

CONNECTION

Sharing the day-to-day learning experience

at

Community Homes & Services

PO Box 744, Novato CA 94948

415-408-3604

www.communityhomesandservices.com



Poem in Your Pocket Day - April 24

Poem in Your Pocket Day is a celebration of poetry's power to connect, inspire, and spark joy. It takes place each April during National Poetry Month and encourages people of all ages to carry a poem with them and share it throughout the day—with friends, coworkers, classmates, or even strangers. Whether it's a classic verse, an original creation, or a haiku scribbled on a sticky note, the idea is simple:

Let poetry travel and speak.

Sonar, So Far

Have you read the news?

This is really batty.

Can you hear the mews?

They are really catty.

That's right, I'm stuck at home

With my work and kitty,

Scribblin' out a poem

And keepin' it itty-bitty.

by Jenny Inzerillo.



Frog Pond Haiku by Matsuo Bashō

old pond

a frog jumps into

the sound of water

Translated by Jane Reichhold



Pocket Poems

Started in New York City in 2002 and later embraced nationwide by the Academy of American Poets, the day reminds us how a few well-chosen words can brighten a moment, start a conversation, or shift a mood.

Want to join in? Just pick a favorite poem, tuck it in your pocket (or keep it on your phone), and share it. You never know whose day you might make a little more poetic.



Underface by Shel Silverstein

Underneath my outside face

There's a face that none can see.

A little less smiley,

A little less sure,

But a whole lot more like me.



Bleezer's Ice Cream by Jack Prelutsky

I am Ebenezer Bleezer,
I run BLEEZER'S ICE CREAM STORE,
there are flavors in my freezer
you have never seen before,
twenty-eight divine creations
too delicious to resist,
why not do yourself a favor,
try the flavors on my list:

COCOA MOCHA MACARONI
TAPIOCA SMOKED BALONEY
CHECKERBERRY CHEDDAR CHEW
CHICKEN CHERRY HONEYDEW
TUTTI-FRUTTI STEWED TOMATO
TUNA TACO BAKED POTATO
LOBSTER LITCHI LIMA BEAN
MOZZARELLA MANGOSTEEN
ALMOND HAM MERINGUE SALAMI
YAM ANCHOVY PRUNE PASTRAMI
SASSAFRAS SOUVLAKI HASH
SUKIYAKI SUCCOTASH
BUTTER BRICKLE PEPPER PICKLE
POMEGRANATE PUMPERNICKEL
PEACH PIMENTO PIZZA PLUM
PEANUT PUMPKIN BUBBLEGUM
BROCCOLI BANANA BLUSTER
CHOCOLATE CHOP SUEY CLUSTER
AVOCADO BRUSSELS SPROUT
PERIWINKLE SAUERKRAUT
COTTON CANDY CARROT CUSTARD
CAULIFLOWER COLA MUSTARD
ONION DUMPLING DOUBLE DIP
TURNIP TRUFFLE TRIPLE FLIP
GARLIC GUMBO GRAVY GUAVA
LENTIL LEMON LIVER LAVA
ORANGE OLIVE BAGEL BEET
WATERMELON WAFFLE WHEAT

I am Ebenezer Bleezer,
I run BLEEZER'S ICE CREAM STORE,
taste a flavor from my freezer,
you will surely ask for more.



Valerie Lunn

CH&S STUDENT PPP

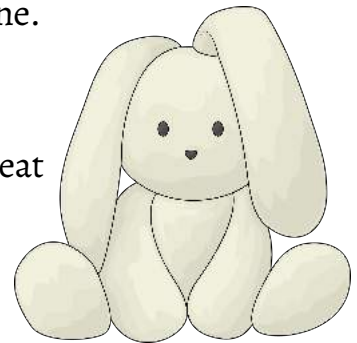


Valerie is an intelligent and likable woman. Everyone appreciates her mature attitude, her countless abilities, and her delightful personality.



As an employee she is always professional, positive, and productive. She can be counted upon to finish the job and to do it right. She has the wonderful ability to be easy going and still get things done.

Valerie is a great example for others, and a great asset to the program.



She is:

Articulate

Insightful

Competent

Caring

Pleasant and positive!

