LOOM WEAVING TO CREATE INTRICATE CLOTHING

THE SOMALI MUSEUM OF MINNESOTA CAN BE A GREAT RESOURCE OR FIELD TRIP DESTINATION





# NOVEMBER 7 - 11, 2022

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M		Digital Learning Day, elections			
P M					

NOTES:



MINNESOTA'S FIRST BLACK POPULATION WERE BROUGHT AS SLAVES BY ARMY OFFICERS STATIONED AT FORT SNELLING IN THE 1820S.

1869: SEGREGATION IN SAINT PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS ENDED WITH A MN LAW RESTRICTING STATE FUNDS TO SCHOOLS THAT DENIED PEOPLE OF COLOR. MINNIE FARR WAS THE FIRST BLACK GRADUATE OF WHAT IS NOW CENTRAL HS. MINNIE, ALONG WITH HER SISTER WERE ALSO SAINT PAUL'S FIRST BLACK TEACHERS.

IT WAS ILLEGAL FOR THEM TO DO SO, BUT THE ARMY LOOKED THE OTHER WAY AND EVEN FINANCIALLY COMPENSATED THE OFFICERS FOR THEIR "SERVANTS".

DRED AND HARRIET SCOTT MET AS SLAVES AT FORT SNELLING IN THE 1830'S. SCOTT'S MISSOURI COURT BATTLES FOR FREEDOM IN THE 1850'S INCREASED TENSIONS THAT EVENTUALLY LED TO CIVIL WAR.

St. Paul's branch of the NAACP was founded by Dr. Valdo Turner and Frederick L. McGhee in 1913.

McGhee was MN's first Black Bar Association Lawyer and Turner our first Black Physician.

WILLIAM TAYLOR'S BARBER SHOP IN ST. PAUL (NOW KELLOGG BLVD. AND MINNESOTA ST.) WAS A CRITICAL STOP ON THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD TO CANADA IN THE 1850S.

# NOVEMBER 14 - 18, 2022

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M					No Students PD Day
P M					

NOTES:

# Thanksgiving

Take this opportunity to find out how your students spend this national holiday while discussing the many myths and inaccuracies in how the first Thanksgiving has been depicted.

THE SEVEN  
GRANDFATHER  
TEACHINGS (OJIBWE):  
LOVE, RESPECT, BRAVERY, TRUTH,  
HONESTY, HUMILITY & WISDOM.

THE OLMEC,  
MAYA, INCA AND  
AZTEC ARE 4 MAJOR  
SOCIETIES THAT INHABITED  
CENTRAL AND SOUTH  
AMERICA

IN MEXICO  
ALONE, THERE ARE 15  
INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES  
SPOKEN BY OVER 100,000  
PEOPLE EACH.

When we think of  
American Indians it is important we acknowledge all the  
indigenous peoples of the Americas. It's estimated that almost 100  
million Indigenous people in the Western Hemisphere have been  
killed or died prematurely because of Europeans and their  
descendants during the past five centuries.

## FIVE DAKOTA VALUES

HONESTY  
GENEROSITY  
BRAVERY  
RESPECT FOR ELDERS  
RESPECT FOR CHILDREN

Even though only 1% of SPPS students identify as American Indian, the land within St. Paul is very important to the

Dakota and Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) people. Mounds Park on the East side, Wakan Tipi (Carver's cave) and the entire stretch of the Mississippi in particular.

# NOVEMBER 21 - 25, 2022

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M				No School Thanksgiving	No School Thanksgiving
P M					

NOTES:



AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH ENDS NOVEMBER 30TH, BUT CULTURAL PRACTICES ARE ONGOING. THERE ARE MONTHLY POWWOWS ON THE 2ND FRIDAY EVENING OF EVERY MONTH, HELD IN AN SPPS SPACE, AND ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. POWWOWS ARE A

WONDERFUL WAY TO CELEBRATE CULTURE, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY, NO MATTER YOUR OWN CULTURAL BACKGROUND.

**This summer, our school board approved the native tradition of smudging within SPPS spaces.**

Anyone can smudge, it is not culturally insensitive for non-native people to lead or participate in the practice. Smudging has many benefits, some of which are calming, cleansing and focus.

**November 30th:** *Sweet December* an important day for Karen Christians. People go to church, play games and sing. When the clock strikes midnight they celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season by eating a bowl of rice soup called *may klaw*.

**December 3rd:** *International Persons with Disabilities Day*

FROM 1953-1969 THE US POLICY TOWARDS TRIBES WAS TERMINATION AND THE POLICY TOWARDS AMERICAN INDIANS WAS RELOCATION. BECAUSE OF THIS, MANY MOVED TO URBAN AREAS AND LOST A LOT OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE IN THE PROCESS. DON'T PRESUME THAT BECAUSE A STUDENT IDENTIFIES AS NATIVE MEANS THAT THEY ARE COMFORTABLE OR ABLE TO TAKE THE ROLE OF CULTURAL EXPERT.



# NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 2, 2022

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M					
P M					

NOTES:





There are 30 rice and meat dishes to enjoy, 10 each day. Eating vegetables over the New Year is bad luck.

