

FEBRUARY 2022  
NEWSLETTER

# MI GEAR UP

MY FUTURE MATTERS

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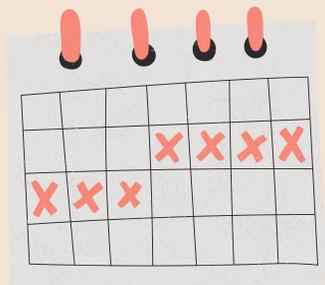
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Don't forget to connect with us on social media!

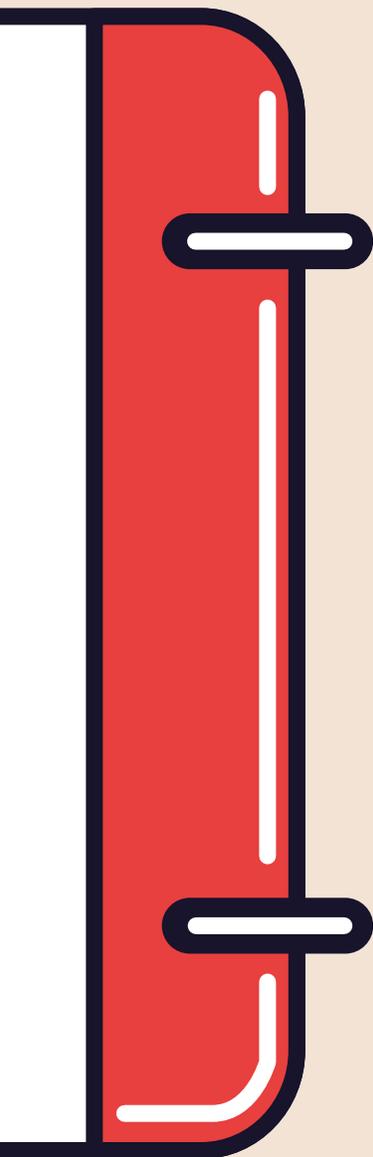


The Office of College Access Initiatives (CAI) provides academic enrichment programs to high school students in the Lansing area in order to increase the number of youth from disadvantaged backgrounds who complete high school and enroll in post-secondary education.



# FEBRUARY DAYS

- February 1 – Lunar New Year
- February 2 – Groundhog Day
  - National Girls and Women in Sports Day
- February 14 – Valentine's Day
  - National Organ Donor Day
- February 18 – National Caregivers Day
- February 21 – Presidents Day
- February 26 – National Tell a Fairy Tale Day
  - National Pistachio Day
- February 27 – National Strawberry Day
  - National Polar Bear Day





FEBRUARY  
 CELEBRATE  
**BLACK**  
**HISTORY**  
**MONTH**



**BIOGRAPHY**



February 2-8, 2022

# CHICANO HISTORY WEEK



**WHEREAS**, Chicano History Week commences on February 2, 2021, the 173rd anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848; and,

**WHEREAS**, Michigan made history during the 1960s as the first state in the U.S. to officially recognize Chicano History Week; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, a document significant to the United States and Mexico, ended the two-year Mexican American War in 1848; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mexico recognized the annexation of most of its lands in the U. S. Southwest and gave up about half of its territory, including all of or parts of present-day Arizona, California, Colorado, Kansas, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Wyoming, New Mexico, and Texas, in exchange for \$15 million; and,

**WHEREAS**, approximately 80,000 Mexicans lived in the ceded areas at the time, and most chose to become United States citizens; although the treaty granted protection of their property and civil rights and although subsequent adjudication in Texas, California, and New Mexico confirmed most of their rightful claims, citizens of Mexican descent in those ceded areas faced mounting pressure and discrimination as the years passed and as more Anglos moved into the region; as such, within decades, persons of Mexican descent owned almost no land at all; and,

**WHEREAS**, organized efforts to combat discrimination against Chicanos in the Southwest formed in the 1960s and 1970s, and members of the Chicano Movement joined the struggle for Mexican American social justice, composed mostly of younger Chicanas and Chicanos; the movement focused attention on the failed promises contained in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and, at the same time, prioritized Mexican traditions and culture, and also gave impetus to the inclusion of Mexican-American experiences in the teaching of U.S. history and culture; and,

**WHEREAS**, the contributions of Mexican Americans are an integral part of the story of our nation, and, by gaining a better understanding of Chicana and Chicano Studies, we deepen our appreciation of the rich heritage that is shared by all Americans;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Gretchen Whitmer, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim February 2-8, 2021 as Chicano History Week in Michigan and encourage all persons in Michigan to learn more about the important role that persons of Mexican descent have played in the history of our state and of our nation."

[LINK](#)



Lunar New Year, also called Spring Festival, is the most important holiday in China. The festival is also celebrated in Vietnam (where it's known as Tet), North and South Korea (where it's known as Solnal) and Tibet (where it is called Losar). In 2022, Lunar New Year will begin on February 1.

Tied to the Chinese lunar calendar, the holiday began as a time for feasting and to honor household and heavenly deities, as well as ancestors.

