



## **FRIDAY FILE – Jan. 29th, 2021** ***KINDNESS. RESPECT. PRIDE.***

**Follow us on twitter @ZionTdsb and Instagram @ziontdsb**

**School Website Link <https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/zionheights/>**

**School Contact Information:**

5900 Leslie St, North York ON M2H 1J9

Phone: 416-395-3120 Email: [zion@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:zion@tdsb.on.ca)

### ***WE MISS YOU ZION STUDENTS AND FAMILIES***

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope that all of our Zion families are keeping healthy and well.

On behalf of our staff, thank you for your communication, on-going support, and the encouragement and assistance you are providing your child during this time of remote learning. Over this past year, COVID-19 has become part of our lives and it continues to affect our social, emotional, mental and physical well-being. It has had varying impacts on all our lives and the heaviness of it has been extremely overwhelming for some.



Some students may also be finding remote learning and COVID 19 overwhelming. We understand and appreciate this. The key is to communicate with the school (your child's teacher and principal) and we will do our best to support you and your child.

As online learning continues, it's important to maintain a balance between screen time and activities.



On **January 25th**, all parents/guardians (JK to Grade 12) and students at both in-person and virtual school (Grades 6 to 12) are being sent an invitation to complete an [online survey](#) asking about mental health and well-being, student engagement, and learning experiences to date. The goal is to collect information directly from families in order to gain insight that will help us best serve students and families. We encourage you to participate.



**[Join the Conversation](#)** – If you are interested, please join the second year of Conversations with the Parent and Community Engagement Office and PIAC. Their next conversation is on Saturday, January 30 at 11 a.m. about How Children Understand Race and How Adults Can Help. Learn more at [www.tdsb.on.ca/conversation](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/conversation).



**Report Cards:** Due to the ongoing school closures, all Elementary Provincial Report Cards Grades 1-8, will be delivered via [SchoolMessenger](#) beginning the **week of February 8**. Password protected files will be sent to the parent/guardian email address on file. Students in grades 4 - 8 will also receive a copy of their Elementary Provincial Report Card, in their TDSB student email account.

**Amanda Gorman's poem:** *The Hill We Climb*, was a highlight of the inauguration of President Biden. In this uncertain time, where we are all focused on anti black racism and eradicating all acts of discrimination and hatred. We invite families to view [Ms Gorman's poem](#) together and ask your child(ren) what resonates with them. Let's consider the bridges we are building together. Many teachers and students have unpacked this poem during their language blocks.

# The Hill We Climb

By: AMANDA GORMAN

We BRAVED THE BELLY OF THE BEAST

WHAT JUST IS ISN'T ALWAYS JUSTICE

WE THE SUCCESSORS OF A COUNTRY & TIME WHERE A SKINNY BLACK GIRL DESCENDED FROM SLAVES & RAISED BY A SINGLE MOTHER CAN DREAM OF BECOMING PRESIDENT ONLY TO FIND HERSELF RECITING FOR ONE

THAT EVEN AS WE GRIEVED, WE GREW  
THAT EVEN AS WE HURT, WE HOPED  
THAT EVEN AS WE TIRED, WE TRIED

Quiet ISN'T Always Peace

A NATION THAT ISN'T BROKEN BUT SIMPLY UNFINISHED

WE LAY DOWN OUR ARMS SO WE CAN REACH OUT OUR ARMS TO ONE ANOTHER

IN ACTION & INERTIA WILL BE THE INHERITANCE OF THE NEXT GENERATION

A COUNTRY THAT IS BRUISED BUT WHOLE, BENEVOLENT BUT BOLD  
FIERCE & FREE

WHILE DEMOCRACY CAN BE PERIODICALLY DELAYED, IT CANNOT BE PERMANENTLY DEFEATED

IT'S THE PAST WE STEP INTO AND HOW WE REPAIR IT

IF WE MERGE MERCY WITH MIGHT, & MIGHT WITH RIGHT, THEN LOVE BECOMES OUR LEGACY

FOR THERE IS ALWAYS LIGHT IF ONLY WE'RE BRAVE ENOUGH TO SEE IT  
IF ONLY WE'RE BRAVE ENOUGH TO BE IT

sketchnote by @VIRTUAL GIFF

The week students attended a virtual Anti-Racism Workshop with TDSB partners and guest speakers Chris and Saidat from **The Get Real Movement**. They shared their lived experiences navigating anti-Black racism in their lives, as well as historical context, answers to student questions, and actionable items that we can all do to better support our peers, and show up as an ally 365 days a year! Here is a