**Hmong New Year is a three day event filled with food, ceremony, performances, games, family and friends.**

SOUL CALLING IS AN IMPORTANT CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS TRADITION. THE HMONG BELIEVE WE HAVE 3 (OR 5) SOULS AND WE CANNOT BE HAPPY WHEN ONE GOES MISSING. SOUL CALLINGS ARE PERFORMED WHEN SOMEONE IS SICK OR TO PREVENT ILLNESS, AT THE NEW YEAR (WHOLE FAMILY), 3 DAYS AFTER A BIRTH (BABY), 3 DAYS AFTER A WEDDING (COUPLE) AND FOR A PERSON ABOUT TO TAKE OR RETURNING HOME FROM A LONG JOURNEY.

KHI TES OR STRING TYING CEREMONY EMPOWERS THE SOUL AND GIVES IT STRENGTH TO OVERCOME A DIFFICULTY. KHI TES INVOLVES ONE PERSON GIVING A BLESSING TO ANOTHER AND TYING A WHITE STRING AROUND THE PERSON'S WRIST. WHITE=PEACE AND HAPPINESS.



DECEMBER 5-9, 2022

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M					
P M					

NOTES:

## The Feast of Our Lady Guadalupe

is the most important holiday of the year for many of our families with Mexican heritage. It commemorates the miracle of the Virgin Mary appearing to a Mexican peasant not long after the Spanish conquest.

It is the event that caused many to convert to Christianity

**Dec.**  
**12**



THE DAY BEGINS WITH  
A MIDNIGHT MASS THAT  
MAY INCLUDE AZTEC DANCERS,  
MARIACHI BANDS AND  
STORYTELLERS.

The St. Paul church named after this patron saint of Mexico was the first in MN to hold mass in Spanish and was recently named a diocesan Shrine to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

# DECEMBER 12-16, 2022

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M					
P M					

NOTES:

# CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE INSTRUCTION

CAN BE A PART OF EVERYTHING WE DO.

DISCOURSE/INSTRUCTIONAL CONVERSATION

CURRICULUM/PLANNED EXPERIENCES

CLASSROOM RELATIONSHIPS

INSTRUCTION/PEDAGOGY

FAMILY COLLABORATION

ASSESSMENT

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

SPANISH: FELIZ AÑO NUEVO

HMONG: NYOB ZOO XYOO TSHIAB

SOMALI: IYO SANAD CUSUB OO FIICAN

Share  
with your  
students  
the cultural  
experiences  
you had over  
winter break.

BEFORE JUMPING BACK INTO  
CURRICULUM, SPEND TIME GETTING TO  
KNOW WHAT YOUR STUDENTS EXPERIENCED  
OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS. ALLOW THEM  
TO TEACH AND LEARN FROM EACH OTHER.  
MANY CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS TOOK  
PLACE WHILE WE WERE APART.

## Goodbye 2022, Hello 2023!

This past year has been difficult for many of us. Be gentle with yourself and others so we may all heal.

WHILE WE WERE AWAY:

HANUKKAH DEC. 18-26

DAKOTA MEMORIAL RIDE DEC. 26

KWANZAA DEC. 26-JAN. 1

HMONG NEW YEAR DEC. 29-JAN. 1

THIS WEEK:

JAN 7TH, ETHIOPIAN CHRISTMAS "LEDDET/GENNA"

# JANUARY 2 - 6, 2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M	No School Winter Break				
P M					

NOTES:



JANUARY 9 - 13, 2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M					
P M					

NOTES:



# WEAVING AND TEXTILES ARE AN IMPORTANT CULTURAL TRADITION AND COMMUNICATE MEANING.

THESE LONG WHITE DRESSES SIGNIFY A WOMAN'S MARITAL STATUS

There are three major cultural subgroups of the Karen people.

## **Sgaw, Karenni and Pao.**

Sgaw is the most populous cultural group in St. Paul and throughout the world.

Sgaw is the written language SPPS uses in communication to families.

A SUBGROUP OF THE KARENNI KAREN ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR TRADITION OF ELONGATING NECKS WITH BRASS RINGS.



Karen culture is matriarchal, the men joining their wife's clan at marriage.





# JANUARY 16 - 20, 2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M	No School MLK				
P M					

NOTES:

# Ramsey County formally declared **Jan 25th Karen New Year**

However, Karen New Year in Myanmar is celebrated on the first day of Pyathoe (Lunar calendar), which is generally the end of December or beginning of January.

A VERSION OF THE KAREN BAMBOO POLE DANCE (PICTURED) IS PERFORMED AT MAJOR HOLIDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS THROUGHOUT SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA. OUR STUDENTS WITH HERITAGE FROM INDIA, NEPAL, BHUTAN, SOUTH CHINA, BANGLADESH, MYANMAR, LAOS, THAILAND, CAMBODIA, VIETNAM, PHILIPPINES, MALAYSIA OR INDONESIA MAY HAVE FAMILIARITY.



The Karen “rain drum” or “frog drum” is very important and depicted on the Karen flag, floating in the red rays of the sun.

# JANUARY 23 - 27, 2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M					No Students
P M					

NOTES:

# FEBRUARY: BLACK HISTORY MONTH

LEARNING FOR JUSTICE WRITER COSHANDRA DILLARD RECOMMENDS NOT FOCUSING ON SLAVERY AND SEGREGATION, INSTEAD. . .

