

## BLACK HISTORY 365: A LOOK BACK, A LOOK WITHIN, A LOOK AHEAD

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

"Educating is a vocation rooted in **hopefulness**. As teachers we believe that learning is possible, that nothing can keep an open mind from seeking after knowledge and finding a way to know".

-bell hooks-

Every February, people across Canada participate in Black History Month celebrations that honour the legacy of Black people in Canada and their communities, remembering and acknowledging contributions and achievements both past and present. The 2025 theme for Black History Month is: Black History 365: A Look Back, A Look Within, A Look Ahead. This theme aims to celebrate and acknowledge past and present contributions and the cultivation of hope for Black futures.

This theme aligns with the **2025** theme for Catholic Education Week: Pilgrims of Hope where we have been invited to rediscover the theme of hope and the meaning of hope in our lives.

As such, the events planned for this month are rooted in the virtue of Hope. We invite educators to lead students in February through an intentional **celebration** of the rich history, contributions and achievements of Black communities and encourage educators to continue to share this learning year round.

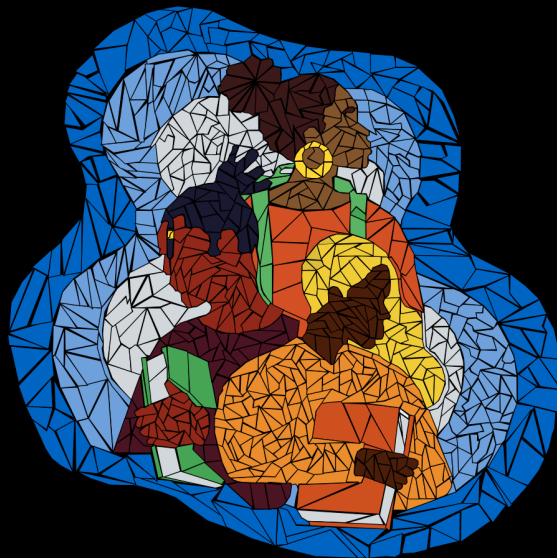
February is Black History Month and is acknowledged widely as a month devoted to the celebration of Black stories, contributions and achievements. "During Black History Month, people in Canada celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians and their communities who, throughout history, have done so much to make Canada a culturally diverse, compassionate, and prosperous country" (Government of Canada). As a Catholic community, we are called to live in solidarity. Solidarity requires that we learn from, and about our families in Christ. The Honourable Jean Augustine reminds us, "if we are to build a kind of society that's fair and just and equitable and inclusive, I must know your story, just as you must know my story."

We invite you to explore the following resources to deepen your understanding of the contributions of Black Canadians both past and present. The information and links within this document serve to connect educators with current events and resources to highlight information that can be shared this month and throughout the year. Black History and heritage must be woven into the fabric of the resources we present to students. It is encouraged to explore the additional information and resources provided on the Equity SharePoint under the Quick Link entitled:

Black History Month and Beyond Resources where educators can share these resources that reflect the contributions from Black Canadians and celebrate the many stories of joy and achievements year round.

**Check out the following resources that are ready to use for Black History Month available on the Equity SharePoint:**

[Black History Month Image Social Media](#)  
[Black History Month Poster](#)  
[African Ancestral Acknowledgement](#)  
[Black History Month Prayer](#)



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"The seeds of a fruitful society are sown in the minds of its youth"

- Hon. Dr. Jean Augustine



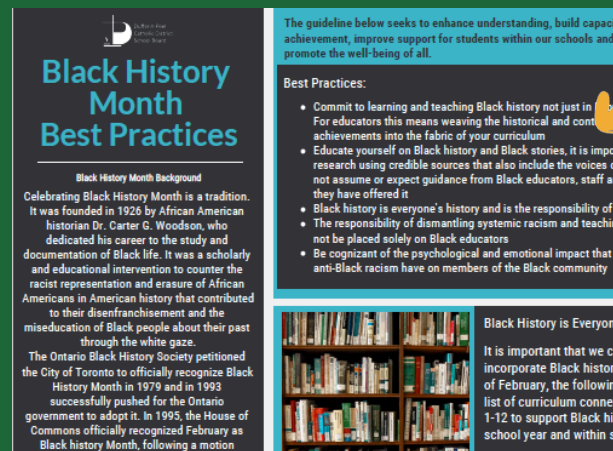
### Catholic Resources: Black History Month

[Black History Month Prayer](#)

[Catholic Association of Religious and Family Life Educators of Ontario \(CARFLEO\)](#)

[Open Wide our Hearts](#)

### Black History Month Best Practices Infographic Available on the Equity SharePoint.



## Professional Development Opportunities for Educators Supporting Black History Month



The Learning Table Series is offered throughout the school year as an informal and relaxed virtual workshop to partake in impactful discussions with members from the Equity and Indigenous Education team on topics surrounding best practices in equity and social justice. This is a voluntary learning opportunity, and educators are invited to join in to learn more about the varying topics outlined below. For the month of January and February educators are invited to register for the following workshops surrounding Black History Month in February and year round.

