

Black History Month

ACKNOWLEDGING THE PAST FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

The C + K Corner

By: Chelsea Alberastine (Grade 12) and Kelsey Geotina (Grade 10)

Now that February has started, it is now the start of Black History Month. This month is here to celebrate the achievements and contributions that black Canadians and Americans have given to their country. It is also a month to spread awareness of all the discrimination and racism that the black community has had to deal with throughout history. This issue we will be discussing verses in the Bible that talk about how we should love everyone for who they are.

John 15:12-13.

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

This verse teaches that we should love each other as much as God loves us. God loved us so much that he sent his son to die for us, which hints to the end of the verse, "to lay down one's life for one's friends." This verse doesn't really mean that we should actually give up our life for our friends, but more like that we should love our friends as much as God loved us enough to send us his son to die on the cross for us.

1 Peter 4:8

"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins."

Our second verse here talks about how genuinely loving everyone can overcome sin. This is an amazing verse because we now know that love is very powerful, we just have to

be able to love properly. God doesn't love us because of the way we look, feel, or think. He loves us for being His children. No matter our appearance God sees us as His children. This is how we should treat and love one another because God loves us!

Why is Black History Month Important?

By: Khushi Gill (Grade 12)

Black history month is an annual observance originating in the United States, where it is also known as African-American History Month. It has received official recognition from the governments in the United States and Canada, and in many more other countries. People in Canada celebrate the many accomplishments and sacrifices of Black Canadians and their families during Black History Month, who have done so much throughout history to make Canada the culturally diverse, caring, and stable country it is today. Black culture has not always been celebrated or illustrated in Canada. Canadians are not always aware of the fact that Black people were once slaves in Canada's present territories or how those battling enslavement helped lay the groundwork for Canada's diverse and multicultural society. Black History Month is about celebrating the tremendous sacrifices that all facets of society have made, and continue to make, by Black people. It is about celebrating resilience, creativity, and determination to work towards a Canada that is more inclusive and diverse, a Canada in which everyone has the chance to succeed. In the past of the African diaspora, it started as a way of recalling significant individuals and events. It is observed in the United States

and Canada in February, while it is celebrated in October in Ireland, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. During Black History Month, several events take place throughout Canada, including festivals, shows and programmes for children and adults. Ask about the activities held in your neighbourhood at your school or local library. Only wear a black shirt or other form of clothing to demonstrate your support.

Black History in Canada

By: Caleab Onyango (Grade 9)

When looking at Canada from a historical perspective, the role Black people played in its history is often overlooked. The history of African-Canadians is often diminished, and people tend to focus on the history of Black people in America. Although that is also important, we also need to give light to the African-Canadians and their history. Like African-American history, African-Canadian history includes slavery, abolition, pioneering, urban growth, segregation, civil rights movements, and more. This article will go over some notable historical Black figures.

Viola Davis Desmond was a Canadian business woman and civil rights activist. She is known for challenging segregation by sitting in an only-white area of a theatre. When she went to watch a movie at the theatre, she requested a ticket for the main floor, but the cashier told her he couldn't give her that because that area was reserved for white people and would only give her tickets for balcony seats. Instead of going to the balcony area, she challenged segregation and sat on the main floor of the theatre. Desmond was

dragged out of the theatre injuring her hip and knee in the process, and arrested. She was then prosecuted, but based on her alleged refusal to pay a one-cent amusement tax (the difference between upstairs and downstairs ticket prices), not racial segregation. Race was not even mentioned. She was fined \$26.

Viola died on February 7, 1965 at age 50, and on April 15, 2010 the province of Nova Scotia granted an official apology and a free pardon to Viola. In 2016, Finance Minister Bill Morneau and the Bank of Canada governor Stephan Poloz announced that Viola will be featured on the \$10 bill, making her the first Canadian woman to be featured on a Canadian banknote.

Lincoln M. Alexander was a Canadian lawyer who became the first black member of the Parliament in the House of Commons. He received education from McMaster University where he graduated in Arts and Osgoode Hall School of Law. He was appointed a Queens's Counsel and became a partner in a Hamilton law firm. Among other things, he was appointed 24th Lieutenant Governor, was Chancellor of the University of Guelph, and was named "Greatest Hamiltonian of All Time". Lincoln M. Alexander died on October 19, 2012 at age 90 and on December 2013, the Province of Ontario proclaimed January 21st (Alexander's birthday) as "Lincoln Alexander Day".