TEACH THE HISTORY OF BLACK LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, HONOR BLACK CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, RECOGNIZE INTERSECTIONAL BLACK IDENTITY, CELEBRATE BLACK LITERATURE



**January 31  
Karen  
Revolution  
Day**

Commemorates the beginning of the Karen uprising in 1949.



# JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 3, 2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M					
P M					

NOTES:



Leslie Barlow

Elizabeth Catlett

Titus Kaphar



# Celebrate Black Inventors and Artists

Lonnie Johnson



Valerie L. Thomas

Mark E. Dean



FEBRUARY 11  
KAREN NATIONAL DAY  
COMMEMORATES WHEN THE KAREN  
PEOPLE DEMANDED THEIR OWN  
HOMELAND



# FEBRUARY 6-10, 2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M					
P M					

NOTES:





Celebrate  
**Mary Church Terrell**  
One of the first Black women to earn bachelors and masters degrees. She was a national activist for suffrage and civil rights. Her words, "Lifting as we climb," inspired many. Check out the 11-minute American Masters film about Mary Church Terrell on [pbs.org](https://www.pbs.org)

RUSSIA AND UKRAINE HAVE BEEN FIGHTING IN THE DOMAS REGION SINCE 2014 WITH THE RUSSIAN ANNEXATION OF CRIMEA

THOUSANDS OF UKRAINIANS HAVE COME TO MN SINCE 2014, WITH 500+ SINCE THE START OF LAST YEAR'S ALL OUT INVASION

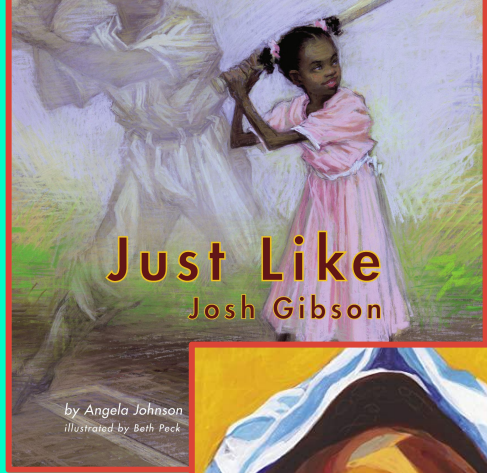
ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF RUSSIA'S BROADER ASSAULT ON UKRAINE



# FEBRUARY 13 - 17, 2023

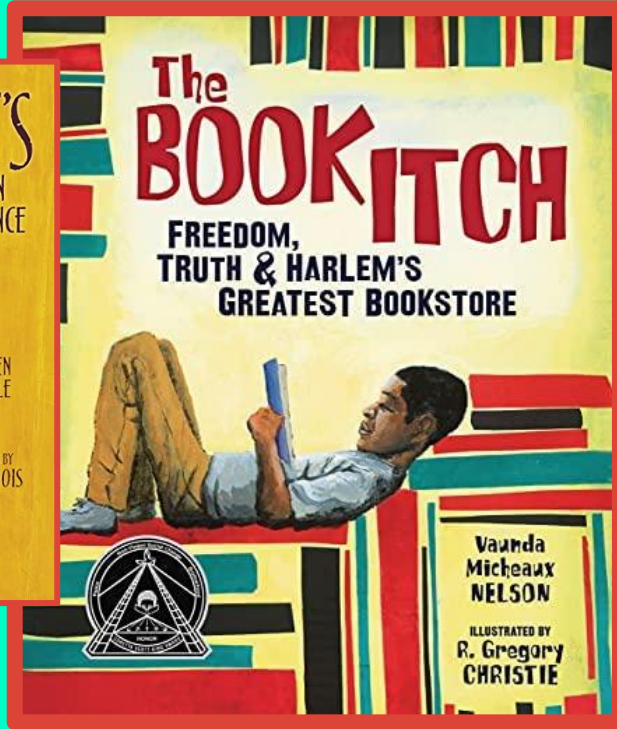
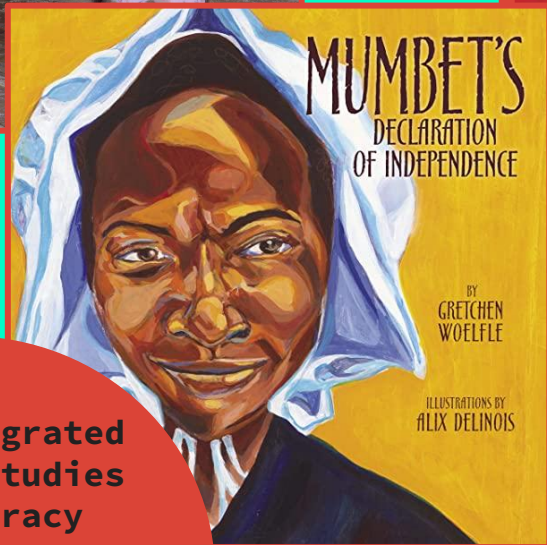
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M					
P M					

NOTES:



## Recent MN Legislative language:

- Districts must identify students in grade 3 or higher who demonstrate a reading difficulty.
- Districts must provide information to parents about the student's progress in addition to information about reading-related services currently being provided.
- Districts must continue to provide intervention to students until the student reads at grade level.