Watch Valerie's PPP video on our Instagram account
https://www.instagram.com/reel/C53x0yGvO8o/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==



Easter Island

with Darnell

Darnell presented a class on Easter Island, or Rapa Nui, one of the most remote inhabited islands in the world, located over 2,000 miles off the coast of Chile. It's famous for its *moai*—nearly 1,000 massive stone statues carved by the Rapa Nui people between 1100 and 1600 CE. How these statues, some weighing over 80 tons, were transported miles across the island is still unknown.

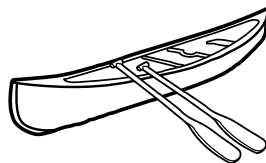
The island's early society was complex, with a focus on ancestor worship, clan systems, and unique cultural practices. One fascinating tradition was the *Birdman cult*, a competition where contestants raced to grab the



first sooty tern egg of the season from a nearby islet. See picture of a sooty tern (right).



We took turns reading about the terns and the Birdman cult race which involves people sliding downhill on banana trees, canoeing and horse riding!



Easter Island

Easter Island's population once faced collapse due to deforestation and overuse of resources. The island had contact with European explorers in the 18th century which led to major cultural disruptions.

Rapa Nui is now a UNESCO World Heritage site, and efforts are underway to preserve its heritage and language.

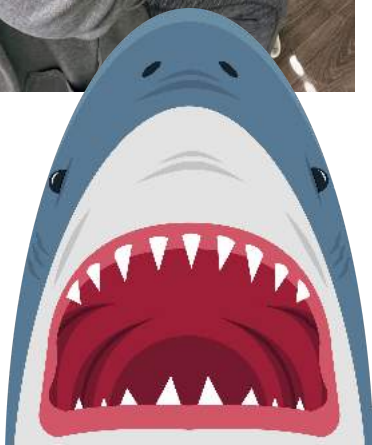
The mystery of how the moai statues were moved, and why many were toppled over, continues to capture imaginations worldwide.

Now back to the races...



We read about how the *tangata manu* race started hundreds of years ago and men would scale down a cliff, swim across the bay, find a seabird egg, swim back, climb the cliff and dash into the village to present their egg.

The leader was awarded the title of Birdman while some racers never made it out of the shark infested waters! Yikes!



April 10-National Siblings Day!

with Katie and Thea

Siblings. They drive us nuts, make us laugh, and keep life interesting. Katie has two: one older, one younger. Here's the rundown from Katie:



Daniel, the Older Brother

Daniel is three years older, a film producer, and at one point started a documentary about me—status: unknown. He's married to Natalie, dad to Syd, and once saved me from a bat full of rocks (long story). He called me "Cotati" or "Baby Katie"—I just called him Daniel. Best memory? Watching him graduate from Fordham, even

after an accidental hotel eviction (another long story). First memory? Walking to school together. (From left to right above) Daniel, Michael, Katie, and Natalie.

Michael, the Younger Brother

Michael is three years younger, married to Chelsea, and has an adorable dog, Roo. As kids, we were inseparable—I even played dress-up in his little league uniform. Our thing? Bike rides with dad to Baskin-Robbins—me: chocolate brownie, him: rainbow sherbet. We had a great phone call recently, and even though he's in Berkeley, we stay connected.

What Makes a Good Sibling?

Someone who's always in your corner, even if they ignore your texts sometimes. I try to be the glue that keeps us together, remembering birthdays and anniversaries.

Shoutouts for National Siblings Day

To Daniel: Keep making documentaries.

To Michael: Let's grab ice cream soon—maybe I'll try the rainbow sherbet.

Take a moment today to appreciate your siblings—text, call, or just remind them they matter. Happy National Siblings Day from Katie!

