

Africentric Alternative School News

Newsletter February 2024



Hugh Reynolds, Principal
Kurt McIntosh, Superintendent
Alexandra Lulka, Trustee

School Council Co-Chairs:

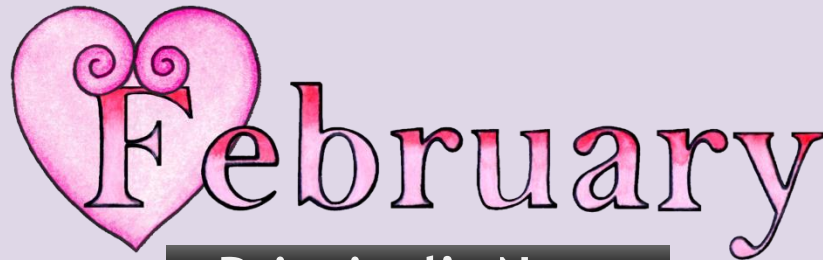
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School Website: <https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/africentricschool/>

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Principal's News

Dear Africentric Alternative School Community,

I trust this message finds you well as we dive into the second month of the year. February brings with it a plethora of exciting events and important updates for our Africentric family.

We are thrilled to announce our Black History Month celebration scheduled for February 29th in the afternoon. This event promises to be a vibrant showcase of our rich cultural heritage, with performances, presentations, and activities that honor the contributions of African and African-Canadian individuals throughout history. We encourage all students, parents, and staff to participate in this meaningful celebration as we come together to learn, appreciate, and celebrate our shared history.

For families with little ones ready to embark on their educational journey, our Kindergarten registration is now open throughout the month of February. We welcome new members to our Africentric family and look forward to fostering a positive and nurturing learning environment for our youngest learners.

Report cards for the current term will be sent home on February 13th. This provides an opportunity for reflection on

the progress and achievements of our students. We believe that open communication between home and school is crucial for the success of our students. To facilitate this, parent-teacher interviews will be held on February 15th in the evening and February 16th in the morning. This is an excellent opportunity to discuss your child's progress, address any concerns, and collaborate on strategies for continued success.

We encourage all parents and guardians to take advantage of this opportunity to engage with our dedicated teaching staff.

As we navigate through February, let us embrace the spirit of unity, celebration, and growth within our Africentric community. Your ongoing support and involvement are integral to the success of our students, and we look forward to continued collaboration in the months ahead.

Thank you for being a valued part of our Africentric Alternative School community.

Warm regards,

In Partnership,
Hugh Reynolds, Principal

Upcoming Events

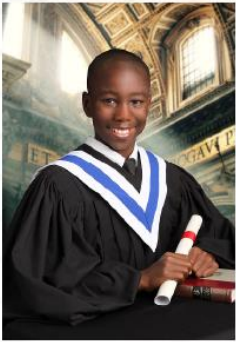
- Tuesday, February 13, 6 PM Fathers Appreciation Night
- Wednesday, February 13 Term 1 Report Cards to Be Sent Home
- Parent teacher interviews P.M. February 15 & A.M. February 16
- Friday, February 16 PA Day
- Mon., Feb. 19 Family Day
- Wednesday, February 20, Graduation Photo SK & Grade 8
- Feb 29 - African Heritage Month Assembly
- March Break March 11-15



JUNIOR MILESTONE PHOTOS

CELEBRATE THIS MOMENT

February 20!



Showcase Your Best Smile

- A white collared shirt with a tie makes a classic look, but wear whatever makes you feel great!
- Your photographer will take 4 photos, a selection of over 200 backgrounds will be available to view once proofs arrive.
*Photos will be taken either with or without a gown, depending on school policies
- Approximately 2 weeks after photo day, your proofs will arrive at school. Please place your order online at edgeimaging.ca/order

Remember the Whole Class

In addition to your photo day portrait session, you have the option to purchase a 13x9 Class Composite in a customized folder.