K-5 integrated  
social studies  
and literacy  
units from SPPS  
Center for Equity  
and Culture

# FEBRUARY 20 - 24, 2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M	No School President's Day				
P M					

NOTES:





ETHIOPIA HAS A STRONG HISTORY OF INDEPENDENCE AND RESISTANCE TO COLONIALISM DATING BACK TO ROMAN TIMES WHEN CANDACE OF KUSH HALTED ALEXANDER THE GREAT.

MARCH 2ND IS ADWA VICTORY DAY WHICH CELEBRATES THE END OF ITALIAN RULE IN 1896 WITH PARADES AND GATHERINGS.

THERE ARE MANY DISTINCT CULTURAL GROUPS LIVING IN ETHIOPIA TODAY. THE MOST POPULOUS ARE THE OROMO.

MINNESOTA BOASTS THE LARGEST NUMBER OF OROMO PEOPLE LIVING OUTSIDE OF ETHIOPIA IN THE WHOLE WORLD!

**March  
1st begins  
Women's  
History  
Month!**

Use the month to celebrate women from culturally diverse backgrounds that reflect our SPPS students

# FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 3, 2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M					
P M					

NOTES:

## Women make their voices heard!

4.6 million people participated in marches across the country on January 21st, 2017, the largest, single day demonstration in American History.

## March 8th: International Women's Day



MARCH 6TH:

## TONI STONE DAY (ST. PAUL)

Stone was the first woman to play professional baseball when she replaced Hank Aaron at 2nd base for the Indianapolis Clowns.

Stone grew up in the Rondo neighborhood!



**MARCH 6 - Full Moon Day of Tabaung** (also called “Magha Puja” or “Makha Bucha”) commemorates the meeting of The Buddha and his first 1,200 disciples.

**March 7 - Purim (Jewish)** is a joyous holiday that celebrates the saving of the Jews from a massacre in ancient Persia with costumes, noisemakers, skits, stories and feasts.

**March 8 - Holi (Hindu/India)** festival of love, triumphing over evil and forgetting past resentments. Celebrated by lighting fires and playing with brightly colored powders.



# MARCH 6-10, 2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M					No Students
P M					

NOTES:



**ROSE  
SCHNEIDERMAN**  
POLISH/JEWISH IMMIGRANT  
WHO BECAME AN ACCOMPLISHED  
LABOR ORGANIZER

Unladylike2020.com by PBS is filled with resources and lesson plans for grades 6-12 on diverse and little known American women who shaped history.

**Including these  
two important  
Americans:**

**JOVITA IDAR**

TEACHER, WRITER, EDITOR AND  
ACTIVIST FOR WOMEN'S EDUCATION,  
EQUAL RIGHTS, AND MEXICAN CULTURE  
IN SOUTH TEXAS, .  
LOOK UP "JUAN CROW"



MARCH 13-17, 2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M					
P M					

NOTES:



# MARCH 20TH NOWRUZ / NOROOZ BEGINS AT SUNDOWN

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT, TWO- WEEK NEW YEAR CELEBRATION FOR OUR STUDENTS WITH PERSIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE ORIGINATING FROM

AFGHANISTAN, AZERBAIJAN, INDIA, IRAN, IRAQ, KYRGYZSTAN, KAZAKHSTAN, PAKISTAN, TAJIKISTAN, TURKEY, TURKMENISTAN AND UZBEKISTAN.

## Ramadan Begins on March 22nd

\*MN HAS WELCOMED 1,244 REFUGEES FROM AFGHANISTAN BETWEEN OCT. 2021 AND MARCH 2022 ALONE. MORE WILL SETTLE IN OUR REGION AS FAMILIES AWAITING IMMIGRATION ARE REUNITED.


21st:  
Mexico celebrates Benito Juarez's Birthday

Women's History Month

# MARCH 20-24, 2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M					P/K/E No Students
P M					

NOTES:



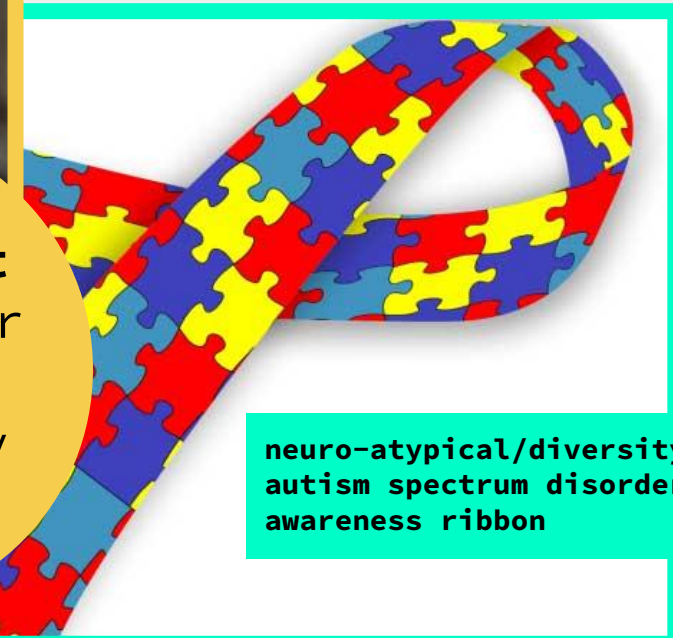
81.8% of LGBTQ+ students reported feeling unsafe in school because of at least one of their actual or perceived personal characteristics.

remember,  
there's no wrong  
way to express gender

**April 2nd**  
Autism  
awareness  
day

NOWRUZ/NOROOZ  
AND RAMADAN  
CONTINUE.

