

The Power of Inclusion

We are proud to announce the launching of “The Power of Inclusion”. This article comes from our Diversity and Inclusion Chair and will address topics that for most of us are challenging to approach in our daily life. Here, we will find the tools to move without the tight and constricted political correctness that roams our lives and will help us have candid and honest conversation about these hard-to-talk topics with poise and grace.

We understand that this month acknowledges critical topics, and they will be covered in other areas of our FCCPTA.

September celebrates 132 holidays.¹ So, in “The Power of Inclusion” we celebrate the Hispanic culture. We will talk about the richness of this culture and we will post it during this month in our “FCCPTA *en español*”, and “Fairfax County Council PTA (FCCPTA)” Facebook pages. We highly encourage you to visit and give a “Like” to these pages. There you will find more information about this month’s celebration that you can share with your units.

When we speak about the Hispanic community, we may think of Cinco de Mayo, tacos, or margaritas. There is much more to know about the Hispanic ethnicity² than this stereotype, and we will talk about the richness of the culture during this month in our Facebook posts and the rest of our social media.

We will know about the origins of the culture, the countries in which Spanish is spoken, and we will even learn how to make one typical dish of each of those countries. We will spark new ideas for your units so your Hispanic families can feel the appreciation we have for their countries of origin and how the contribution of the Hispanic culture has enriched our American culture throughout the centuries.

There will be relevant information about Hispanic countries; we will learn about the differences between a language and a dialect. If possible, we will try to include audio to experience the difference. We will know when to celebrate their national milestones and know the difference between them.

We declared our independence on July 4, 1776. However, did you know that our independence was not internationally recognized until February 6, 1778³? We still celebrate our Independence Day every Fourth of July. We will acknowledge every Hispanic country’s milestones and will honor that celebration.

I am proud to be the first one to start this portion of our FCCPTA newsletter, and I look forward to hearing from you in all aspects of diversity, equity, and inclusion. These are the times when we appreciate the saying, “we are all in this together”.

Diversity and inclusion are not the token in our society. They are the spotlight that helps us see the challenging path ahead of us.

Monica Vilpors
Chair, Diversity and Inclusion
Fairfax County Council PTA
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¹ You can check them all here: <https://nationaltoday.com/september-holidays/>

² For semantic unification we will use the words “ethnicity”, “ethnic”, “ethnical”, etc., instead of the concept of “race”

³ One source of information could be: <https://allthingsliberty.com/2018/05/the-first-countries-to-diplomatically-recognize-the-united-states/>