APRIL 2025 NATIONAL DAYS

**Poetry Month, Humor Month, Garden Month
Stress Awareness Month, Autism Awareness Month, Guitar Month**

- 4/1 - April Fools Day, Sourdough Bread Day
- 4/2 - Peanut Butter and Jelly Day
- 4/3 - Burrito Day, Find a Rainbow Day, Tweed Day
- 4/4 - Vitamin C Day
- 4/5 - Deep Dish Pizza Day, Read a Road Map Day
- 4/6 - Caramel Popcorn Day, Handmade Day
- 4/7 - Coffee Cake Day
- 4/8 - Zoo Lovers Day, Empanada Day
- 4/9 - Unicorn Day, Cherish an Antique Day
- 4/10 - Siblings Day, Farm Animals Day, Erase Self-Negativity Day
- 4/11 - Cheese Fondue Day, Submarine Day, Pet Day
- 4/12 - Passover Begins
- 4/13 - Scrabble Day, Peach Cobbler Day
- 4/14 - Pecan Day, Dolphin Day, Gardening Day
- 4/15 - Titanic Remembrance Day, Tax Day
- 4/16 - Orchid Day, Banana Day
- 4/17 - Crawfish Day, Haiku Poetry Day
- 4/18 - Poem in Your Pocket Day, Animal Cracker Day, Good Friday
- 4/19 - Garlic Day
- 4/20 - Easter Sunday
- 4/22 - Earth Day, Jelly Bean Day
- 4/23 - Picnic Day, Talk Like Shakespeare Day
- 4/24 - Arbor Day, Bucket List Day, Pigs-in-a-Blanket Day
- 4/25 - Zucchini Bread Day, Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day
- 4/26 - Independent Bookstore Day, Pretzel Day
- 4/27 - Babe Ruth Day, Gummi Bear Day, Tell a Story Day
- 4/28 - Superhero Day, Blueberry Pie Day
- 4/29 - Zipper Day, Shrimp Scampi Day
- 4/30 - Honesty Day, Bubble Tea Day



Katie's Official List of the Lamest National Days in April

Katie has done the world a favor by ranking some of the absolute lamest national days in April. She rated them on a 1-10 scale (10 being the lamest of the lame), explained why they made the cut, and even provided a little background for anyone wondering how these days even exist.

#TomfoolerysDay - April 1

Lame rating: TBD, but probably high

A day for general mischief, pranks, and fooling around. Basically, it's April Fools' Day, just under a different name. Why do we need two? We don't.

#VitaminCDay - April 4

Lame rating: 7/10

Sure, vitamin C is great for immunity, but devoting a whole day to it? Katie says no thanks—she already gets her vitamin C from Brussels sprouts, potatoes, and strawberries. No need to pop a supplement or celebrate it.



#NationalOneCentDay- April 1

Lame rating: 10/10

A day to honor the penny, even though no one really uses pennies anymore. Canada even got rid of them! Katie just hands over her pennies to Jason, who dumps them into the coin machine at Safeway. The history is mildly interesting—Benjamin Franklin designed the first one-cent coin in 1787, and it originally said "Mind Your Business" on it. But does that mean we need a whole day for it? Nope.



#FindARainbowDay - April 3

Lame rating: 6/10

Rainbows are cool, but the issue? You can't just find a rainbow on demand. This day should really be called

#WaitUntilltRainsAndThenMaybe FindARainbowDay..



“That’s lame!” -- Katie

#HugANewspersonDay - April 4

Lame rating: 10/10

First of all, where are all these reporters just standing around waiting to be hugged? Second, post-Covid, hugging random people is a terrible idea. And third, personal space is a *thing*.



#WalkAroundThingsDay - April 4

Lame rating: 10/10

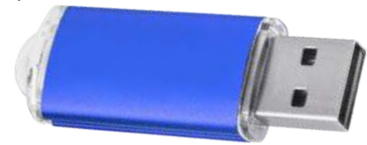
This might be the most unnecessary holiday ever. People walk around things every single day without needing a reminder. It’s just called having basic awareness of obstacles.



#FlashDriveDay - April 5

Lame rating: 10/10

Celebrating flash drives? Seriously? Katie has better things to do with her time, like literally *anything else*. Plus, most people use cloud storage now, so even flash drives are feeling obsolete.



#NationalTeflonDay - April 6

Lame rating: 9/10

Teflon is in a lot of nonstick cookware, but Katie isn’t about to spend a whole day talking about it. Unless you’re a chemist or really into frying pans, this one is a snooze.

#ChineseAlmondCookieDay - April 9

Lame rating: 8/10

Katie has never actually had one of these cookies, which makes celebrating them feel pointless. Remember when Chinese restaurants used to give them out for free after meals? Apparently, that’s not even a thing anymore.