**March 31st**  
Transgender  
day of  
visibility



neuro-atypical/diversity and  
autism spectrum disorder  
awareness ribbon

EXPLORE RAMADAN RESOURCES FROM THE SHOULDER TO SHOULDER CAMPAIGN  
AND THE COUNCIL ON AMERICAN AND ISLAMIC RELATIONS

# MARCH 27-31, 2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M					
P M					

NOTES:



**Welcome back from Spring Break!**

**While we were away:**

Arab American Heritage Month began

2nd: Nowruz/Norooz ended with the Sizdah-bedar picnic

4th: Mahavir Jayanti (Indian Buddhists)

5th: Passover began with two nights of Seders



APRIL 13-15TH

## SONGKRAN - NEW YEAR

(THAILAND, LAOS, CAMBODIA, SRI LANKA,  
MYANMAR, NE INDIA, VIETNAM AND CHINA)

WATER SYMBOLICALLY WASHES AWAY THE PREVIOUS  
YEAR WITH HUGE WATER "FIGHTS" CELEBRATED IN THE  
STREETS WHICH INCLUDE BUCKETS, FIRE DEPARTMENT  
HOSES, SUPER SOAKERS AND PAINTED ELEPHANTS!

April 16th,

## Fasika

(Ethiopian Easter)

**The most important religious  
holiday for our Ethiopian  
Orthodox students.**

Since the end of February  
(55 days)

they have been fasting and  
celebrating with friends  
and family.



**The last 2 days of Passover:**

beginning at sundown on the 11th  
and ending at sundown on the 13th.

This is an important holiday celebrating  
Jewish liberation from Egyptian bondage. Students may  
not attend school on the 12th or the 13th so please  
make accommodations in your lesson planning.

APRIL 10-14, 2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M					
P M					

NOTES:

THE SHOAH FOUNDATION INCLUDES OTHER GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED ETHNIC CLEANSING CAMPAIGNS AFTER WWII IN THE REMEMBRANCE DAY. IE: ETHIOPIA, EAST TIMOR, GUATEMALA, YUGOSLAVIA, RWANDA AND CAMBODIA.



## Eid al Fitr - 21st

*Festival of breaking of the fast* Marks the end of Ramadan.

Gatherings and celebrations will begin at sundown and continue through sundown on the 22nd. Our students may receive presents, new clothes and be marked with henna.

**This is a very important celebration that Muslims look forward to all year and will not attend school on the 22nd or possibly the 21st. Please take care in your lesson planning for these two days.**

Beginning next school year, Eid al-Fitr and the Jewish high holy days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur will be non-school days in SPPS.

18TH IS HOLOCAUST  
REMEMBRANCE DAY

22ND IS  
EARTH DAY



# APRIL 17-21, 2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M					No Students
P M					

NOTES:

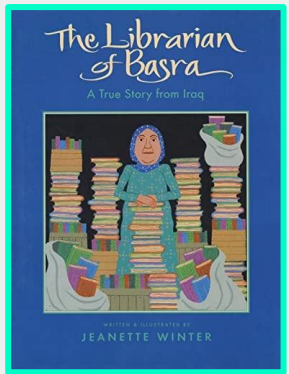


April 30th Children's Day in Mexico

Adults buy children gifts and schools have big celebrations with performances, candy, games, music, piñatas and more.

The Arab America Foundation states there are 22 Arab countries and to also remember that not all Arabs are Muslim and not all Muslims are Arab.

# Arab American Heritage Month



K-5 integrated units from SPPS Center for Equity and Culture include the books: The Librarian of Basra, King for a Day and For the Right to Learn

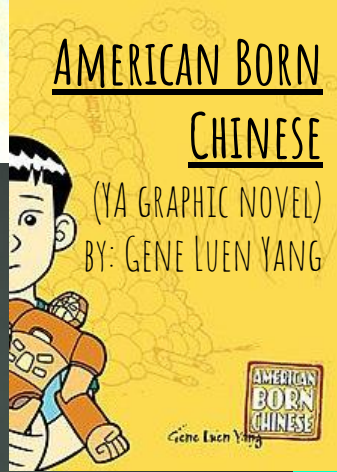
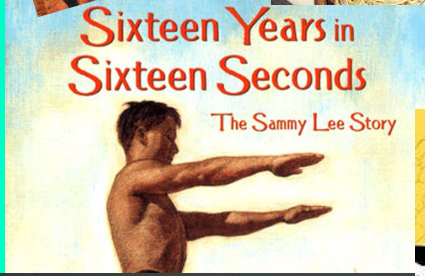
# APRIL 24-28, 2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M					
P M					

NOTES:



K-5  
social  
studies  
and reading  
curriculum  
from the  
SPPS Center  
for Equity  
and Culture:



