

The New Westminster School District will be supporting Black Excellence Day this year.

Black Excellence Day is a lead up to Black History Month and an opportunity to rejoice Black history and learn about Black stories, Black art and Black people, and a day to stand in solidarity with Black Canadians. As we celebrate Black Excellence, we also want to highlight the contributions of Black Canadians and the ongoing civil rights struggle of Black Canadians as they often go unacknowledged in our history books and school curriculum.

After supporting “Black Shirt Day”, which received overwhelming support around the world on January 15, 2021, the members of Ninandotoo Society created the Black Excellence Day initiative. They chose to create their own event after consulting with various community members, including Center for Israel and Jewish Affairs, Vancouver Holocaust Education Center, and BC Human Rights Commission, who all voiced that the words “Black Shirt” and seeing people march wearing black shirts brought up traumatic experiences for Holocaust survivors and their families.

Despite moving away from ‘Black Shirt Day’, the meaning of Black Excellence Day remains the same: acknowledging the ongoing civil rights struggle of Black and racialized Canadians and fighting for mandatory curriculum on Black history.

Family Resources:

Picture Books are such a wonderful way to engage in conversations about so many important topics. Netflix has put together a read along series that highlights Black literature and creativity. [Netflix Series - Bookmarks: Celebrating Black Voices Series - Netflix Jr.](#)

Here is the list of the books read on the Netflix series:

I Am Perfectly Designed by Karamo Brown

Sulwe by Lupita Nyong'o

The Day You Begin by Jacqueline Woodson

I Am Enough by Grace Byers

Firebird by Misty Copeland

Pretty Brown Face by Andrea and Brian Pinkney

Brown Boy Joy by Tanisha Booker

I Love My Hair by Natasha Anastasia Tarpley

Let's Talk About Race by Julius Lester

Antiracist Baby by Ibram X Kendi