What’s the verdict? Katie has zero time for holidays that feel like they were made up just to fill space on a calendar. But hey, if you love celebrating flash drives, hugging random news anchors, honoring pennies or the wonders of Teflon, more power to you. 😊

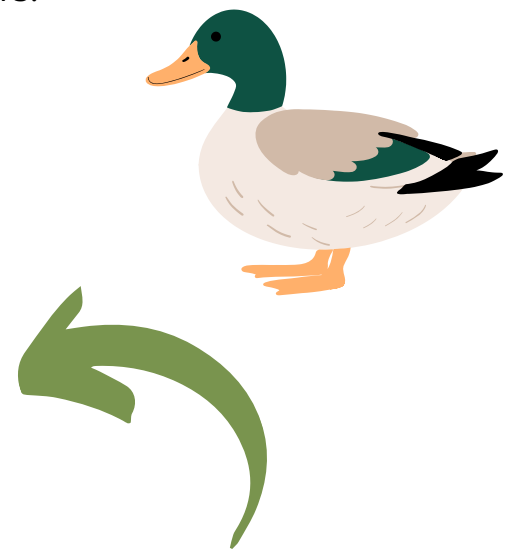


Daniel and Joe's Nature Adventure

Daniel and Joe took a hike in the Indian Valley hills!



On this map you can see the parking area at the College of Marin, as well as the Indian Valley Fire Road we hiked on. We saw people on horseback, a waterfall, some water trickling through underground tubes, ducks, and many trees that had fallen in the recent storms. It was a cloudy day, but that didn't affect our enjoyment of the outdoors.



A photo of the base of the waterfall. Taken by Daniel



Daniel taking a photo of the fallen tree that reminded him of the place where the Hobbits hid from a Ringwraith in *Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring*

Two ducks in a small pond next to the trail



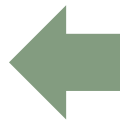
An underground pipe that diverts the creek under the fire road



These sunglasses left by someone on the trail reminded us of Katie!



Two friendly people on horsesback - they told us the horse's breeds but we forgot



We had a lot of fun!



Daniel the Video Game Reviewer



Daniel wants to start a video game review blog, so Daniel and Thea started working on his brand. They started by creating an avatar inspired by the otter shirt Daniel was wearing.



Next we're going to work on a cool name for Daniel's blog. Any suggestions?



[@Communityhomesandservices](https://www.instagram.com/Communityhomesandservices)

We accept and appreciate donations of any size or kind. All donations to CH&S are tax-deductible. CH&S is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

***Happy April
Birthday!***

4/20 - Zachary
4/29 - Shirley



Check out the first 3 pages of our
latest knowledge class!

Oh the Unicorn



Andrew N., Bert, Billy, Carolyn, Chris, Colleen, Connor, Daniel, Dave F., Devlin,
Donald, Jake, Jian, Joe, Josh, Jonas, Mary, Matthew, Meredith, Peter, Phoebe,
Shirley, Steve, Suzie, Tyrone, Zayde, and Darnell

Community Homes and Services, Inc. (2025)

Unicorn / Facts & Talking Points

Oh, the Unicorn!

In honor of this lovely, magical, and mythical creature, let's dive into some fun facts about unicorns!

First of all, did you know the unicorn is the National Animal of Scotland? How amazing is that?

Unicorns appear in Scottish artwork, heraldry, and even on the coat of arms (below).



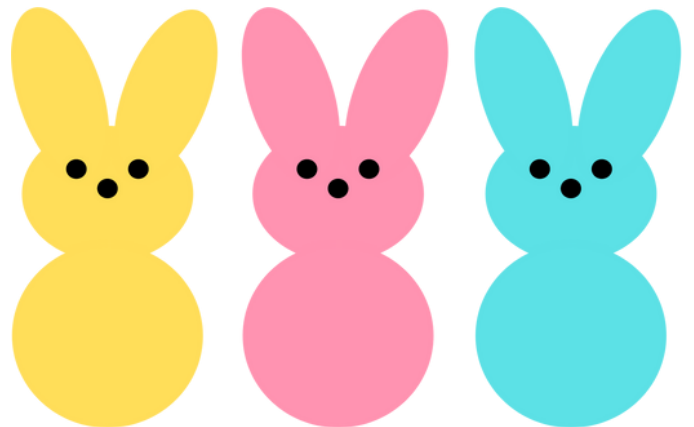
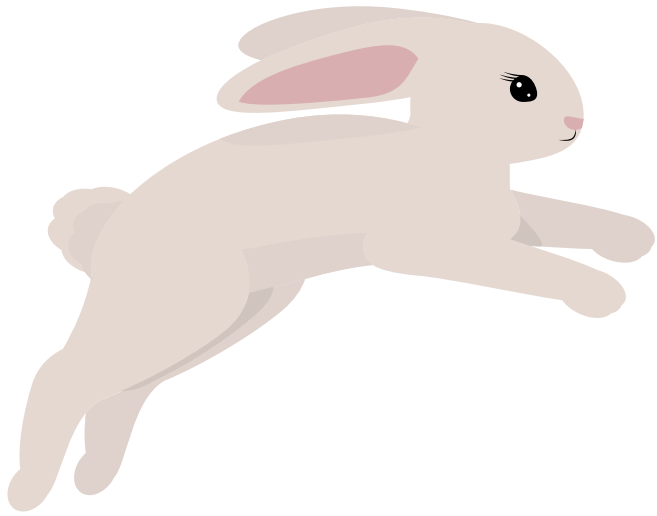
CH&S knowledge class!

