

March 10, 2023

What is Black History Month? Why do we celebrate it?

During Black History Month, Canadians celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians who, throughout history, have done much to make Canada the culturally diverse, compassionate, and prosperous nation it is today.

Every February, Canadians are invited to participate in Black History Month festivities and events that honour the legacy of Black Canadians (people of African or Caribbean ancestry who have settled in Canada), past and present. While Black History Month was established in the U.S. in 1976, Canada declared February to be Black History Month in 1995.

Canada's 2023 theme for Black History Month was "Ours to tell". Black History Month offers opportunities for educators and students to learn about strength and resilience in the face of racism and injustice. Through critically understanding the impacts of systemic and individual discrimination on human lives both in the past and continuing today, students can begin to reimagine and work towards a world that is free from marginalization—a place that honours and celebrates the diversity and vibrance of all races, ethnicities, and cultures, rather than one that cultivates xenophobia. Balancing inquiry and learning with the lens of celebration recognizes that Black history is not only a history of trauma or violence, but it is also one of Black excellence and joy.

When did it start in Canada?

The commemoration of Black History Month dates to 1926, when Harvard-educated African American historian Carter G. Woodson proposed setting aside a time devoted to honour the accomplishments of African Americans and to heighten awareness of Black history in the United States. This led to the establishment of Negro History Week in 1926. Celebrations of Black history began in Canada also shortly thereafter. During the early 1970s, the week became known as Black History Week. This event was expanded into Black History Month in 1976.



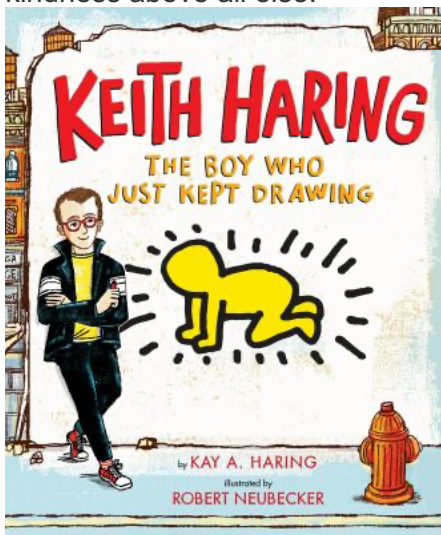
PINK DAY – OUTSTANDING!



February 22nd was Pink Shirt Day – an anti-bullying awareness day. The Student Leadership organized a wonderful assembly in which they performed excellent skits showing examples of how to Care for Self, Others and Place at Blair and showed powerful videos sharing the importance of kindness and compassion. Thank you to Ms. Berko-Gabay and Mrs. Wood for organizing this powerful assembly lead by our students for our students.



To honour Pink Shirt Day, students in Divisions 3 & 4 learned about the artists Keith Haring and Jessie Roulet with Mrs. Wood in their library time and recreated some of their most famous pieces of artwork. These artists were chosen because they both stand for inclusion, diversity, and kindness above all else.



SPRING BREAK MARCH 13th – MARCH 24th

The school will be closed for Spring Break. We hope everyone has an opportunity to rest and do a few family activities during this break from routine. School will reopen for the third term on Monday, March 26th. Please refer to our school website for future dates and events.



NO PARKING AT BLAIR SCHOOL



Due to safety issues with students and parents walking across the parking lot to their cars and parked vehicles blocking the entrance to the driveway, parents are asked to not park along the entrance to the driveway, or along Lynas Lane where there are No Parking Signs. This endangers our students and staff. Also, there is no parking in the two handicapped parking stalls unless you have a handicapped tag displayed in your car.

LOST AND FOUND

There is a table in front of the school that has Lost and Found items. Please come and have a look at the items and see if any of them belong to your child. Whatever is not claimed by the end of the week will be brought to a donation centre.

BASKETBALL SEASON 2022-23



We have just completed a wonderful Basketball season! It was so great to see so many students come out to play and their basketball skills improved tremendously over the past few months. Thank you very much to Mr. Weil, Ms. Bellefeuille, and Ms Thomas for coaching this season. Thank you also to Mr. Statham who assisted when required. We appreciate the time and effort all the coaches put into making this a successful basketball experience for our Blair students.

PAC PLAYGROUND FUNDRAISER!

Calling ALL chocolate-lovers at Blair!

We're teaming up with Purdy's Chocolatier to fundraise for our Playground in hopes of raising \$2000!

Stock up on your favourite Purdy's Easter treats (did someone say Hedgehogs?) AND support a great cause at the same time—it's the best of both worlds. All fundraising profit raised will directly support our Blair Blue Playground, so every order makes a great difference to us.

Ordering is as easy as eating chocolate. Just click this link <https://fundraising.purdys.com/1560089-106121> fill out your information in the order form (**Use your Child's name as first name and Teacher/Division as last name**) you'll need an email address, click "Join Campaign", enter campaign number - 63419, and order to your heart's content!

The order deadline is March 20th, 2023 so get shopping! Thank you for your continuing support.

REPORT CARDS

Thank you to all the families that came to Conferences last week. It was an exciting time to celebrate all growth and learning that has occurred during the second term. Report cards will be posted this week (March 9th) on MyEducation BC. Please see email that was sent out with instructions on how to locate and download your child's report card. Please see attached brochure for parents regarding student reporting attached to this newsletter. If you have questions or concerns regarding your child's progress or report card please contact your child's classroom teacher.

EATING DISORDER AWARENESS

We can all work to prevent eating disorders. As parents, you are the main source of information for shaping your child's attitudes. By modelling healthy behaviours and attitudes, you can help your child evaluate the messages they get outside of the home. Helping your child develop these skills early can help them grow up confident and resilient. This pamphlet from Jessie's Legacy has some positive ways to promote a healthy body image in your child.

<https://jessieslegacy.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Raising-kids-with-a-healthy-body-image-WEB-FINAL.pdf>