Go to edgeimaging.ca/mycomp to purchase using your composite using school code: **TFO**

Your composite must be purchased before photo order due date, which will be listed on your proofs.



FY23 Junior Comp



1 (866) 707-3343

edgeimaging.ca

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Quality & Service Digital Archiving Data Security Truly Canadian Eco Champions



KINDERGARTEN MILESTONE PHOTOS

CELEBRATE THIS MOMENT

February 20!



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Remember the Whole Class

In addition to your photo day portrait session, you have the option to purchase a 13x9 Kindergarten Class Composite in a customized folder.

Go to edgeimaging.ca/mycomp to purchase your composite using school code: **TFO**

Your composite must be purchased before photo order due date, which will be listed on your proofs.



FY23 Kindergarten Comp



1 of 10



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Thank you to our School's Nutrition/Snack Program Supporters.

We would like to acknowledge and thank President's Choice for the President's Choice Children's Charity School Nutrition Grant (PCC). Our Nutrition Program is also supported by the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (TFSS), City of Toronto – Public Health, Ministry of Children & Youth Services and Parents and Community.



We are grateful for the support of the following:

Afro Crush -

Donated funds for the Nutrition Snack Program

Augustine Asa Nte-Frempong -

Donated Kente Strips/Sashes to the 2021/2022 graduating class

Angus Systems -

a very substantial donation to assist classroom technology needs

Barilla Canada -

donated cooking demonstration, pasta, and a very substantial financial contribution for Chromebooks and music program supplies

Downsview Community Services Organization

Donated funds for the Nutrition Snack Program

House of Jua

Donated funds for the Nutrition Snack Program

Jays Care Foundation

Donated winter wear

MLSE - Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment -

Substantial donation towards school improvements in classroom and gym

Moez and Marissa Kassam Foundation and TFSS - (Toronto Foundation for Student Success)

Morning Meal/Snack Program Freezer donation

Shutterstock -

Donated books and puzzles created by black authors and illustrators

Starbucks Coffee Canada -

Employees donated hats, mitts, scarves, socks and a large quantity of school supplies

Start2Finish -

Donated backpacks and school supplies

Taste of Life Restaurant

Donation towards Grade 8 graduation

Turner Consulting Group Inc. -

Tana Turner, Principal Consultant generously donated books and resources for our library



During Black History Month, Canadians 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.

Black history in Canada

Black Canadians and their communities have been a part of shaping Canada's heritage and identity since the arrival of Mathieu Da Costa, a navigator, and interpreter, whose presence in Canada dates back to the early 1600s.

The role of Black Canadians and their communities in Canada has largely been ignored as a key part of Canada's history. There is little mention that some of the Loyalists who came here after the American Revolution and settled in the Maritimes were people of African descent, nor the fact that many soldiers of African descent made many sacrifices in wartime as far back as the War of 1812.

Few people in Canada are aware of the fact that African people were once enslaved in the territory that is now known as Canada, or of how those who fought enslavement helped to lay the foundation of Canada's diverse and inclusive society.

Black History Month is a time to learn more about these Canadian stories and the many other important contributions that Black Canadians and their communities have made to the history and continued growth of this country.

Recognizing Black History Month in Canada

In 1978, the Ontario Black History Society (OBHS) was established. Its founders, including Dr. Daniel G. Hill and Wilson O. Brooks, presented a petition to the City of Toronto to have February formally proclaimed as Black History Month. In 1979, the first-ever Canadian proclamation was issued by Toronto.

The first Black History Month in Nova Scotia was observed in 1988 and later renamed African Heritage Month in 1996.

In 1993, the OBHS successfully filed a petition in Ontario to proclaim February as Black History Month. Following that success, Rosemary Sadlier, president of the OBHS, introduced the idea of having Black History Month recognized across Canada to the Honourable Jean Augustine, the first Black Canadian woman elected to Parliament.