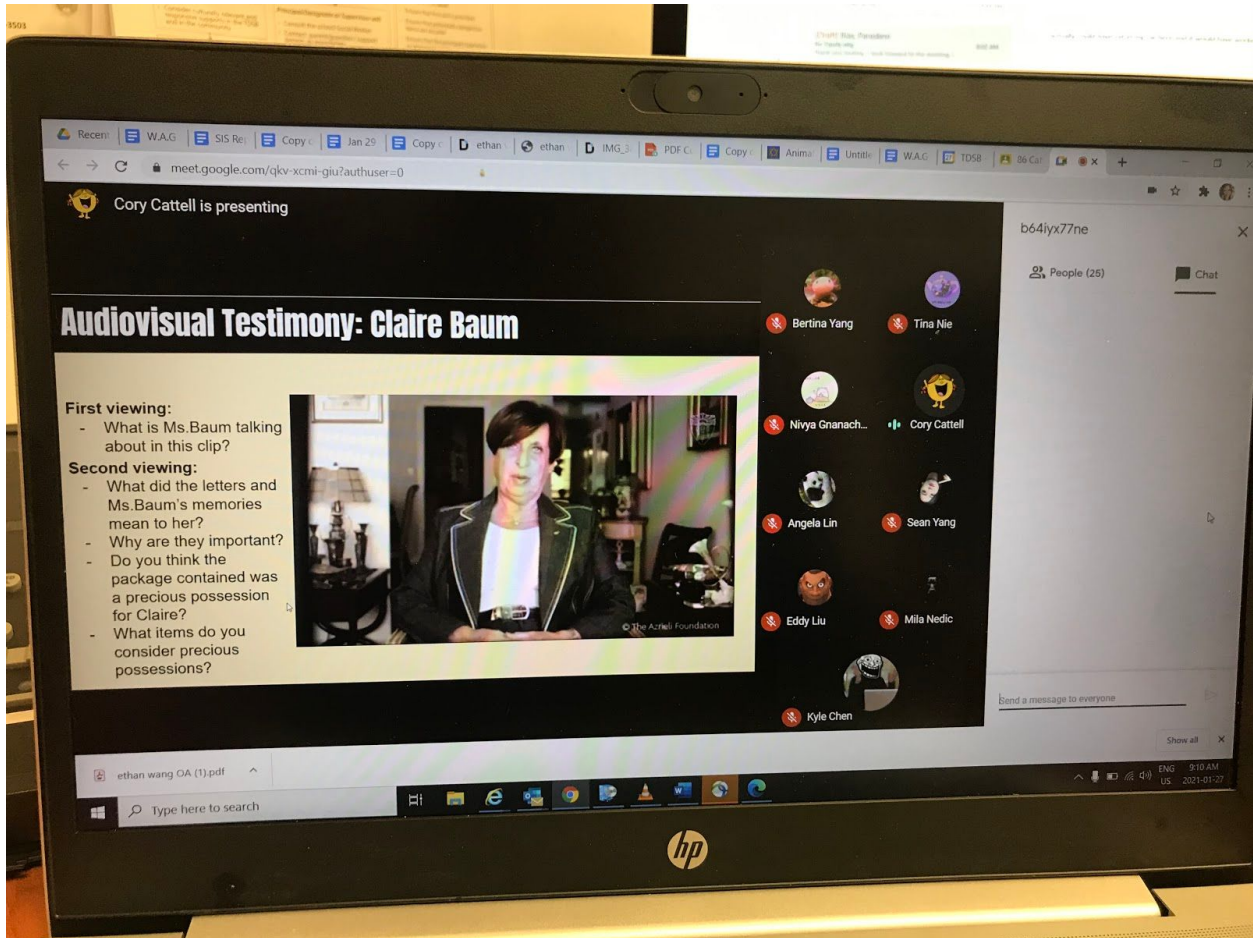
screenshot of some actionable ways students can do when encountering acts of racism, discrimination and oppression.