Dates (Times: 12:00p.m.-12:30p.m.)	Professional Development Topic	Registration Details
Wednesday, January 8, 2025	Black History Month Best Practices	<a href="#">Register Here</a>
Wednesday, February 5, 2025	Affinity Spaces & Ancestral Acknowledgement	<a href="#">Register Here</a>

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"We must open the doors and we must see to it they remain open, so that others can pass through".

-ROSEMARY BROWN-

### Elementary Virtual Read Aloud Learning Engagements Featured in February

We invite teachers to register your class for the upcoming virtual readalouds planned in February. The Department of Equity plans an author series year round to uplift the stories and voices that have often gone unheard and are reflective of the many ways of knowing and being. Stories make us who we are. They help us to understand the world around us. Stories that are shared can be passed down and hold rich knowledge and truths; they bring us joy and teach us lessons and include listening to and recounting oral histories, parables, stories and proverbs. The following stories will be offered virtually in February. Available to all grades. Registration and read aloud dates and times will be made available through upcoming System Weekly Updates in January 2025.

Virtual Read Aloud Authors	Author Biography
Yolanda T. Marshall	Yolanda T. Marshall is a Guyanese-born Canadian Author. The daughter of a Jazz musician, she began writing poems at eight. A cross-genre writer, world traveller, jazz lover and devoted mother, she embodies art and takes her readers on adventurous, cultured journeys.
Khodi Dill	Khodi Dill is a writer, author, spoken word artist, and educator who was born in Nassau, Bahamas and raised in Moose Jaw, Canada. At a young age he found himself writing spoken word poetry and has since traveled extensively to share his work at poetry slams and festivals across the country.

### Secondary Virtual Workshop with Rachel Adjei from The Abibiman Project Featured in February

Rachel Adjei is an entrepreneur and chef whose work celebrates the diverse cultures and cuisines from the African continent. In this virtual presentation for Intermediate and Senior classes, Rachel will trace the flavours of the African diaspora and talk about the ways in which food connects us to culture, heritage and history. Join us virtually for this celebration of food and flavour and learn about the African influence in some of our favourite cuisines. Registration including dates and times of virtual learning engagement will be made available through upcoming System Weekly Updates in January 2025.

Presenter	Learning Engagement Topic
Rachel Adjei	Rachel Adjei is an entrepreneur and chef, and the mind behind The Abibiman Project, a food concept focused on celebrating the diverse cultures and cuisines from the African continent and Black diaspora. Rachel is passionate about seeing more of a presence and respect for African Cuisine on the global culinary stage. She sees food as a great connector and wants to use it as a tool to have discussions about food insecurity as well as touch on racial injustices that the Black community faces.

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"Black history is not just for black people. Black history is Canadian history."

-THE HONOURABLE  
JEAN AUGUSTINE-

### Secondary Virtual Workshop with Nia Centre Presents A Look Back, A Look Within, A Look to The Future Featured in February

The Department of Equity is pleased to offer a virtual workshop series with Nia Centre. This three part workshop series is entitled: A Look Back, A Look Within and A Look To The Future and has been designed to allow students and teachers expand their knowledge of Black History from a Canadian context, and deepen their understanding of the role art has played to confront oppression, systemic racism and amplify the voices and stories of Black people and community across generations. Through these workshops, students and teachers will gain insight into past and present leaders/changemakers who have helped to shape and transform Black identity and learn how they can use art to be the future change makers of tomorrow.

Registration including dates and times of virtual learning engagement will be made available through upcoming System Weekly Updates in January 2025.

Presenter	Learning Engagement Topic
Nia Centre	Virtual Session 1: A Look Back Virtual Session 2: A Look Within Virtual Session 3: A Look to the Future

### BCAC Student Representatives Workshop: February 6, 2025

Students from each secondary school will be representing the Black Community Advisory Council (BCAC) Student Group and will gather in affinity to engage in arts, leadership skills and learn about ways they can support their BSA's within their schools. Details on student registration will be shared with all secondary administrators.