In December 1995, the House of Commons officially recognized February as Black History Month in Canada following a motion introduced by Dr. Augustine. The House of Commons carried the motion unanimously.

In February 2008, Senator Donald Oliver, the first Black man appointed to the Senate, introduced the [Motion to Recognize Contributions of Black Canadians and February as Black History Month](#). It received unanimous approval and was adopted on March 4, 2008. The adoption of this motion completed Canada's parliamentary position on Black History Month.



Ria Clarke --Co-Chair

Norgie Williams --Co-Chair

Lotoya Jackson --Secretary

Robert Griffiths --Treasurer

Crystal Palmer --Past-Chair



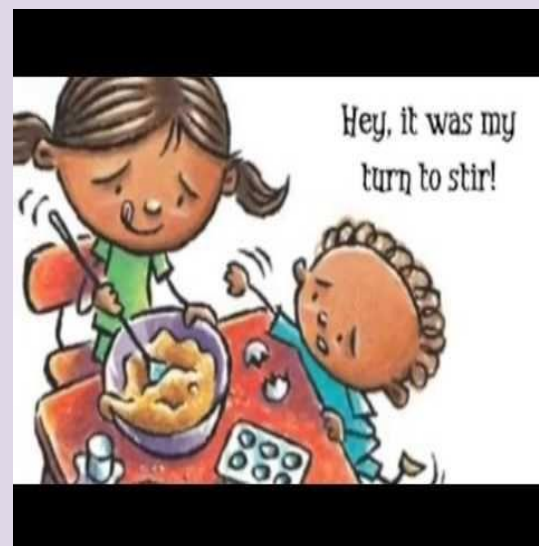
Themes of the Month - February

Fairness and KUUMBA

Theme for the
Month of
February are
**KUUMBA and
Fairness**



“Minds are like parachutes...
they only function when they
are open.”
– Sir James Dewar (inventor
of the vacuum flask)



February is African Heritage Month at the TDSB

During the month of February, the Toronto District School Board proudly recognizes African Heritage Month. It is an occasion to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of peoples of African descent to Canada and the world. The chosen theme for **2023/2024 Our Black is....**

The first Black Canadian woman elected to Parliament, the Honourable Jean Augustine, introduced a motion to recognize February as Black History Month. The motion was carried unanimously by the House of Commons. In December 1995, the House of Commons officially recognized February as Black History Month in Canada. At the Toronto District School Board, a motion to recognize African Heritage (Black History) Month was carried in January 2002 and reaffirmed again in January 2004.

Please see the full message on African Heritage Month on www.tdsb.on.ca and https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/docs/SANKOFA_TG_final.pdf

For a listing of all our initiatives please see the Heritage/History Month website: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/CEBSA>



ODO NNEW FIE
KWAN

Odo Nnew Fie Kwan meaning...Love does not lose its way home. Those led by love always end up in the right place.

Adinkra symbol,
meaning Love,
Faithfulness &
Harmony



Harmony



Sankofa: A symbol of the wisdom of learning from the past to build for the future.



Adinkra symbol, in the Akan language, which means – None is greater than God, the Creator. The symbol is called Gye Nyame (pronounced Gee-Nah-May)

Adinkra symbol,
meaning
adaptability



Nguzo Saba

The Seven Principles

Umoja

Kujichagulia

Ujima

Ujamaa

Nia

Kuumba

Imani

Umoja ▲ Unity
To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

Kujichagulia ▲ Self-Determination
To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves.

Ujima ▲ Collective Work and Responsibility
To build and maintain our community together and make our brother's and sister's problems our problems and to solve them together.

Ujamaa ▲ Cooperative Economics
To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together.

Nia ▲ Purpose
To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

Kuumba ▲ Creativity
To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

Imani ▲ Faith
To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

Dr. Maulana Karenga
Creator of Kwanzaa
©1965

University of Sankofa Press, 3018 West 48th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90043 • (323) 295-9799

Africentric Alternative School 2023-2024 Daily Schedule Have a Happy Day!

