

Milton Public Schools

May 13th, 2021

Behaving Equitably

Holidays and Celebrations

Memorial Day May 31st, 2021

“Heroism doesn’t always happen in a burst of glory. Sometimes small triumphs and large hearts change the course of history.”

— MARY ROACH



The cost for freedom has come at the cost of many lives. This holiday is steeped in tradition and history. Did you know that “The day actually began as “Decoration Day,” following the Civil War, when mourners placed flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers (nationaltoday.com).” General John A. Logan picked May 30th, 1968 as the day to visit the graves of the soldiers who died during the civil war. “Logan apparently chose May 30 because flowers would be in bloom all over the country. By the end of the 19th century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held on May 30 throughout the nation. States passed proclamations, and the Army and Navy adopted rules for proper observance at their facilities.”

The Milton Public Schools would like to thank all who have served (or is serving) for your services and pay tribute to those who have lost their lives in the pursuit to provide all with Life, Freedom, liberty and Justice.

Shavuot

“Chag Sameach!” (Happy Holliday) For those who will be celebrating the Shavuot on the 16th and 18th of May this year. To learn more about this holliday click on this [video link](#).



According to Chabad.org this is how Shavuot is celebrated:

- Women and girls light holiday candles to usher in the holiday, on both the first and second evenings of the holidays. [Read the holiday candle-lighting procedure here.](#)
- It is customary to stay up all night learning Torah on the first night of Shavuot. [Read how and why we stay up here.](#)
- All men, women and children should go to the synagogue to hear the reading of the Ten Commandments on the first day of Shavuot. [Learn about the Ten Commandments here.](#)
- As on other holidays, special meals are eaten, and no “work” may be performed. [More on how we “rest” on Jewish holidays.](#)
- It is customary to eat dairy foods on Shavuot. Menus range from traditional cheese blintzes to quiches, casseroles and more. [Learn the reasons for eating dairy on Shavuot here.](#)
- On the second day of Shavuot, the Yizkor memorial service is recited. [Brush up on Yizkor here.](#)
- Some communities read the Book of Ruth during morning services, as King David—whose passing occurred on this day—was a descendant of [Ruth](#) the Moabite. [Read the Book of Ruth here.](#)
- Some have the custom to decorate their homes (and synagogues) with flowers and sweet-smelling plants in advance of Shavuot. [Read 7 classic reasons for this custom here.](#)

Ramadan

Thanks to all the community participation, Ramadan’s food drive led by the Milton Muslim’s Neighbors was a success. An idea derived from Noor, a six-year-old student of the Milton Public School District, brought our community together to help those who may be struggling with food security. The power of humanity lies in all of us. Thank you, Noor for inspiring us all to do and be better.



Asian Heritage Month

This month the Milton Public School District stood (and continues to stand) in solidarity with our API/AAPI community and celebrated Asian Heritage. Part of the celebration included reading books written by Asian authors, celebrating the achievements of Asian Americans, and discovering/acknowledging all the contributions (historically and today) Asians have given to the making of America.

If you would like to show support and stand in solidarity with the API/AAPI community click [here](#) for more resources.

Quality Review

Steering Committee and Selection Task Force

The Selection Task Force has been hard at work building our capacity to better serve the community in our pursuit to behave more equitably. Here are a few things we have been investigating:

- Biases and how it impacts our ability to behave equitably
- Fair hiring/selection practices that helps minimize and/or navigate our biases
- Team building to better collaborate
- Practicing our ability to navigate discourse and uncomfortable conversations
- Creating and using rubrics
- Providing constructive feedback

Steering Committee

Applicants have been notified for phase two of the application. If you applied and have not received an email from the Senior Director of Equity please reach out to sprak-martins@miltonps.org. The deadline to submit phase two of the application is Sunday May 16th at noon.

