Hello, Readers!

My name is Yaleigh. I am a Senior and am the 2021’-22’ Social Justice Committee head. Growing up on the South Side of Chicago, I have seen and experienced a lot of the issues that appear in Social Justice. This has throughout my life fueled my motivation and passion to create positive changes in my community and the greater world. As ever since I was a young girl I have been very outspoken about the injustices in society. My mission is to serve our community through engaging, educating, connecting, and being inclusive. This month’s newsletter focuses on Native American Heritage Month and Latinx Heritage Month. The pieces in this newsletter are written by Desi Molina, Saroya Ornelas-Pagnucci, and Suzanne Alden. They all worked incredibly hard and well to create these pieces and we hope that the community feels moved and proud.

Thank you always!

- Yaleigh
Native American Heritage Month is observed in the month of November, and it’s an annual celebration of the histories, cultures, and contributions of the Native American people. This month started off as “Native American Day,” celebrated on the second Saturday of May in 1916. This later progressed to “American Indian Week” in 1986. Then, in 1990, President George H. W. Bush designated November to be the National American Indian Heritage Month, thereafter, commonly referred to as Native American Heritage Month.

Native American Heritage Month is a vital time in which we can continue to celebrate the rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories of the Native Americans. It is also a month in which we can acknowledge the vast achievements and important contributions that Native American people have made. This month is an important time to educate the public about Native American tribes, to raise awareness about the unique challenges Native American people have faced both in the past and in the present, and the ways in which they have worked to conquer these challenges.

“I do not think the measure of a civilization is how tall its buildings of concrete are, but rather how well its people have learned to relate to their environment and fellow man.”
- Sun Bear, Chippewa
5 NATIVE AMERICAN LEADERS TO KNOW!

by Desi Molina

1: Deb Haaland

"November is Native American Heritage month, and a good time to honor the legacy of our ancestors, but every day we should stop to think about our country’s beginning and that the United States would not exist if not for a great deal of sacrifice, blood, and tears by Indian Tribes across the country."

- Deb Haaland

Deb Haaland is serving as the 54th United States secretary of the interior. Also, she has served as chair of the New Mexico Democratic Party from 2015 to 2017 as well as, the U.S. representative for New Mexico's 1st congressional district from 2019 to 2021.
5 NATIVE AMERICAN LEADERS TO KNOW!

by Desi Molina

2: Sharice Davids

"I know that together we can and will help shape the future of this country for the better."
- Sharice Davids

Sharice Davids is one of the first two Native American women to be elected to congress (alongside Deb Haaland) and is also the first LGBTQ person to be elected in Kansas. Davis is a part of the Ho-Chunk nation which originated in Wisconsin, and uses her platform to give back to her community by working on projects which boost economic growth and community development.
5 NATIVE AMERICAN LEADERS TO KNOW!

by Desi Molina

3: Sacheen Littlefeather

"...Our hearts and our understandings will meet with love and generosity."
- Sacheen Littlefeather

Sacheen Littlefeather is a Native American actress best known for appearing at the 1973 academy awards after Marlon Brando turned down his Best Actor trophy. She delivered a strong speech about the portrayal of Native Americans in cinema. She also helped create the National American Indian Performing Arts Registry which helped fellow Indigenous performers get roles and jobs in acting.
5 NATIVE AMERICAN LEADERS TO KNOW!

by Desi Molina

4: Joy Harjo

“All acts of kindness are lights in the war for justice.”
- Joy Harjo

Joy Harjo is the first Native American poet laureate in U.S history. She has gotten lots of praise for her collections like In Mad Love and War and Secrets From the Center of the World. She’s a member of the Muscogee tribe and has been writing since 1973. She uses her work to confront stereotypes around indigenous people.
5 NATIVE AMERICAN LEADERS TO KNOW!

by Desi Molina

5: Kent Monkman

“I use the vocabulary of painting...That’s my chosen language. It’s something that’s accessible to everybody. The elderly, the young, people of whatever cultural background — they can all read a representational image.”