Entry Time	8:50 - 8:55 a.m.
Period 1	8:55 - 9:25 a.m.
Period 2	9:25 - 10:05 a.m.
Recess	10:05 - 10:20 a.m.
Period 3	10:20 - 11:00 a.m.
Period 4	11:00 - 11:40 a.m.
Lunch	11:40 - 12:30 p.m.
Entry Time	12:30 - 12:35 p.m.
Period 5	12:35 - 1:15 p.m.
Period 6	1:15 - 1:55 p.m.
Recess	1:55 - 2:05 p.m.
Period 7	2:05 - 2:45 p.m.
Period 8	2:45 - 3:15 p.m.



Africentric Alternative School School Pledge

Today I pledge to be the best possible me.

No matter how good I am, I know that I can become better.

Today I pledge to build on the work of yesterday which will lead me into the rewards of tomorrow.

Today I pledge to feed my mind knowledge, my body strength, and my spirit faith.

Today I pledge to take my education seriously and I will always do my best, at school, at home, and in my community.

Today I pledge to be focused, self-disciplined and ready to learn
Today I pledge to believe in me.

Ashe

Celebrating Black History & African Heritage Month

The Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement has collaborated with a variety of community partners, leaders and TDSB departments to celebrate the wonderful and undeniable achievements of Black people, their histories, and their cultures. As TDSB celebrates African Heritage/Black History Month with the theme **Our Black Is...**

We invite you to join us for the many opportunities. We have curated a [menu of offerings](#).





The Fatherhood
Initiative

FATHERS APPRECIATION NIGHT



A SPECIAL EVENT
CELEBRATING
THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF
FATHERS,
FATHER FIGURES AND
MENTORS OF
BLACK CHILDREN

TUESDAY, FEB. 13
6:00 PM

AFRICENTRIC ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL
1430 SHEPPARD AVENUE WEST

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL 647-904-3479

EMAIL INFO@TORONTOFATHERS.CA

TO REGISTER,
SCAN HERE



Easy Black History Month

B	M	C	I	L	I	C	A	S	C	I	D	A	E
T	L	I	L	L	C	S	A	I	A	O	C	A	C
P	N	U	T	R	P	B	P	B	C	B	R	S	H
E	P	R	E	E	T	T	R	U	O	C	C	A	V
A	S	M	B	S	O	S	L	N	L	E	H	C	E
C	P	U	R	R	C	D	R	E	A	M	A	Q	V
E	E	S	C	D	A	L	I	V	I	C	U	P	L
R	E	V	V	O	R	V	R	E	D	A	E	L	A
E	C	T	E	V	O	L	E	C	L	O	E	E	A
O	H	M	V	D	G	N	I	T	O	V	U	C	G
U	C	I	V	R	I	G	H	T	S	I	I	L	U
E	E	C	S	D	P	R	F	C	A	R	E	A	R
R	V	P	V	A	C	T	G	C	F	A	I	T	V
E	H	C	R	A	M	N	A	A	C	P	R	H	I

BLUES
MARCH
LOVE
AFRICA
NAACP
BRAVE
EQUAL
DREAM
SPEECH
LEADER
PEACE
VOTING
RIGHTS
CIVIL
COURT

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/550705/>

Valentine's Day Word Search

c g f l o w e r s i p
j s w e e t h e a r t
e f p a c u p i d a e
v h o i k a c p s r t
a o g u y h e a r t s
l o v e r r d e g o f
e k r a p t r r o w r
n r i r o s e s p x i
t o h s d r d e i r e
i s u h s p i n n h n
n r g a r e l l k t d
e o s e h o s r o s h
s w e e r t s f r i e
v c h o c o l a t e k

valentine
arrow
cupid
hearts
love

red
fourteenth
hugs
chocolate
pink

roses
friend
flowers
sweetheart
kisses