Giving the benefit of the doubt.	"Hey - I know you didn't mean to harm anyone by saying that, but..."
Private over public.	Pulling someone to the side, instead of calling out in front of everyone, can feel more like you <b>genuinely care about growth</b> vs. wanting to shame them in front of everybody.
Asking questions. (credit: Sinead Bovell)	"Could you <b>clarify</b> what you mean by that?" "Is the person's race <b>relevant</b> to this story?" "Do you <b>actually</b> believe that? If so, how come?"
Providing education.	Knowledge of <b>statistical</b> and <b>historical</b> context can come in handy, and can open someone's eyes.
Sometimes clear and direct works best, especially if you don't think it's a mistake, but a directed attack.	"Hey - don't say stuff like that. That can really hurt people." Don't forget to check on people who may have been harmed.
Remember:	You are helping someone to <i>be better</i> , helping your friends, family & community <i>be better</i> .  It's ok to pick your battles sometimes - for your own mental wellbeing. This is a marathon, not a sprint, and be safe!  Visibility and leading by example - you'd be surprised who else was just hoping someone would say something.  Don't look back and regret not using your voice - go forward, and do your best next time :)



This past Wednesday January 27th was [International Holocaust Remembrance Day](#). In recognition of this day, Zion students viewed the animated short film [The Tattooed Torah](#) with their class. This was an exclusive opportunity for TDSB students as the movie has yet to be released to the public. All students had the opportunity to learn about the past, and to connect with it in some way. It is a true story told through animation, of the horrible past of the Holocaust to a new generations to learn. Some classes participated in the extension activities called, "Precious Possessions" where they identified their concept of a precious possession. Students were able to recognize that precious possessions can also be non-material and linked to feelings and memories tied to family and traditions. I am hopeful by the tie you read this parent communication, you are able to still view the short film with this link.

<https://vimeo.com/500996418>



**We have to look after ourselves first in order to have something to offer to others.**

**#BellLetsTalk**



Along with all the learning this week, Zion also participated in some way through lessons and discussion in class to Recognize [Bell Let's Talk Day](#) and also joined the conversation to help raise awareness and reduce the stigma around mental health. These are challenging times and please know that it's ok to not be ok. Zion staff are here to support you taking care of your mental health and well-being.

## February is Chinese Heritage Month in the TDSB



Toronto District School Board and Zion is proud to recognize Chinese Heritage Month (CHM) during the month of February 2021. This year is the *Year of the Ox: Loyal, Honest, Responsible, Hard-Working and Logical*. Many Chinese Canadians will celebrate Lunar New Year on **Friday, February 12**. Lunar New Year is also known as the spring festival and begins with the first moon of the lunar calendar and ends on the first full moon of the lunar calendar 15 days later. the spirit and joyfulness will remain the same through virtual events and in-home family-based festivities.

### **Why Celebrate Chinese Heritage Month?**

Chinese Heritage Month is celebrated in TDSB every February; to acknowledge, recognize, and accept Chinese Canadians have been and continue to be nation builders in Canada.

Chinese heritage has over 5,000 years of history. Chinese Canadians have contributed to the formation of Canada, led innovations in science, medicine and technology, advanced in the arts, succeed in athletics and thrived in entrepreneurship.