- Kent Monkman

Kent Monkman is a well known artist. He is a part of the Fisher River Cree Nation of the Manitoba area. Many of his pieces place indigenous characters in scenes that would usually feature all-white faces. His art brings attention to Indigenous Peoples by portraying them in a different way than what is the norm.
WAYS TO SUPPORT THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY + CELEBRATE THEIR HERITAGE

by Suzanne Alden

DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, IT IS TIME TO CELEBRATE AND HONOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE’S CULTURE, SACRIFICE, AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR NATION. HERE ARE WAYS TO CONTINUALLY CELEBRATE AND SUPPORT NATIVE AMERICANS.

VISIT MUSEUMS TO EDUCATE YOURSELF ON THEIR HISTORY AND CULTURE, SUCH AS THE MUSEUM OF THE CHEROKEE INDIAN IN NORTH CAROLINA AND THE MITCHELL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN HERE IN CHICAGO. MOREOVER, THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS AND NATIONAL ARCHIVES HOST NUMEROUS EVENTS ABOUT NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER OR HOST YOUR OWN EVENT! FURTHERMORE, MANY NATIVE AMERICAN NATIONS AND ALLIES ARE CALLING FOR THE DECOLONIZATION OF THANKSGIVING. IN ORDER TO DO THIS YOU CAN BRING TO LIGHT THE REAL STORY OF THANKSGIVING. YOU CAN ALSO PARTICIPATE IN “DAY OF MOURNING” MARCHES THAT ARE HOSTED BY UNITED AMERICAN INDIANS OF NEW ENGLAND. “DAY OF MOURNING” REPRESENTS THE STORY OF HOW COLONIZERS CAME TO AMERICA. ANOTHER WAY TO CELEBRATE NATIVE AMERICANS IS TO READ FROM NATIVE AMERICAN AUTHORS, SOME INCLUDE TOMMY ORANGE, LOUISE ERDRICH, STEPHEN GRAHAM JONES, AND JOY HARJO. ALSO, SUPPORT NATIVE AMERICAN CHARITIES, FOR EXAMPLE, NATIVE WELLNESS INSTITUTE, WARRIOR WOMEN PROJECT, AND NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE ASSOCIATION. HERE ARE JUST A COUPLE OF WAYS TO AID AND HONOR NATIVE AMERICAN PEOPLE DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER AND BEYOND.

"Honor the sacred. Honor the Earth, our Mother. Honor the Elders. Honor all with whom we share the Earth:-Four-leggeds, two-leggeds, winged ones, Swimmers, crawlers, plant and rock people. Walk in balance and beauty."
- Unknown
Latinx/Hispanic Heritage Month is observed from September 15th to October 15th. The month is an annual celebration of the histories, cultures, and contributions of people with origins from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central/South America. This observation was first put into effect in 1968 by President Lyndon Johnson, however, it was only a week long.

“Hispanic Heritage Week” called for the people of the United States to observe the week with the appropriate ceremonies and activities. Hispanic Heritage Week was further expanded into a 31-day period by President Ronald Reagan in 1988, with the intention to give the nation more time to properly observe and coordinate events and activities to celebrate Hispanic culture and achievement.

The beginning date of September 15th is especially significant because it coincides with Independence Day for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico, Chile, and Belize celebrate their independence days on September 16th, September 19th, and September 21st, respectively.

"Your great strength is knowing who you are.”
– Oscar de la Renta

"Don't be told something is impossible. There's always a way."
– Robert Rodriguez
5 LATINX LEADERS TO KNOW!

by Desi Molina

1: Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

“We are fighting for an unapologetic movement for economic, social, and racial justice in the United States.”

- Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez has served as U.S. Representative for New York’s 14th congressional district since 2019. Some parts of her platform include medicare for all, repairing public housing, and ending police violence.
5 LATINX LEADERS TO KNOW!

by Desi Molina

2: Dolores Huerta

"Every moment is an organizing opportunity, every person a potential activist, every minute a chance to change the world."
- Dolores Huerta

Dolores Huerta is a Mexican-American labor leader as well as a civil rights leader who worked with Cesar Chavez. She also founded the National Farmworkers Association which later became The United Farm Workers.
5 LATINX LEADERS TO KNOW!
by Desi Molina

3: Sylvia Mendez

“We are all individuals; we are all human beings; we are all connected together; and we all have the same rights, the same freedom.”
– Sylvia Mendez

Sylvia Mendez is a Civil Rights activist. She was pivotal in the Mendez v. Westminster case, which ended de jure segregation in California. On February 15, 2011, Mendez was awarded the United States most significant civilian honor, The Presidential Medal of Freedom.
5 LATINX LEADERS TO KNOW!

by Desi Molina

4: Sonia Sotomayor

"The Latina in me is an ember that blazes forever." - Sonia Sotomayor

Sonia Sotomayor has served as an associate justice of the supreme court since 2009. She was elected by President Obama and is the third woman and first Hispanic person to hold the position. She represents the Puerto Rican community, the working class of the Bronx, and Hispanic people as a whole on the supreme court as a hardworking, determined, and fearless judge. She is also known for her strike-ending decision in Silverman vs. Major League Baseball Player Relations Committee, Inc., her majority opinion in Castle Rock Entertainment, Inc. v. Carol Publishing Group, and many more cases.
5 LATINX LEADERS TO KNOW!

by Desi Molina

5: Jorge Ramos

"My only advice is, follow your dream and do whatever you like to do the most. I chose journalism because I wanted to be in the places where history was being made."
- Jorge Ramos

Jorge Ramos immigrated to America from Mexico City in 1983. He is a Mexican American journalist and author and has been regarded as the best-known Spanish-language news anchor in the U.S. He’s been the anchorman of Noticiero Univision since 1986 and is regarded as one of the most influential Latino leaders in the U.S. He’s also one of the most respected journalists among the Latin American community. At age 28 he became one of the youngest national news anchors in the history of American television. He uses his position to represent his community and many have called him “the voice of the voiceless” for other immigrants like him.
WAYS TO SUPPORT THE LATINX COMMUNITY + CELEBRATE THEIR HERITAGE

by Desi Molina & Suzanne Alden

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO SUPPORT THE LATINX COMMUNITY. ONE OF THE BIGGEST WAYS IS TO EDUCATE YOURSELF ON THE DIFFERENCES IN CULTURE, LIVED EXPERIENCES, AND PRIVILEGE. THIS CAN HELP YOU GET A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES WHICH IS VERY IMPORTANT IN OUR SOCIETY. ANOTHER WAY TO SUPPORT THIS COMMUNITY IS TO DONATE TO ORGANIZATIONS THAT HELP THE LATINX COMMUNITY. SOME EXAMPLES OF ORGANIZATIONS TO DONATE TO ARE THE HISPANIC INSTITUTE, THE LATINO VICTORY FUND, AND LATINO LEAD ALTHOUGH THERE ARE MANY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. CELEBRATING LATINX HERITAGE IS ANOTHER WAY TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY. CELEBRATING HERITAGE IS A GREAT WAY TO LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE LATINX COMMUNITY AND WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE PRESENT DAY. SOME THINGS THAT YOU CAN DO TO CELEBRATE LATINX HERITAGE ARE TO SUPPORT LATINX-OWNED BUSINESSES, EXPLORE DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF THE LATINX COMMUNITY SUCH AS THE FOOD, MUSIC, LANGUAGE, OR SIMPLY GOOGLING AND READING ABOUT THE HISTORY OF LATINX HERITAGE MONTH.

“Your individuality is important, but so is belonging. Recognize the parts of your culture that have shaped your past, and the parts you want to carry with you into the future.”

Sol Peralta
UPCOMING EVENT: TRASH PICK-UP!

We have an exciting event coming up that allows the Parker community to get involved! The Social Justice Committee and the Environmental Committee are teaming up to host a trash pick-up that will take place in the Washington Park neighborhood on Tuesday, November 16th, at 12:30. We are partnering up with an organization called Paving the Way, which is a non-profit, community-based outreach program to advocate for violence prevention and intervention. If you volunteer to participate, you will get an excused absence from your E, B, and Sci blocks.