MAY IS  
ASIAN PACIFIC  
AMERICAN HERITAGE  
MONTH

FOLLOW  
#MINNEASIANSTORIES  
TO RECEIVE ONE PERSONAL  
NARRATIVE A DAY IN MAY

**Rent learning  
trunks from SPPS:**

- Hmong Culture (K-3rd)
- Hmong Culture (4th-6th)
- Hmong Story Cloth Trunk
- Karen Trunk

WE NEED TO TALK  
ABOUT ASIAN HATE  
(70 MIN DOCUMENTARY)  
BY: EUGENE LEE YANG





MAY 1-5, 2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M					
P M					

NOTES:

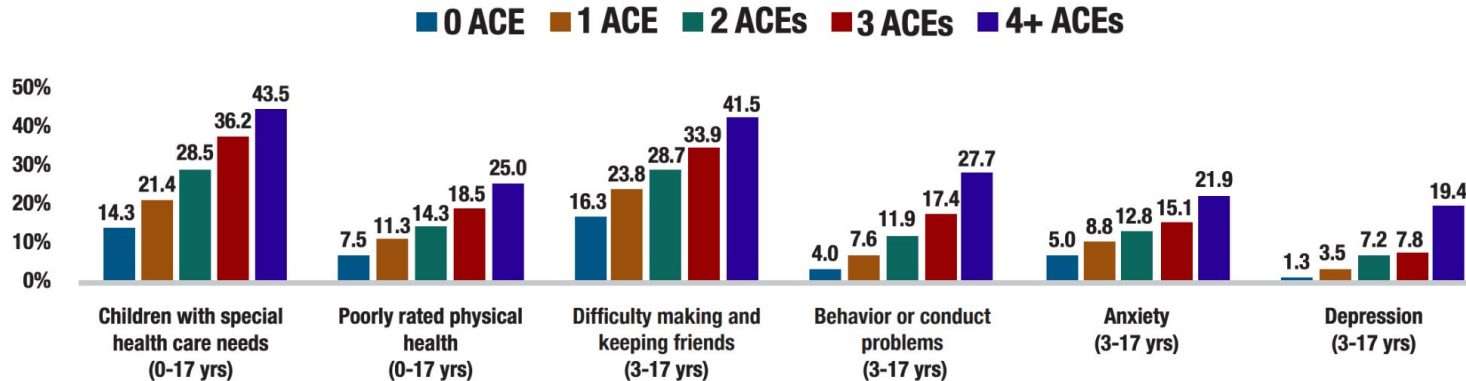
May 14:  
Hmong American  
Day

## May is Mental Health Awareness Month

In the 4 years  
**before** the  
pandemic, anxiety  
in children  
increased by 29%,  
depression by 27%

Between 2019 and 2020  
there was a 21%  
increase in diagnosed  
behavioral or conduct  
problems.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) correlate strongly with Mental Health:



Mental health is both biological and environmental. It is influenced by our genetics and our life experiences.

MAY 8-12, 2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M					
P M					

NOTES:

May is  
**Jewish American  
Heritage Month**



**Bob Dylan**

Minnesota native who has earned countless awards for his music and poetry, including the Nobel Prize in Literature.



**Paul Wellstone**

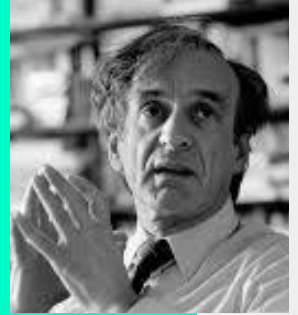
Grassroots organizer and civil disobedient who became a U.S. Senator representing Minnesota.



**Hedy Lamarr**

American immigrant who developed a radio guidance system used to fight the Axis powers in WWII, which later became WiFi, GPS and Bluetooth.

**Elie Wiesel**  
American immigrant who survived German concentration camps to become a writer, political activist and Nobel laureate.