Jean Augustine was a politician, social activist, and educator. She was the first African-Canadian woman to be elected into the House of Commons. During her time in politics, she was responsible for championing legislation to recognize February as Black History Month, served as Minister of State for Multiculturalism and the Status of Women, was a member of the Queen's Privy Council of Canada, and a member of the Citizenship and Immigration Committee. She has received many awards for her contributions such as being inducted as Member of the order of Canada, and being appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire. She has also received honorary degrees from multiple

universities.

A recent Black Canadian to make history is Abel Tesfaye (The Weeknd). He was the first Canadian to headline a solo halftime show, and the third Canadian to perform in the Superbowl. For this, the Mayor of Toronto, John Tory, proclaimed January 7th 2021 as "The Weeknd Day" in the city of Toronto.

Those are just a few of the many notable Black Canadians in Canadian history. Many more have made history in Canada, even before Canadian Confederation.

"Never underestimate the power of dreams and the influence of the human spirit. We are all the same in this notion: The potential for greatness lives within each of us." —Wilma Rudolph

A Covid-19 Vaccine Coming to You This Year??

By: Ansh Dhaliwal (Grade 9)

We have been dealing with a virus for over a year now. The power of this virus put many countries in lockdown and stopped travel. We had to change our daily routines, needed to wash our hands more often, and had to start wearing face masks. This virus is Covid-19. And it might be coming to an end.

Every day, we are hearing about new vaccines coming in the competition to save the world. A Saskatoon research lab is in a talk with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to supply 40 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines a year. Meanwhile, U.S. President Joe Biden has been hard at work trying to reform and reunite America. One way of doing so is by creating a \$1.9 trillion stimulus plan to send \$1,400 stimulus cheques to American citizens to help them weather the Covid-19 crisis.

With Congress having a democratic majority, this makes the chances higher for Joe Biden's plan to go through. Joe Biden has also made his first ever foreign phone call as president to Justin Trudeau to discuss the 'Buy American' policy and climate change. Trudeau also had a call with Vice-President Kamala Harris.

The bond between these two leaders is a big depth of a relationship. While on the topic of the U.S., former U.S. President, Donald J Trump's second impeachment trial shall start. This time he is being impeached for causing the riots on the U.S. Capitol. Congress is now controlled by Democrats this time, so the outcome might most likely be different than the first one. However, Donald Trump has decided to not show up to his trial. If the Democrats win the impeachment, Donald Trump will not be permitted to run for public office ever again.

Valentines Day/Any Day During COVID

By: Avreen Brar (Grade 11)

This year will look very different from the years before, thanks to COVID-19. The stress for coming up with some perfect Valentine's Day ideas can be overwhelming, whether it's for your loved ones or family members. Here are 6 ways you can spend your Valentine's Day (or any other day):

1. Send virtual valentines.
2. Hang out with loved ones.
3. Focus on yourself.
4. Treat yourself to a nice bath.
5. Host a zoom meeting with all your friends.
6. Do small caring gestures to the people around you.

@thebookofbenjamin

By: Tehzeeb Beniwal (Grade 10)

Interview with Pastor Ben

Why do we celebrate black history month?

I think because black Canadians have contributed a lot to Canada, and there's been a lot of the history that has been forgotten or neglected, and it's important to know the history of people who contributed.

Thoughts on racism?

Racism is just, I think, a very direct form of hatred; very opposite of love, constantly hurts people, and we should not be racist to others. That's the example Jesus showed us, but I do truly believe that as long as there's sin in the world, there will always be racism.

How can we put an end to racism?

I think just celebrating people's diversity, and having difficult conversations. To love people moving forward and understand one another, and also be intentional to stand up for people who have been neglected.

What's something Fraser can do to help?

Fraser can through our bible class, throughout history and socials classes, even through electives. We can use those avenues to discuss what loving one another looks like, and to recognize the history and differences that exist in peoples' cultures and celebrate them.

Have you ever seen racism happen in front of you? What did you do?