# TDSB African Heritage Month Opening Virtual Celebration 2021

In recognition of African Heritage Month  
during the month of February

**Please join us!**

***Kujichagulia: Self Determination***

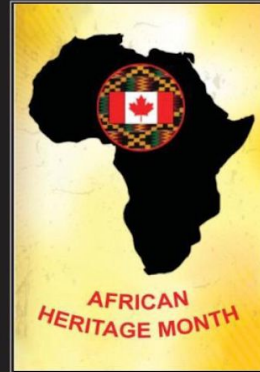
Date: Monday, February 1st, 2021

Time: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Virtual link: <https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/98434421029>

Speakers • Entertainment

For additional information, please contact Michelle Davis, at 416-395-9695



<https://tdsb-ca.zoom.us/j/98434421029>

The term African Heritage Month was more commonly adopted beginning in 2008 when there was a discussion about Black History Month and the need to represent the historical and current lived experiences of people throughout African diaspora. This discussion took place at the time of the Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade in the British Empire and concurrently with the introduction of the Africentric Alternative School in TDSB. These conversations contributed to a more systemic focus on African or Africentric focus. The use of the term “Heritage Month” is based on the TDSB’s framework for recognizing Heritage Months.

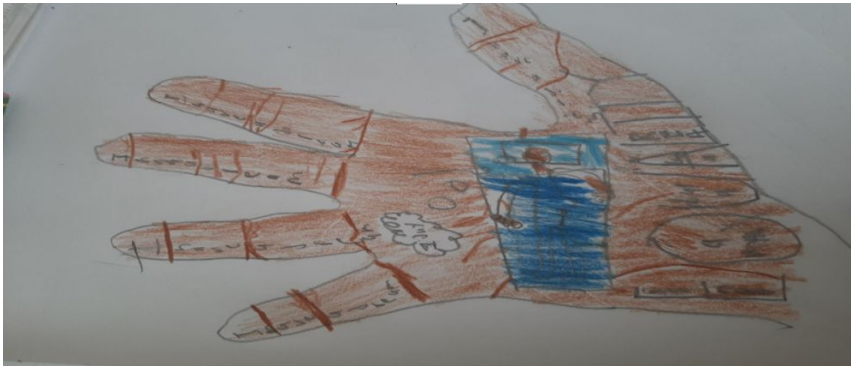
## **Student work form Ms. Tsoy’s Class**

Ms. Tsoy’s class discussed and learned about Martin Luther King Jr and the Civil Rights Movement & created Art that reflected their understanding of Dr. King’s message.

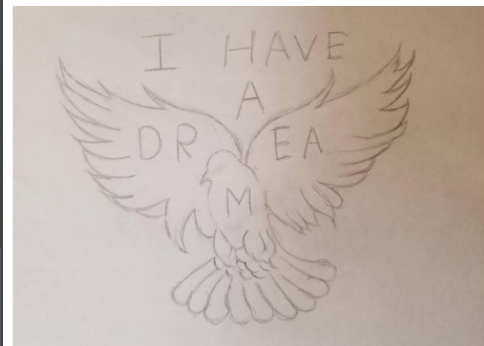
For my Martin Luther King Jr. art piece, I chose to do a hand because to me, it symbolizes togetherness. On each finger is written the traits he believed in. Love, justice, equality, freedom, and peace. In the middle, there is a circle split into fifths with a symbol of each trait. For love, a heart. For justice, a scale. For equality, an equal sign. For freedom, an unlocked lock. For peace, a peace sign. Around the circle is a quote by Martin Luther King that is very meaningful to me. Overall, for me the hand and everything on it represents everything King stood for. - Cheron



Honestly I just wanted to draw a cool dove after seeing the other ones online. Anyways, I made it simple, with just one overall main message. So the dove is obviously supposed to represent freedom, and it's flying off with two hearts (chose hearts because of their symbolic meaning), one representing black people and one white. It's supposed to indicate fairness (as both get a free flight), as well as freedom



My picture and its message are self explanatory . It is a me sleeping in my hand, dreaming about a world where "Equality is not a myth, but a reality."



