

A quick and handy monthly listing of important dates for parents who need to juggle many schedules!

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2015 NATIONAL NO ONE EATS ALONE DAY

Beyond Differences is thrilled to launch our 2nd Annual National No One Eats Alone Day on Friday, February 13! No One Eats Alone is a school lunchtime event with the supreme goal of creating socially inclusive activities that encourage students to interact in new and creative ways.

Currently we've got 142 schools from 25 different states signed up for National No One Eats Alone Day. You can see the list of partner schools and organizations here, and if you have a school that you want to be part of National No One Eats Alone Day please send them to NoOneEatsAlone.org to sign up to receive their FREE No One Eats Alone Backpack that has everything schools need to host the event!



UPCOMING BEYOND DIFFERENCES EVENTS

Beyond Differences Mid Year Retreat!

Sunday, January 25th 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Mid-year Retreat for Teen Board & LATP Students Pacific Leadership Institute at Ft. Mikey Ropes Course



We are so excited to bring together our high school Teen Board of Directors and our middle school LATP students for our mid-year retreat! In conjunction with San Francisco State University's Pacific Leadership Institute, students will participate in team building activities, leadership workshops, and a high ropes course! We look forward to bringing everyone together!

About the event:

- Lunch and transportation provided at no cost
• Buses leave from Marin (Greenbrae Park N Ride) at 8:30 AM and from Oakland (ECP) at 8 AM
• RELEASE FORM must be filled out prior to the retreat (email or paper copy on 1/25)
• For more information please email jfinerock@beyonddifferences.org

Teen Board of Directors Meeting

Sunday, February 1, 2015 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM Oji Life Lab 992 4th Street, San Rafael



Teacher and activist Berta Guillen joins the Teen Board of Directors on February 1!

Berta is a celebrated educator and San Francisco native. She engages students in tough topics: examining racism, prejudice, anti-semitism and privilege to promote the development of a more informed, compassionate citizenry. She teaches students to make connections between history and the moral choices they make in their own lives.

In 2002, Berta received the Karl S. Myster Leadership Award in recognition for her commitment to improving the lives of others. Berta is currently an advisor at Met West High School in Oakland, California.

I'm IN! Are YOU? is the powerful campaign launched by the student leaders of Beyond Differences. They personally pledged -- and asked all their friends and classmates from the West Coast to the East Coast -- to be kind online, to respect others' rights online and not to post anonymously!

For information on the event, please email beyonddifferences@gmail.com or call 415-256-9095. Invitations will be mailed and emailed to you! Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this inspiring and always popular event!

For reservations, please visit us at: http://im-in-are-you-2015.eventbrite.com



JOIN US! Sunday, March 29, 2015 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Marin Art & Garden Center 30 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard Ross, California

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY UPDATES

"The biggest deficit we have in our society, and the world right now, is an empathy deficit. We are in great need of people being able to stand in somebody else's shoes and see the world through their eyes. Don't criticize a man until you have walked a mile in his shoes." - Barack Obama

Quote from 'Empathy and Compassion for Self and Others' lesson from Beyond Differences Leadership Curriculum

The Beyond Differences Leadership Curriculum has been making a splash at middle schools all over Marin, San Francisco and Oakland! Students at Hall, Veneta Valley, Siskiyew, Davidson, Mill Valley Middle School, White Hill, Miller Creek, Brandeis, Elmhurst College Prep and Sterne School are learning the leadership skills needed to create inclusive middle school communities!

Beyond Differences I'm IN! Campaign



Take the pledge to be kind online

We are so proud of our Teen Board of Directors for advocating for a safer internet! The Teen Board requested and were granted a meeting with Ask.com CEO Doug Leeds and Trust & Safety Officer Catherine Teitelbaum! The Teen Board had created an online petition about what they thought would make Ask.com safer for teens. There had specific outcomes they would like to see including:
• Remove the option to post questions or comments anonymously.
• Provide a positive reflection pop-up whenever bullying, hostile, prejudiced, or harassing comments are about to be submitted.
• Provide a help-line pop-up when keywords such as "suicide," "want to die," "depressed", or other phrases that may indicate self-harm are entered.

The Teen Board continues to work with Ask.com to make their websites safer for teenagers. Sign our petition to Ask.com here.



ASSEMBLIES! Beyond Differences offers a powerful assembly program for middle schools presented by the Teen Board of Directors! Students learn about social isolation and brainstorm ways to create a more inclusive community at their middle schools. On assembly days, some schools host "Be Kind Online Day" in which students take the I'm IN! pledge and promote positive comments online!

If you are connected to a middle school who would like our Teen Board to present to them, please contact John Finerock at jfinerock@beyonddifferences.org.

TAKE ACTION!

...a few other easy ways you can support Beyond Differences

Attention Parents!

We need your help with our annual spring fundraising event -- I'm IN! Are you? which is scheduled to take place on Sunday, March 29, 2015 at the Marin Art & Garden Center. Planning meetings will be held January 24, February 28, and March 21 at the Mill Valley Community Center. If you would like to help, or need more information, please contact Linda and Joe Salesky, Event Co-Chairs at linda@salesky.com.

If you'd like to help with community outreach activities, please contact Board Member Marti Bakken at Marti.Bakken@me.com.

We are looking for dedicated adults who are interested in leadership positions with the Beyond Differences Board of Directors! Contact leuratamus@gmail.com for more information.

Not located in the Bay Area? Parents from throughout the country have taken the initiative to set up events and clubs at their local schools. We can help them! For more information contact jfinerock@beyonddifferences.org

Thank you for supporting Beyond Differences!

This email sent by **Beyond Differences**, an organization dedicated to ending social isolation.
336 Sun Air Center #436, Greenville, CA 95404 | Tel: 415-256-9095 [View our website](#)

You're receiving this because you are a parent of a teen in our Leadership Academy Training Program or Teen Board member. If you no longer wish to hear from Beyond Differences, [unsubscribe here](#).

Help: Questions or concerns? [Contact us here](#).