I've seen racism and I've experienced racism. There's been times where it's made me angry and incredibly sad. There was a time it gave me extreme feeling of loneliness, but I've been encouraged by a lot of people, and the community that supported me during those times and recognized the imperfectness of humans. I kind of accept that this is a reality that I'll have to face.

Favourite comic book?

Marvel comics, but my favourite probably is any Spider-man comic.

Regular starbucks order?

Vanilla bean frappuccino and the iced peach green tea with lemonade.

Dream car?

Honda Pilot 2020.

Science with Dafydd

By: Dafydd Ellis (Grade 10)

Two Black scientists you should know; There are many great scientist's out there, I will be covering two of them and how they affected the world of science.

Katherine Johnson, a mathematician who studied at two universities, but mainly West Virginia State University. Here she studied how to use geometry, for space flight more specifically to get to the moon. Before working for NASA, she was a teacher, teaching in a public school in Marion. When she was about 35 years old, she had found out that NASA was hiring for someone to solve math problems. Katherine later used geometry to try to get an astronaut to orbit so NASA tried out her math and succeeded. Katherine worked for NASA for about 30 years she retired in 1986 and had a wonderful retirement, traveling, and speaking to kids at schools. Katherine passed away just this year at 101 years old. Our knowledge of space would not be the same without Katherine's skilled math skills.

George Washington Carver, an agricultural scientist and inventor who invented hundreds of products using peanuts, sweet potatoes, and soy beans. George was born a slave one year before slavery was illegal. When he was 11, he left the farm to study at an all-black school. After not being satisfied with the school he was already attending he decided to move to Kansas, where he graduated from high school. He then after graduated moved to Iowa, where he started off by just studying art and piano, hoping that he could get a teaching degree. He eventually ended up just studying about agriculture and was the first African American to earn a Bachelor of sciences degree. George's most used nickname would have to be peanut man. George created tons of products using peanuts, sweet potatoes, and soy beans such as milk, cooking oils, paper, flour, vinegar and much, much more. Thanks to George we can all enjoy using these prod-

ucts in our everyday life.

Sources: <https://www.nasa.gov/content/katherine-johnson-biography>

<https://www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/k-4/stories/nasa-knows/who-was-katherine-johnson-k4>

<https://computerhistory.org/profile/katherine-johnson/#:~:text=Following%20her%20graduation%2C%20Johnson%20began,graduate%20level%20at%20the%20university>

<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/george-washington-carver>

Gr.6 Newspaper Submissions

Hello, my name is Rajiv Dixit Jr. I'm in Grade 6, and I'm 11 years old. My teacher gave me an assignment for Black History Month. I coloured a paper with a peace sign, and around the peace sign I wrote words from Martin Luther King Jr's speech. One of my favourite words from the speech was UNSPEAKABLE. Martin Luther King Jr was able to do the unspeakable. He changed many lives, and did what he had to do in order to get justice. Martin Luther King Jr did what was right!

-Rajiv

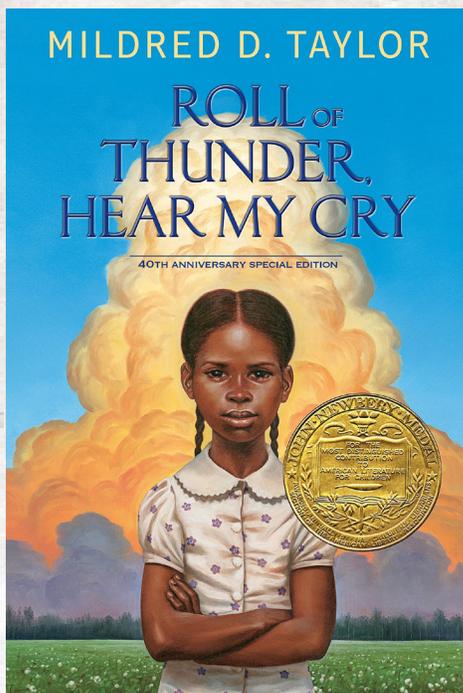


I think Black History Month is a time for us to remember that the colour of our skin makes no difference, we are all the same beings. When ever I think back in history of how the white treated the Black, I feel really bad and wish I could fix it.