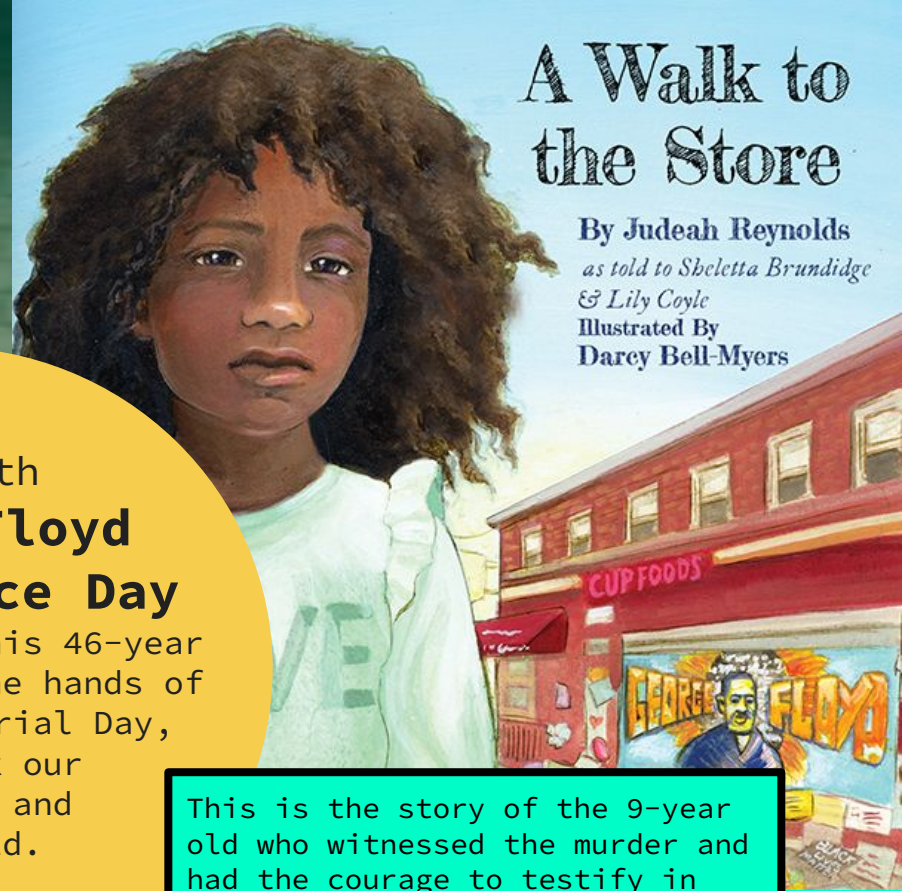
MAY 15-19, 2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M					
P M					

NOTES:

## Memorial Day

has been celebrated since 1868 but didn't become a federal holiday until 1971, in the midst of the Vietnam War.



# A Walk to the Store

By Judeah Reynolds  
as told to Sbeletta Brundidge  
& Lily Coyle  
Illustrated By  
Darcy Bell-Myers

## May 25th George Floyd Remembrance Day

The murder of this 46-year old father by the hands of police on Memorial Day, 2020 shook our community and the world.

This is the story of the 9-year old who witnessed the murder and had the courage to testify in the trial against the police.





MAY 22-26, 2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M					
P M					

NOTES:

# CALVIN

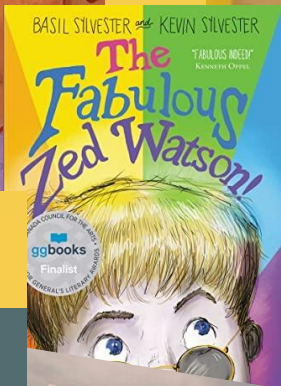


Written by  
JR and Vanessa Ford

Books for all  
our students

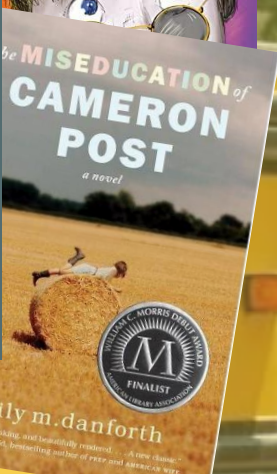


DARCIE LITTLE BADGER



BASIL SILVESTER and KEVIN SILVESTER

*The Fabulous Zed Watson!*  
"FABULOUS MEEP!"  
—Kathryn O'Connell



*The MISEDUCATION of CAMERON POST*  
a novel



emily m. danforth

"Plains, heartbreak, and beauty fully realized." —Ariane Labedry  
—Curtis Gougeon, bestselling author of *Year and a Day* and *Wife*

# JUNE IS LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH

Explore the GLSEN 2021 national school climate survey to see why it's so important we make our schools LGBTQ+ safe.



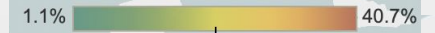
MAY 29 - JUNE 2, 2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M	No School Memorial Day				
P M					

NOTES:

# JUNE IS IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH

U.S. IMMIGRANT POPULATION BY  
METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA, 2015-2019  
SHARE OF TOTAL METRO AREA POPULATION

