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“Inspiring individual learning through innovation.”

## *Newark Digitizer*

[www.nda.k12.oh.us](http://www.nda.k12.oh.us)

### **FROM THE EDITORS**

Our final Parent-Teacher conferences of the year are in February. If your student's contact teacher hasn't reached out yet with a time and date, please contact the office for more info.

The Editors,

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### **SNOW DAYS AND DELAYS**

Please remember that if Newark City Schools closes for a snow day, NDA is closed as well.

If Newark City Schools has a 2 hour delay, NDA starts school at 10am.

### **PRESIDENT'S DAY**

NDA will be closed on President's Day- Monday, February 15, 2021.

If you would like to learn about the history of President's Day, you can find information here: <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/presidents-day>

# Recipe of the Month

## Sweet Potato Casserole

### Ingredients for the topping:

- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/3 cup flour
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1/3 stick butter, melted

### Ingredients for the sweet potato mixture:

- 3 cups cooked and mashed sweet potatoes
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 eggs, well beaten
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, melted

### Directions:

Peel, boil, and mash sweet potatoes.

Combine brown sugar, flour, nuts, and butter in a bowl for the topping. Set aside.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Coat a medium-sized casserole dish with oil.

Combine sweet potatoes, sugar, salt, vanilla, eggs, and butter in a large mixing bowl in the order listed. Beat thoroughly with a mixer until mixture is fluffy.

Pour mixture into casserole dish.

Bake for 30 minutes.

Remove dish and sprinkle the brown sugar mixture evenly over the top.

Return to oven and bake for 10 minutes.

# Student Column

## The Significant Contributions of the Black Community

By: Carli Rettig

In recognition of Black History Month, I would like to reflect on the accomplishments of the Black community and celebrate the individuals within the community. Historically, the substantial contributions of Black people in America have been undermined and overlooked. While we, as a country, have begun to recognize those who have had their accomplishments overlooked, many still seem to discredit the contributions of the Black community. Of course, we recognize the familiar accomplishments of two very important people in history, Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks, but what about the contributions of lesser-known historical and modern influences in Black history? Throughout this article, I will examine the legacies of three important women in Black history, Shirley Chisholm, Gwendolyn Brooks, and Marsha P. Johnson. I will also discuss the modern movements for justice that are brought on by the prominent figures in today's conversations about race and other social constructs.

During the racially contentious period of the late 1960s, Shirley Chisholm was the first Black woman elected into Congress. She was a representative of New York's 12th District and ran for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination in 1972. Recently, Vice President-elect, Kamala Harris, paid tribute to Chisholm during her presidential campaign announcement through the use of a similar logo to Chisholm's.

Gwendolyn Brooks was a prominent poet who was the first Black American to win the Pulitzer Prize in 1950 for her work. She served as the first Black woman as a poetry consultant for the Library of Congress. Her works reflect the political and social movements of the 1960s.

Marsha P. Johnson was once a relatively unfamiliar name to many people. That is until recently when a Netflix documentary entitled, *The Death and Life of Martha P. Johnson*, detailed her life as a prominent influence on drag and queer culture. Johnson was a Black trans woman and social activist at the center of the LGBTQ+ movement. She was the co-founder of STAR, an organization that helped to house homeless queer youth, and she fought for equality through the Gay Liberation Front. These significant Black women that have their accomplishments overlooked and undermined paved the way for many of the current cultural movements that fight for the justice and rights of the Black community.

In the current political and social state of the United States of America, many prominent activists and artists of all forms have emerged to spark difficult conversations on the topic of racism. Whether those conversations are brought up through film, writing, or artistry, the people who start these discussions deserve recognition. Writer-Director, Barry Jenkins, who created the Academy Award-winning film, *Moonlight*, uses his storytelling capabilities to spark a broad discussion on the representation of the Black experience in pop culture. Individuals who are able to challenge an audience with their narratives are always going to be at the epicenter of cultural movements.

Modern Black authors develop well-written pieces that challenge social constructs and spark conversations. A perfect example of this is from Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche's book, *We Should All Be Feminists*. She uses personal experiences and inspiration from her TED Talk to define what feminism means in the 21st century. Another Black author who I would like to recognize is Saeed Jones, who wrote a memoir about growing up in the South as a young gay man. His work, *How We Fight for Our Lives*, challenges the crossroads of sexuality, race, and gender. Amy Sberald, a Black portraitist, strives to challenge the overuse of white people as the center of portrait artistry with her styles of realism and through the use of everyday settings.

In conclusion, recognizing the significant contributions of so many Black figures that are undermined and overlooked leads to a whole new realm of historical and modern exploration. These contributions spark conversations, some of which are challenging and difficult, yet necessary and valuable to progressing the social movements of modernity and to learning about the movements of the past. I highly implore you to research some of the important Black figures, films, books, and artists that were discussed throughout this article.