For my Martin Luther King hand art I did it based on Martin luther King and I put one of his quotes on the hand on the bracelet the quote says "The time is always right to do the right thing." I put the name of on of his speeches and everyone around the earth together because he believed in equality for all.



This is my work. He reminded me how unequal life really is so I drew it in a darker way... I drew the tree there because it symbolises life and growth even though I made it a crooked tree. The reason I made it a crooked tree is to show that not everything is perfect. I drew ravens in the sky to show freedom. I drew a moon to show that there is always light.

(I forgot to post it here. Hah! You can't show it!)



The quote that I chose is "I have a dream today!", since that's one of his most famous sayings, and people everywhere know it. Also, I put words on the sides that represent his end goal, such as Freedom and Peace. I also put a peace symbol since peace is one of Martin Luther King Jr.'s main tenets. Elements of design-wise, I used Balance, Movement, and Unity. I used rotational balance, as you can see through the circular rainbow. I used movement through the segments, since they all lead to the peace symbol, which is the main part of this piece. Lastly, I used an even amount of faces but had variety, I had a clear center, and a wide colour scheme(The rainbow), leading to everything working together to make this piece.(P.S. All of the segments have words, but due to the colouring you might not see them)



Firstly, I chose the dove as a base, since the dove was a symbol of peace. Next, I drew a blue toga on the dove. I chose the colour blue because blue was the colour of peace, serenity and calm. On the toga, I wrote various key values of the ideals that King stood for, such as Empathy, Equality, and Love. The famous quote by King, "I had a dream" is written in blue on the dove. On the dove's wing, I wrote the words, "Freedom" and "Unity", both key ideals, and drew the Earth, along with people in rainbow colours, to signify that all humans are unique in their own way. I used a blue watercolour background, as well as applying a little lighting to signify importance. The dove also has an olive branch in its beak, a symbol of peace. (Made with Procreate) -Daisy

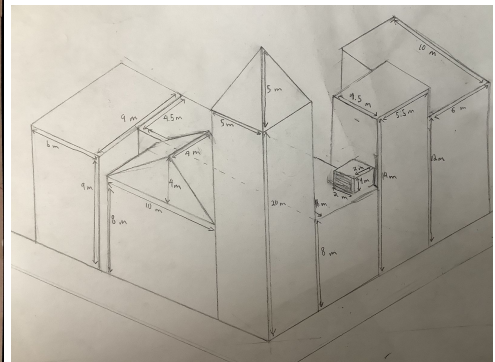
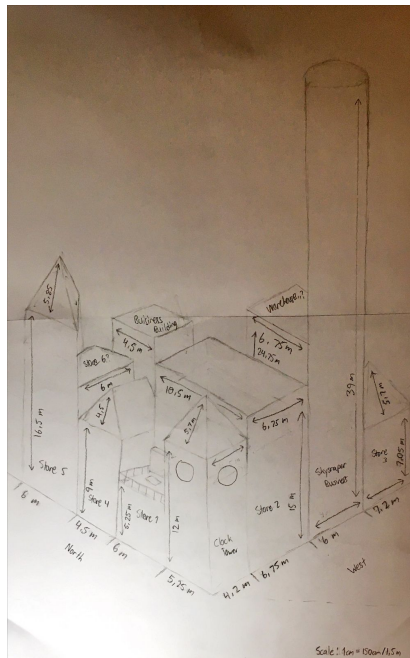
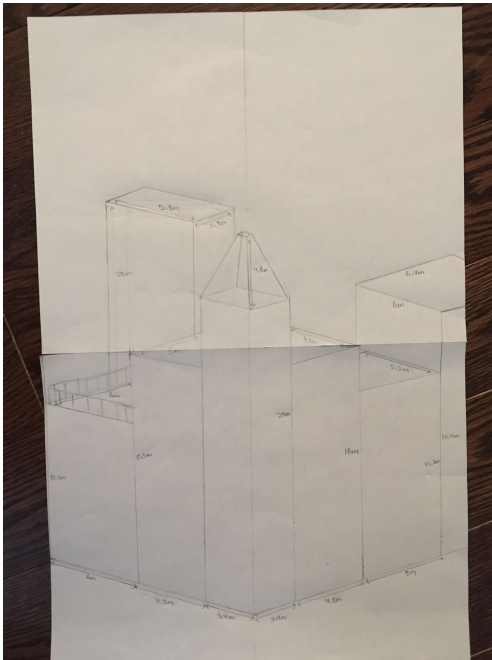