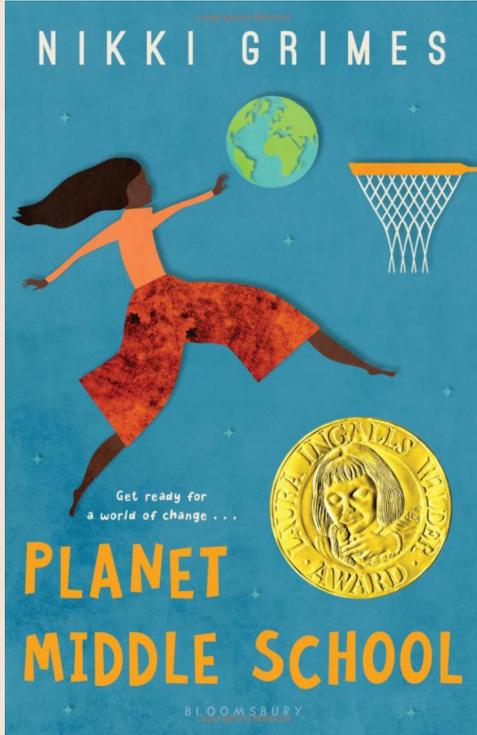
A photograph of a traditional Chinese building at night, illuminated by numerous red lanterns. The building has ornate, dark wooden roofs with intricate carvings. The sky is a deep blue, and the lanterns create a warm, glowing atmosphere.

# CELEBRATE LUNAR NEW YEAR

A red rounded square button with a white play button icon in the center. The text 'CLICK ME!' is written in white, outlined letters above the icon.

CLICK ME!

# FAMILY READING TIME



## **Planet Middle School** by Nikki Grimes

New York Times bestselling author of *One Last Word* and Coretta Scott King award-winning *Bronx Masquerade* Nikki Grimes offers fresh novel in verse story about young heartbreak and hope.

For twelve years, Joylin Johnson's life has been just fine. A game of basketball with the boys-especially her friend Jake-was all it took to put a smile on her face. Baggy jeans, T-shirt, and hair in a ponytail were easy choices. Then, everything suddenly seemed to change all at once. Her best girl friend is now flirting with her best guy friend. Her clothes seem all wrong. Jake is acting weird, and basketball isn't the same. And worst of all, there is this guy, Santiago, who appears from . . . where? What lengths will Joy go to--and who will she become--to attract his attention?

In short poems that perfectly capture the crazy feelings of adolescence and first crushes, award-winning author Nikki Grimes has crafted a delightful, often hilarious, heart-tugging story.

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## Who is Nikki Grimes?

Nikki Grimes (born October 20, 1950) is an American author of books written for children and young adults, as well as a poet and journalist.

Grimes was born in Harlem, New York. In a conversation with a Reading Is Fundamental interviewer, she stated: "Books were my survival tools. They were how I got by, and how I coped with things. Books carried me away."

Grimes currently resides in Corona, California, and continues to write poetry and books for children and young adults. She is on the board of directors for the National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance. Her work has earned her honors and recognition from a number of prestigious organizations.

Her novel *Bronx Masquerade* was named the Coretta Scott King Award book in 2002. The Coretta Scott King Award is "given to African-American authors and illustrators for outstanding inspirational and educational contributions."



# Resources

Items below are from the Ingham County Assistance Program.

[https://www.needhelppayingbills.com/html/ingham\\_county\\_assistance\\_progr.html](https://www.needhelppayingbills.com/html/ingham_county_assistance_progr.html)

Capital Area Community Services offers numerous financial assistance programs. The agency is located in Mason Michigan and it can be reached at (517) 676-1065. The non profit provides direct financial assistance with paying heating and utility bills, mortgage and rent payments.

Ingham County branch of Michigan Department Of Human Services – The local office of the state of Michigan emergency financial assistance programs. The aid is for very low income families in the region. Programs include, but are not limited to emergency assistance for utilities and heating bills if faced with a disconnection, food stamps, Medicaid, TANF, General Expense Assistance, Food, and much more. 5303 South Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan 48909, Dial (517) 887-9400.

Volunteers of Michigan in Lansing - Some of the resources available are emergency shelters and low income, transitional apartments and homes. Ingham County Michigan families, veterans, the elderly, and low income families can receive access to several additional housing programs. Other resources are free food, coats for children, thrift stores, and other aid.

Cristo Rey Community Center is a Family Health Clinic that is staffed by a full time medical team, including doctors and nurses. The site is open daily from 8-5. The staff is bilingual in Spanish. Services offered by the clinic include, preventative care, treatment for acute and chronic illness, counseling, first aid, flu shots, diagnostic services and education and information. Fees are based on a sliding scale. Dial (517) 372-4700.



## Employment websites for job listings:

<https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/listing/>

<https://jobs.lcc.edu/en/listing/>

<https://www.glassdoor.com/>

<https://www.indeed.com/>

[https://jobs.mitalent.org/job-seeker/jobsearchresults?job\\_time\\_frame=99999](https://jobs.mitalent.org/job-seeker/jobsearchresults?job_time_frame=99999)

