

Black History Month in Greater Gatineau

"My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together," proclaimed Desmond Tutu, the South African human rights activist. This sentiment underscores a prolonged struggle that resonates for all Africans who have, do, and will continue to fight for their respective rights.

Black History Month serves as an annual celebration in schools throughout February, providing students with the opportunity to delve into the rich and diverse history, culture, and contributions of African Americans and Canadians. Beyond recognizing struggles, this month is a platform for sharing stories and fostering an appreciation for the importance of diversity within schools.

In its ongoing commitment to awareness, diversity, and inclusion, Greater Gatineau distinguishes itself through various initiatives each year. Over the past two years, our school has collaborated with Overture of Arts to host several workshops on anti-racism, diversity, and inclusion for both students and staff. This year's workshop will focus on Allyship, delving into the importance of being an ally and examining ways to support and stand up for other communities, empowering participants to practice Allyship.

Another way Greater Gatineau is honoring Black History Month is by hosting Luc Bambara, an African Canadian artist who will perform at our school, introducing the culture of Burkina Faso through traditional dance and rhythm. Alongside workshops and guest speakers, the Anti-Racism Committee has created a virtual library featuring books by African authors and characters, providing diverse perspectives, challenging stereotypes, promoting cultural understanding, and celebrating the achievements of Black Canadians.

We hope that by supporting diverse voices, fostering inclusivity, and recognizing the global impact of Black history, our school community will benefit. These resources are accessible to all teachers, enabling them to contribute and share their materials. Beyond literature, our collection includes short films, inspiring documentaries, and various lessons and activities focusing on Black Canadian

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personalities. Through these efforts, we aim to ensure that the narratives of these figures are not overshadowed by their American counterparts.

As we wrap up this month of reflection and recognition, let us carry forward the lessons learned, fostering empathy, understanding, and unity, extending these values far beyond the confines of February.