#### Affinity Spaces:

**Does Your School Have a BSA?**  
Check out the following resource created for students by students that offers support on ways to start and sustain a BSA in your school.



Check out the following resource on Affinity Spaces Best Practices. Learn about ways to support and sustain Affinity Spaces in your school. Resource available on the Equity SharePoint.



### Black Futures Symposium February 28th, 2025

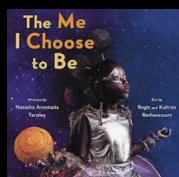
The Department of Equity and Indigenous Education will host an in person event for a select number of BSA students from every secondary school to attend the Black Futures Symposium along with their BSA educator lead. This event will include an opportunity for BSA students across all secondary schools to connect and celebrate the legacy of Black Canadians in Canada. Registration including dates and times of this upcoming event will be made available through upcoming System Weekly Updates in January 2025.



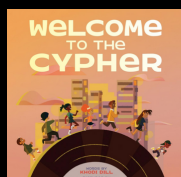
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### For Elementary Educators: Lesson Plans Available on the Equity SharePoint

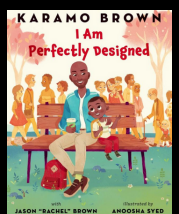
The following texts are available in elementary schools along with accompanying lesson plans developed through the Equity Department that are rooted in the pedagogical framework of CRRP offered by Dr. Gholdy Muhammad.



**Synopsis:** Each page of *The Me I Choose to Be* is an immersive call for self-love that highlights the inherent beauty of all Black and brown children. Read this text with your class and use the accompanying [lesson](#).



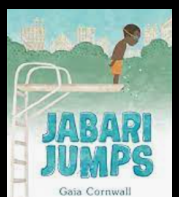
**Synopsis:** Starting with beatboxes and fingersnaps, an exuberant narrator introduces kids in his community to the powerful possibilities of rap, from turning "a simple phrase/into imagery that soars" to proclaiming, "this is a voice that represents me!" Read this text with your class and use the accompanying [lesson](#).



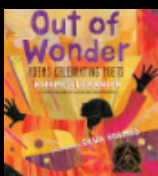
**Synopsis:** *I Am Perfectly Designed* is an exuberant celebration of loving who you are, exactly as you are. In this empowering ode to modern families, a boy and his father take a joyful walk through the city, discovering all the ways in which they are perfectly designed for each other. Read this text with your class and use the accompanying [lesson](#).



**Synopsis:** This fascinating, full-colour illustrated book features over 50 amazing Black people from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland and Labrador, sharing their incredible stories and accomplishments, past and present. Read this text with your class and use the accompanying [lesson](#).



**Synopsis:** In a sweetly appealing tale of overcoming your fears, newcomer Gaia Cornwall captures a moment between a patient and encouraging father and a determined little boy you can't help but root for as he learns to jump off the diving board for the first time. Read this text with your class and use the accompanying [lesson](#).



**Synopsis:** A culturally rich collection of poetic tributes that extends the legacies of poets from around the globe. . . A magnificent exploration of the poetic imagination. This text is a great tool to explore literary devices, introduce students to different styles of poetry and many world-renowned poets, who may have previously been overlooked. Read this text with your class and use the accompanying [lesson](#).

### Lesson Plans: Black History, Stories and Contributions 365 Days

We invite you to learn more about Black Canadians and the contributions they have made and continue to make in the world. The book, *Trailblazers*, by Tiyahna Ridley-Padmore is a great accompaniment to this learning. It can be found in all elementary schools. Lessons to support the *Trailblazers* resource are available on the [Literacy SharePoint](#) under the CRRP dropdown along with access the lesson plans and resources for Sankofa Black Heritage Collection.



To access resources for & by DPCDSB teachers: Check out the lessons enclosed in the following document entitled: English with a focus on Black Voices.



### New DPCDSB Black Futures Speaker Series: 2025

The Black Futures Speakers Series are virtual interviews that sit on the Equity SharePoint to be accessed throughout the year to offer teachers resources that center the stories, contributions and achievements of Black Canadians. Through discussions, these Speakers Series serve to engage, inform and empower all participants. Students will have an opportunity to hear from some of the GTA's relevant educators, thinkers and cultural figures who contribute to the vibrancy of the Black community in Canada. Check out the many interviews available with your class [here](#). This year's new Black Futures Speaker Series interviews spotlight: Alanah Broomfield, Jaheim Henry & Larissa Crawford.

**Booking a presentation for your school? Click [here](#) to access a list of approved external presenters.**