In contrast, England's national animal is the lion, which has led to legendary tales of battles between the two. One of the most well-known rhymes about their rivalry goes like this:

*The Lion and the Unicorn
Were fighting for the crown
The lion beat the unicorn,
All around the town.*



EASTER CUT OUTS



Reading Comprehension Worksheet

In honor of Big Wind Day (April 12), we created a 200-word reading comprehension worksheet for you!

Tornadoes

Ready to Read READING COMPREHENSION

A tornado is a very strong wind that spins in a circle. It looks like a big funnel coming down from the sky. Tornadoes can be very dangerous because they move fast and can break houses, trees, and cars. Some tornadoes are small and do not last long, but others can be big and very strong.

Tornadoes happen when warm air and cold air mix in the sky. The air starts to spin, and if it touches the ground, it becomes a



tornado. They can happen in many places, but they are most common in the middle of the United States. This area is called "Tornado Alley."

People watch the weather to stay safe from tornadoes. If a tornado is coming, it is important to go inside and stay away from windows. Some people have special safe rooms or basements to hide in until the tornado is gone. After a tornado, people help clean up the damage and fix what was broken.

Tornadoes are powerful, but they do not last forever. The sky clears, and life goes on.

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Tornadoes

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What shape does a tornado look like?

- a) A box
- b) A funnel
- c) A ball



2. How do tornadoes start?

3. True or False: Tornadoes are very slow.

4. Where do tornadoes happen the most in the United States?

5. What should people do when a tornado is coming?

- a) Go outside and watch
- b) Go inside and stay away from windows
- c) Get in a car and drive toward it

6. True or False: Scientists study tornadoes to learn more about them.

7. What can tornadoes break?

8. What happens after a tornado is gone?

Andrew's Corner

Yu-gi-oh Facts

The Yu-gi-oh card game was originally based on a manga that was released in 1996 and was created by Kazuki Takahashi. Yu-gi-oh was first serialized in the Weekly Shonen Jump magazine. A little known Yu-gi-oh fact was that before the 2000's anime there was an anime released in the 90's. The influence for Yu-gi-oh's premise was Kazuki Takahashi's lifelong love of all types of games. The Yu-gi-oh franchise has had 8 spin-offs called Yu-gi-oh Gx, 5ds, Zexal, Zexal 2, Arc-v, Vrains, Sevens and Go Rush. The main character of the franchise is called Yugi Mutou. The plot of the series is that Yugi has been given the millennium puzzle from his grandfather which allows him to be possessed by his pharaoh ancestor, turning him into an adult man in the process. The series has had 4 films. The card game in Yu-gi-oh is called Duel Monsters. An assistant of Kazuki Takahashi, Akira Ito, created his own card game called Cardfight Vanguard. I chose to write about Yu-gi-oh because it was one of my favorite franchises when I was a kid. The reason I liked Yu-gi-oh is because I liked collecting all the different cards.



Bio: Andrew Newson is a student at Life College and is 25 years old. He likes comic books, video games, hiking, exploring new places with his mom.... and babies. He is an authority in all things Star Wars, Star Trek and great places to go in the Bay Area. He is currently learning Mandarin and loves to research and learn new things.