-Oliver

For a little while now our class has been reading this book called "Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry" by Mildred D. Taylor. It's about racism, or how people of colour were treated before the 2nd World War. I find this interesting because a lot of this has been happening recently in 2020 with the Black Lives Matter movement, and of course they matter. A lot of people don't know this, but racism isn't a new thing, and our book tells it all. My teacher is really great because she's teaching 11 and 12 year olds stuff about racism, which I think is really great because we do need to know about this. So, our book takes place in Mississippi. Children named Cassie, Little Man, Christopher John, Stacey..., really nice children but they have to deal with racism because they are Black. No bus, walking in the hot sun, schools separated, mean-word calling... The book is really good, take a life lesson and don't be racist!

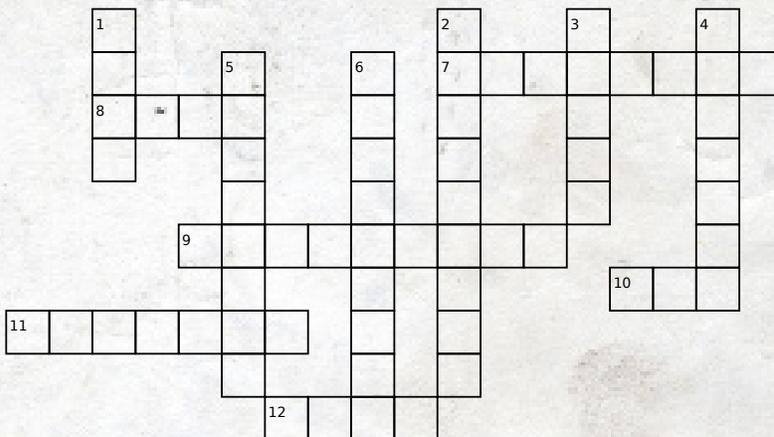
-Mia



We hope to have all the grades submit some work for the newspaper in the coming issues.

Crossword tip: Use the billboard by Pastor Ben's office for clues!

Black History Month Crossword

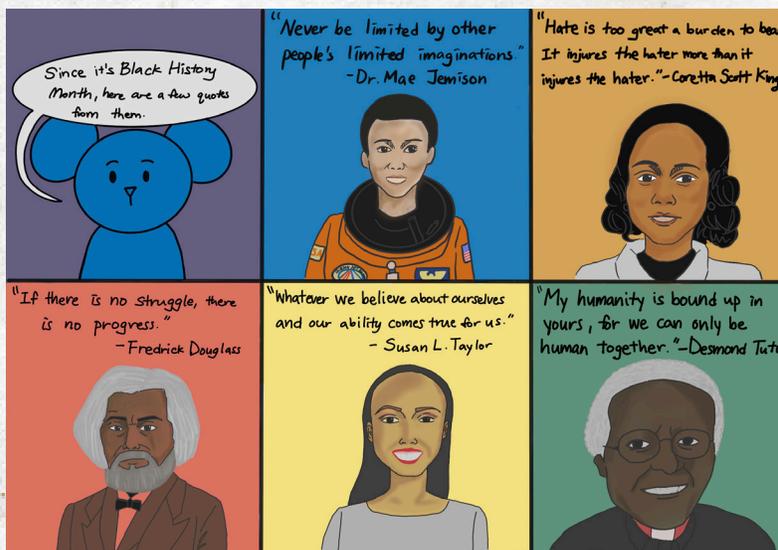


Down:

1. Canada's first _____ Riot in Nova Scotia was in 1784
2. In 1792 there was a Black _____ Exodus
3. The first name of the women on the Canadian \$10 bill
4. In 1796 the _____ landed in Halifax
5. What month is Black History Month?
6. The amount of Black volunteers that fought in the war of 1812

Across:

7. 1995 was the year that Black History Month made an _____ month in Canada?
8. Last name of the Canadian author who wrote "The Skin We're In"
9. What is the last name of the women who made the motion to have Black History Month an official month in Canada?
10. Will you get your own free library card at www.fvrl.bc.ca?
11. The first name of the author of Afric-Ville
12. The last name of the woman (quoted on the bulletin board) who said, 'I respectfully request you, sir, to instruct your employees to sell me the ticket I wish...'



Comic made by Gracie Park