

OUR VISION

Catholic Education † Future Ready

Thursday, January 28, 2021

Catholic Education Centre
420 Creek Street
Wallaceburg, ON N8A 4C4
Telephone: 519-627-6762
Facsimile: 519-627-8230
Website: www.st-clair.net

Director of Education
Deb Crawford
519-627-6762, ext. 10241
Email: media@st-clair.net

Chair of the Board
John Van Heck
519-627-5746

*For further information regarding
this release, please contact:*

**Superintendent of
Education**
Lisa Demers
lisa.demers@st-clair.net

**Supervisor –
Communications and
Community Relations**
Todd Lozon
519-627-6762 Ext. 10243
Email: todd.lozon@st-clair.net

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC RECOGNIZES BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT SCHOOLS ACROSS THE DISTRICT

Each year during the month of February and beyond, Canadians take the time to celebrate the achievements of Black Canadians and reflect upon their experiences, their stories and their accomplishments.

“At St. Clair Catholic, Black History Month is an opportunity to highlight these achievements and profile the historical and present-day experiences of Black Canadians, as we bring awareness and knowledge of this rich history to our students,” says Deb Crawford, Director of Education.

A collection of classroom resources in French and English are available to K-12 classroom teachers to use in lesson planning throughout the month of February and beyond. Students will explore how Black History connects with Catholic education, as educators lead them through a discovery of knowledge and respect for the diverse heritage, culture and contributions of people of African descent.

St. Clair Catholic has also partnered with the Chatham-Kent Black Historical Society to offer classrooms a virtual local presentation of the Black Mecca Museum, which features local history and an up-close walkthrough of the museum’s artefacts. A number of virtual opportunities for staff, students and families are also highlighted throughout the month.

For more information, please refer to the St. Clair Catholic District School Board’s Black History Month newsletter, which is attached; or, visit the Board website at www.st-clair.net

Catholic Education + Future Ready

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 K-12 learning, all throughout the month and beyond. Please see this [slide deck](#) of K-12 English and French linked resources.



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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 and beyond, classrooms 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".



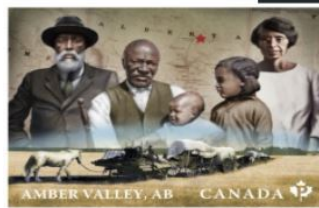
Kayak Magazine
(Click on Image)

BLACK HISTORY
IN CANADA

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.



BLACK HISTORY

K-12 Resources
SCCDSB 2021

HISTORY



Black History Canada provides resources on the history of Canada's Black Community. This site provides interactive resources and activities to support the teaching and learning of [Black Canadian History](#).

Check out the resource links for K-12 classrooms in this [slide deck](#) and ideas linked throughout this newsletter to bring the important achievements, past and present, into the classroom and engage in critical discussions this month and all year.

CANADIANS OF AFRICAN DESCENT



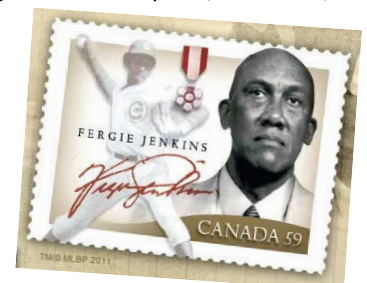
Black people have lived in what we now know as Canada since the 1600s. For over 400 years, Black men and women have contributed to all areas of society. They have fought a fight for racial equality, a fight that has benefited all Canadians.

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! Samantha Meredith from the Chatham Kent Black

Historical Society will bring the museum to your classroom and engage your students in a virtual tour and exploration of artifacts.



View this event on the [slide deck](#) along with additional virtual events to participate in.



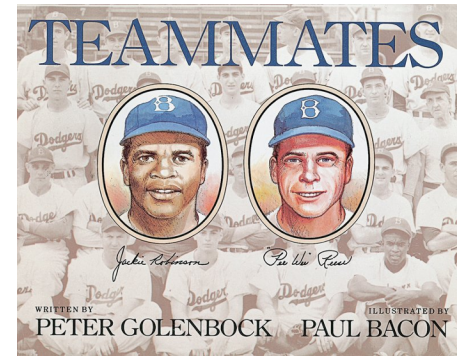
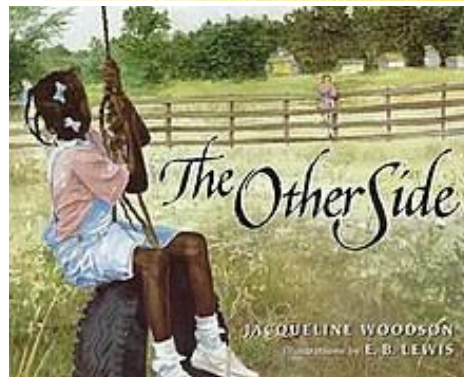
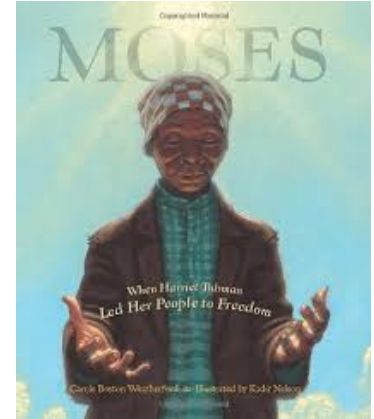
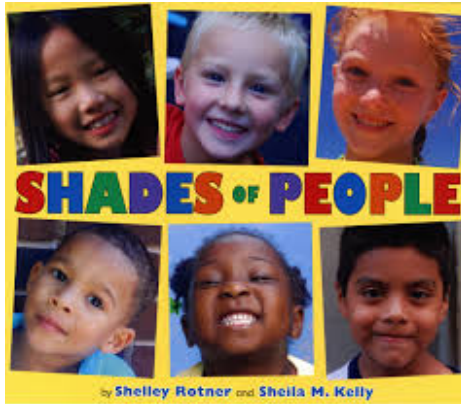
The Sarnia Historical Society offers the story of Peter Pennington in this [linked article](#) and Elizabeth Workman in this [excerpt linked](#) from his novel: **Keeping the Peace: 160 Years of Policing the Imperial City** by Phil Egan.



The Buxton National Historical Site and Museum offers educational programming through [online kits](#) and [resources](#).



Share a picture of learning and find out what is happening using the hashtag [#sccdsb!](#)



This [List of Books](#), currently in most schools and also found digitally in our [slide deck](#), develop an understanding of key concepts such as tolerance, courage, diversity, respect, kindness, and love, among other important concepts to uncover with students.



Also check out book lists provided by the Chatham Kent Public Library [here](#) and the Lambton Public Library [here](#) for book recommendations.



Did you know that [Christopher Paul Curtis](#) is a local author who responds [online](#) to his reader's questions?

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.

ADDITIONAL LOCAL RESOURCES



Explore the following links for more information (also linked in the [slide deck](#)):

- Buxton Museum
- Chatham Kent Black Historical Society
- The Underground Railroad (CK)
- John Freeman Walls & Underground Railroad Museum
- Uncle Tom's Cabin