Connor's Joke Corner

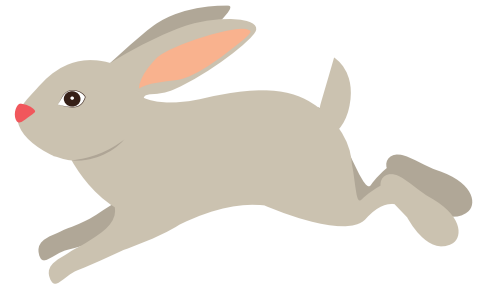
Happy Humor Month! Did you know that Connor was a ninja comic? His PPP warns us to expect to laugh when you're least expecting to. We figured a scheduled monthly addition to the magazine might be a nice, expected way to share that ninja comedy!

What's a turkey's favorite dessert?
Peach gobbler.

What does the Easter bunny plant in his garden next to the green beans?
Jelly beans

What's the Easter bunny's favorite type of music?
Hip hop

Which superhero won a singing competition?
Captain American Idol



What do you get if you cross a unicorn and a cow?
Horned beef

What kind of tree fits in your hand?
A palm tree

What did the Jedi say to the tree?
May the forest be with you

How do you identify a math tree?
It has square roots

What does Tony Stark eat for breakfast?
Iron bran



National Dolphin Day - April 14

Dolphins are incredible creatures—smart, friendly, and playful. They live in oceans around the world and often form close bonds with each other and, sometimes, with humans. Dolphins communicate using clicks and whistles, and each has a unique whistle!

On March 18, 2025, a heartwarming event showed the special connection between dolphins and humans. After spending 9 months aboard the International Space Station, NASA astronauts Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams returned to Earth. Their SpaceX capsule splashed down in the Gulf of Mexico, near Florida. As recovery teams approached to assist the astronauts, a pod of dolphins appeared, swimming around the capsule as if welcoming the crew home. This delightful scene was



captured on video and shared widely, highlighting the dolphins' curious and friendly nature.

Such interactions remind us of the deep bond we share with marine life. Dolphins have been known to help humans in distress, guide lost ships, and now, it seems, even greet returning space travelers. Their actions inspire us to appreciate and protect these remarkable animals.



This National Dolphin Day, let's celebrate dolphins for their intelligence, kindness, and the joy they bring to our world. Perhaps take a moment to learn more about them, watch a documentary, or have a discussion about this story with friends and family.





TINY BANDITS: THE SECRET LIVES OF FERRETS

Ferrets are curious, playful, and always up to something. Their name comes from *furittus*, Latin for “little thief,” because they love to stash away anything they can carry—socks, keys, even food. They’ve been domesticated for over 2,500 years and were originally used to chase rabbits and rodents (vermin) out of burrows.

Ferrets have had some unusual jobs. Their ability to squeeze through tight spaces made them perfect for pulling wires—helping with Buckingham Palace’s wiring during the wedding of Princess Diana and Prince Charles, a London concert, and even inside Boeing airplanes.

Did you know...?

- Sometimes, ferrets sleep so deeply they seem lifeless. They call it “ferret dead sleep.”
- Ferret heartbeats are 200-250 beats per minute, which is much faster than humans.
- All baby ferrets start out white and develop color at 3 weeks.
- A male ferret is a *hob*, a female is a *jill*, and a group of ferrets is a *business* (fitting, since they’re always busy).

Ferrets are illegal to own in California, Hawaii, New York City, and Washington D.C. due to concerns about escaped pets forming wild populations, though there’s no real proof of that happening. Some states require a permit to own one.

Daniel has always wanted a ferret, but since they’re illegal in California, Daniel might get rabbits instead—



—he would get a male rabbit named *Samus* and a female named *Streaky*. And since Daniel already volunteers with rabbits at Marin Humane, he’s off to a great start!



415-897-8676
PO Box 744 Novato CA 94945
Community Homes & Services

April 2025 Connection Magazine

April is Autism Awareness Month, a time dedicated to increasing understanding and acceptance of people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Autism affects 1 in 36 children in the U.S., according to the CDC (2023). It is a neurological condition that impacts social interaction, communication, and behavior, but it presents differently in every individual. Early diagnosis and support can greatly improve outcomes.

This month highlights the importance of inclusion, advocacy, and celebrating neurodiversity in all communities.