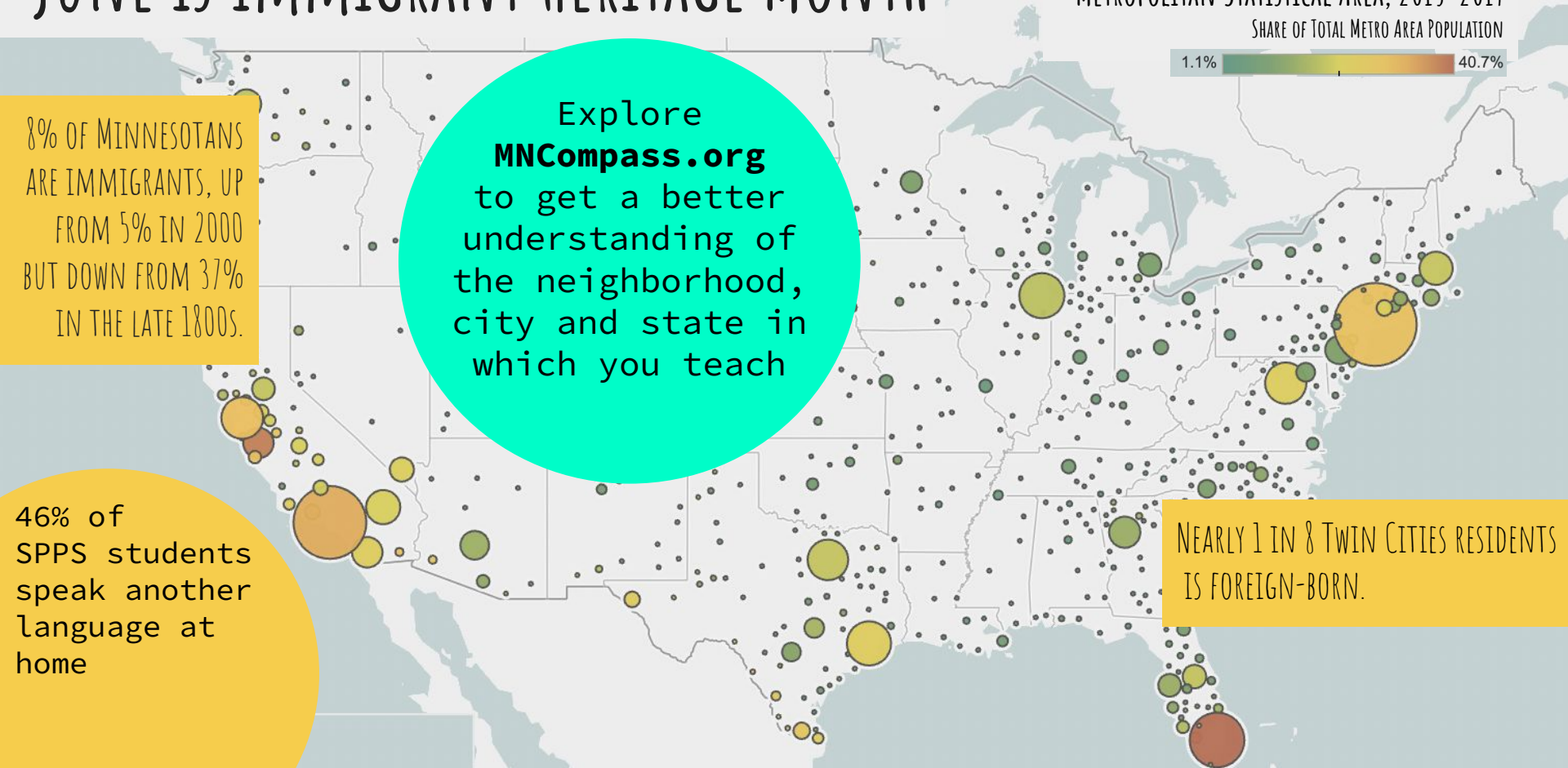


8% OF MINNESOTANS  
ARE IMMIGRANTS, UP  
FROM 5% IN 2000  
BUT DOWN FROM 37%  
IN THE LATE 1800S.

Explore  
**MNCompass.org**  
to get a better  
understanding of  
the neighborhood,  
city and state in  
which you teach

46% of  
SPPS students  
speak another  
language at  
home

NEARLY 1 IN 8 TWIN CITIES RESIDENTS  
IS FOREIGN-BORN.



JUNE 5-9, 2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M					
P M					

NOTES:

NAMED A CITYWIDE  
HOLIDAY IN 2021 BY OUR  
FIRST BLACK MAYOR,  
MELVIN CARTER III



Last year's St. Paul celebrations included:

- Breakfast at the Humanities Center
- YWCA festival and picnic in Boyd Park
- Celebrations at St. Paul Central and Sun Ray Libraries
- Evening Gala at Roy Wilkins Auditorium

JUNETEENTH  
(SHORT FOR JUNE 19TH)  
NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE  
DAY ACT

WAS SIGNED INTO LAW ON JUNE 17TH 2021 BY  
PRESIDENT JOSEPH BIDEN

MARKS THE FIRST NEW  
NATIONAL HOLIDAY SINCE  
MLK DAY IN 1983

THE FIRST CELEBRATION WAS IN 1865,  
WHEN FEDERAL SOLDIERS RODE TO  
GALVESTON, TEXAS TO PROCLAIM AND  
ENFORCE THE END OF SLAVERY.  
(A FULL TWO YEARS AFTER THE  
EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION)



← 2022 Parade in Minneapolis



# JUNE 12-16, 2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A M			Last Day of School		
P M					

NOTES:

# Culturally Responsive Instruction

Acknowledges that students come to the educational setting with a wealth of knowledge.

It honors the communities from which they come by placing value on the knowledge they bring with them. This then motivates students to take ownership over their learning and responsibility for the learning of others as they feel recognized as a member of the learning community.

We need to take a hard look at the structure of our schools and the ways we deliver our classroom content. We are no longer training citizens of the second industrial revolution. We are encouraging creative thinkers who have inherited our global problems. We are fostering thoughtful, caring people who see the deep value in participating in a multicultural community. Not all persons drawn to education come with the experience, knowledge or beliefs necessary for Culturally Responsive Teaching. Education is both a science and an art. The preponderance of literature tells us that with proper education, preparation and training, anyone who believes all students are valuable to the learning environment can be a Culturally Responsive Teacher.

Designed and created by Meaghan Shomion through the U of M's masters degree in Arts and Cultural Leadership.  
Meaghan is a SPPS Parent, SPPS Educator and Saint Paul resident.  
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