

FEBRUARY IS...

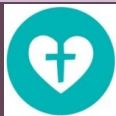


BLACK HISTORY MONTH



During the month of February, Canadians have an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of black Canadians and reflect on their stories, their experiences, and their accomplishments. The St. Clair Catholic District School Board has pulled together a selection of curriculum and community resources that honor Black History and offer opportunities for learning. The 2020 theme for Black History Month is: "**Canadians of African Descent: Going forward, guided by the past.**" ([linked](#))

FAITH



"Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the full staircase." (Martin Luther King Jr.)

Throughout the month of February, schools are encouraged to reflect upon Black History and how it connects with Catholic Education. Classrooms are encouraged to use the linked resources found in this newsletter to support classroom discussions and connect to our Catholic Teachings. The United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent (2015 to 2024) encourages us to "promote greater knowledge of and respect for diverse heritage, culture and contribution of people of African descent to the development of society".



CURRICULUM



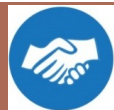
Teaching students the importance of tolerance is a year-round priority. Black History Month provides an opportunity to help students dig a little deeper into just what it means to accept others and the role that acceptance plays in cultivating a culture of kindness inside the classroom. Check out the resource links and ideas throughout this newsletter to bring the important achievements, past and present, into the classroom and engage in critical discussions this month and all year.

HISTORY



Black History Canada provides resources on the history of Canada's Black Community. This site provides an in depth teaching guide along with interactive resources and activities to support the teaching and learning of [Black Canadian History](#). In addition to the teaching guide, the website offers an interactive timeline to use in the classroom: [1600-1700](#); [1700-1800](#); [1800-1900](#); [1900-Present](#) ([Click on each time period for resources](#))

CANADIANS OF AFRICAN DESCENT



Black people have lived in what we now know as Canada since the 1600s. For over 400 years, Black men and women have contributed to all areas of society. They have fought a fight for racial equality, a fight that has benefited all Canadians.

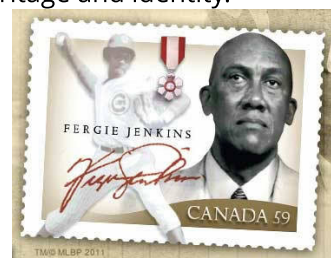
Viola Desmond

Viola fought to end racial segregation in Canada and became a civil right's icon. [Who Is Viola Desmond? \(Click Here\)](#)



Other Noteworthy Historical Figures

Read the biographies of some notable people who have helped shape Canadian heritage and identity. ([Click Here](#))



CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS



READING TO CONNECT CONCEPTS



Bring the Museum to your classroom!

The **Chatham Kent Black Historical Society** will bring the virtual museum to your classroom and engage within your classroom discussions with you and your students.

Contact Information:

Samantha Meredith

info@ckblackhistorysociety.org

Local Event: Feb. 8

Talkin About Bessie @ 10:30 am

Location: Chatham Kent Public Library
([click here to find out more](#))



The **Sarnia Historical Society** will also connect across classrooms to bring the story of **Peter Pennington** in this [linked article](#) and **Elizabeth Workman** in this [excerpt linked](#) from his novel: Keeping the Peace: 160 Years of Policing the Imperial City by Phil Egan, (to be published by the Sarnia Historical Society in Fall 2019), to you and your students.



Sarnia Historical Society

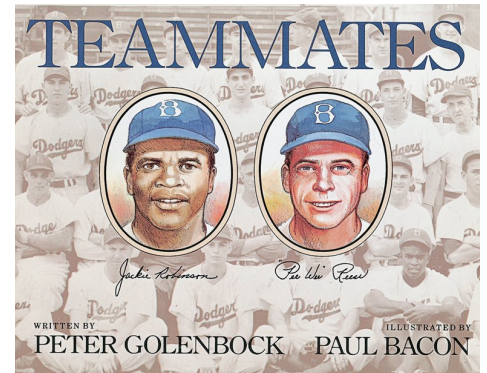
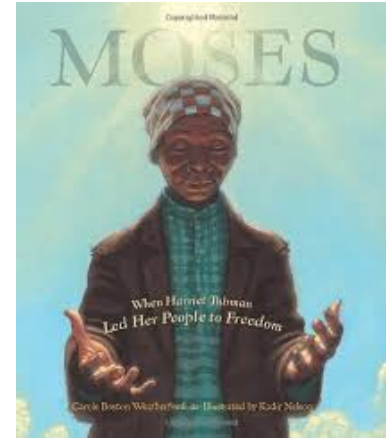
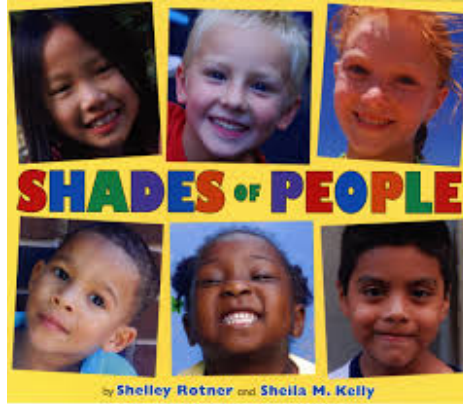
Contact Information: Phil Egan

philegan@cogeco.ca



The **Buxton National Historical Site and Museum** offers educational programming through [online](#) educational classroom kits, hands on and interactive experiences at the museum, and visits from the museum into the classroom for ALL schools upon request.

Local Event: Feb 22 Kid's Event @ 1:00
([click here to find out more](#))



This [List of Books](#), currently in most schools, develop an understanding of key concepts such as tolerance, courage, diversity, respect, kindness, and love, among other important concepts to uncover with students. **Christopher Paul Curtis** is a local author who will connect in classrooms and responds [online](#) to his reader's questions.

Kayak Magazine also provides great stories and examples of the ways Black Canadians helped to build and shape this country. Check out this [PDF](#) of the magazine along with this [Educational Package](#) for use in the classroom.

Black History through poetry offers a way to bring voice along with critical thinking about complex social issues into the classroom. Also consider using images and [Quotes](#) to provoke student thinking and reflection.

Please see this [Overview](#) of Critical Literacy and Black History for ideas about connections across the curriculum.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Explore the following links for more information:

[Buxton Museum \(Staff will visit CK & SL classrooms!\)](#)

[CBC Kids: All About Black History Month](#)

[Chatham Kent Black Historical Society](#)

[The Underground Railroad](#)

[Uncle Tom's Cabin: Visit Uncle Tom's Cabin on Family Day @ 11:00 \(click here\)](#)