In Martin Luther King's speech, he stated "I have a dream....". He structured his speech into a repetition of a phrase. It emphasizes the idea of his meaning. He believes in liberty and freedom. The dove is the symbol of flying and spreading your wings. That's called being free. The different colours used is for the mixture of all different races of people.  
-Selina

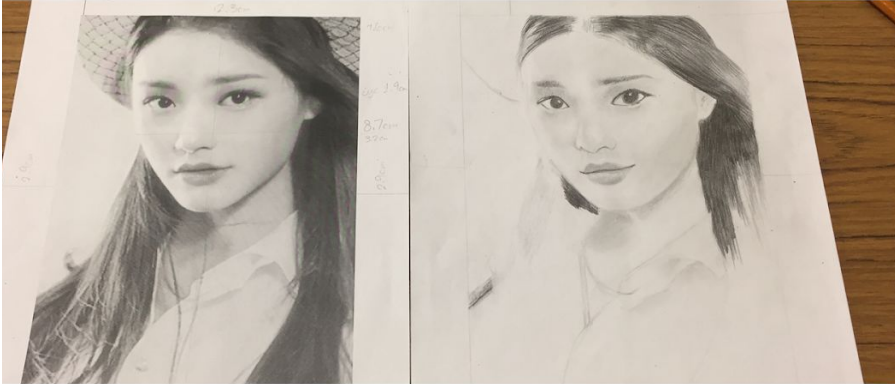


### Student work form Mr. Dykshoorn's Class

Students had to design a downtown street using 6 geometric shapes. The buildings had to face on a north west axis, in orthographic style. The volume calculation of various buildings were required for planning and design.



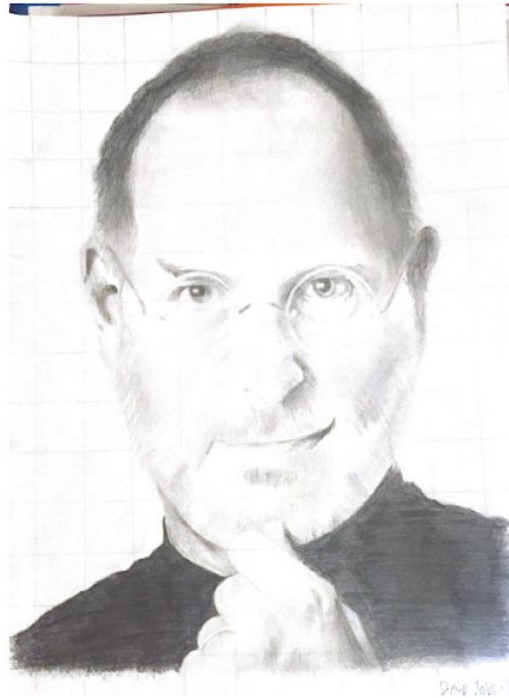
Student work form Mr. Nini's Class



Mina Hao



Edlyn



Alex Yang

### **LOOKING AHEAD @ ZHMS**

**January 29 - [All Optional Attendance forms due at secondary schools](#)**

**February (week of the 5th) - Elementary Term 1 Report Cards sent home by school messenger**

**February 11 & 12 - Elementary PA Day for Parents - Teacher Conferences**

**February 12 - Chinese New Year**

Please continue to practice the health and safety measures following the most up-to-date Toronto Public Health directives. We are in this together! At Zion, we care for one another. Have a great weekend!

Sincerely,

***Andrea Gillard***  
***Principal***  
***Zion Heights Middle School***