

# Indigenous & Equity Newsletter



## Thoughts From The Equity Department

The start of the school year brings with it excitement, anticipation, and hope. Excitement for a year filled with learning and friendships; anticipation for the wonders and insights that come from an open mind, and hope that every member of the TCDSB community commits to what a Christ centred learning space entails. We continue to encourage everyone to understand that God's world provides a welcoming space for each and every person, and it is precisely by living that idea that we allow excitement, anticipation and hope to flourish. Best wishes for the start of another remarkable journey ahead.

**Roy**

On behalf of Indigenous, Equity, and Community Relations Dept.

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## Indigenous Education

The Indigenous Education Department, in collaboration with the Indigenous Education Council, has developed TCDSB's new *Tree of Life Indigenous Education Framework* rooted in the Four R's of Respect, Relevance, Reciprocity, and Responsibility to help all schools create inclusive learning environments where Indigenous knowledge is honoured and every learner benefits from Indigenous and Western ways of knowing.

Click [here](#) to view the **Indigenous Education Tree of Life Framework**.

The Indigenous Education Department welcomed TCDSB students to summer camp for one fun-filled week this summer. Learn more about the experience [here](#).

September 30th marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Throughout this month we encourage you to reflect on the words of late Justice Murry Sinclair - "Education is what got us into this mess and it's education that will get us out of this mess." See our September events and information linked [here](#).

If you would like to learn about the cultural teachings and workshops available for your classroom contact Jason Donio, Cultural Liaison, for more information: [jason.donio@tcdsb.org](mailto:jason.donio@tcdsb.org).

Click [here](#) for more information on where to contact us and how we can assist your schools, classrooms, and students.

## Equity Champ Info

Please check with your principal to see if your school has submitted an Equity Champ name on the google form sent to them with the P/VP update on Aug 26th

[OECTA: Accessibility, Inclusion, Diversity & Equity in Catholicism](#)

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## Important Links

[Upcoming Events Calendar](#)  
[Equity Action Plan Sizzle Reel](#)  
[Mic Drop Sizzle Reel](#)  
[Equity Webpage](#)  
[Sharepoint Page](#)

## Dismantling Anti-Black Racism

Sign up for Sankofa year three. If you're looking for one more way to infuse Culturally Relevant and Responsive Pedagogy (CRRP) into your teaching, the \$1600 Sankofa series that we are providing to 50 more schools this year is a great way to do so. For more info on the resource and the sign up process, please click [here](#).

Our [RAMP mentorship program](#) for Black and Racialized staff is moving into its third year and we encourage you to join the group or recommend it to a fellow colleague.

The [2025 BRAVE Conference](#) will take place on **Wednesday, October 29, 2025**. This year's theme, "**Her Crown, Her Culture,**" focuses on creating an affirming space for Black girls to explore and celebrate their identity, mind, body, and heritage.

The [2025 "I AM KING" Conference](#) will be held on **Wednesday, November 26, 2025**. With the theme "**From Potential to Power: I Am King (Pt. 2),**" this conference is designed to inspire Black male students to recognize and realize their full potential and leadership abilities.

Both conferences are intended for **secondary students**.

## 2SLGBTQ+ Inclusion

Affinity spaces are a key way to help students and staff feel welcomed and valued in the school community. For more info on how to start a GSA for your school, please contact [aileen.santiago@tcdsb.org](mailto:aileen.santiago@tcdsb.org).

We are resharing [Fantastic Forever/Stories in Technicolour](#), a resource intended to help Gr. 5-8 teachers meet the mandatory HPE curriculum expectations for the Human Development and Sexual Health Strand D. The resource also helps support the concept of Windows, Mirrors, and Sliding Doors, which you can read more about in the document. We are considering this document to be a living document, and welcome your input at [roy.fernandes@tcdsb.org](mailto:roy.fernandes@tcdsb.org)

We are also providing all elementary schools with the book [How Gogo Found Her Groove](#) by [Loredana Cunti](#) which is a simple story about self acceptance and celebrating what makes you unique.

## Other Important Information

Ukrainian Heritage Month takes place in September.



You can view activities and events for the heritage months at <https://www.tcdsb.org/o/iecr/page/heritage-celebrations>

- We are asking for a declaration of interest in hosting Heritage month celebrations at your school along with both financial support from our budget and guidance from the Community Relations Officers. Please visit the link [here](#) for more information.
- Our Equity Action Plan Town Hall is happening on October 16 at 6:00 pm at Cardinal Carter School. We encourage you to sign up [here](#) and to spread the word with your parent community.
- [Events for the year](#) will be continually updated and we ask you to check back regularly to see what's happening. This allows us to continue the goal of sending you less emails while keeping you in the loop as to what's taking place.
- The Mic Drop Public Speaking contest is entering year 3. Sign up [here](#) for info on this engaging, curricular based opportunity with cash prizes
- Culturally Relevant Responsive Pedagogy asks educators to consider providing learning opportunities that reflect the diverse nature of the students in our classrooms. To this end, the Equity Department is providing literature circle novel packs of 7 for every secondary school (7 titles for Gr. 9/10 and 7 titles for Gr. 11/12). We will be running pd to support educators in this initiative in collaboration with the literacy department. Stay tuned for sign up info coming to English Department heads.