

# Alliance of Educators for Black Students

AEBS is united in its purpose to promote the achievement and well-being of Black students.

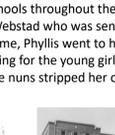


Welcome to the 2019/20 AEBS newsletter. The executive committee has been busy planning events for the upcoming school year. So stay tuned. We are looking forward to meeting new members and reconnecting with existing ones.

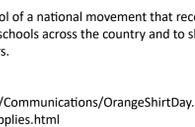
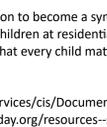
@AEBSyrdsb

AEBS recognizes the resiliency and bravery of Residential School Survivors and is asking our members and supporters to walk alongside Indigenous peoples by wearing orange t-shirts on September 30th, 2019.

## Orange Shirt Day September 30th



The orange shirt movement started in 2013 to highlight the pain and suffering of thousands of Indigenous children who were sent to residential schools throughout the last century. The colour of the shirt is connected to the experience of Phyllis Webstad who was sent to Cariboo Residential School near Williams Lake, B.C., in 1973. Six-years old at the time, Phyllis went to her first day of school wearing a new bright orange shirt. New clothes were a rare thing for the young girl who was being raised by her grandmother. However, upon arriving at the school, the nuns stripped her of the shirt, forcing her to wear the school's institutional uniform.



Webstad has felt the impact of that event long after it occurred, "that feeling of worthlessness and insignificance, ingrained in me from my first day at the mission school. It affected the way I lived my life for many years. Even now, when I know nothing could be further than the truth, I still sometimes feel I don't matter."

The shirt has since gone on to become a symbol of a national movement that recognizes the suffering of Indigenous children at residential schools across the country and to show a renewed commitment to ensure that every child matters.

Sources:  
<https://bww.yrdsb.ca/services/cis/Documents/Communications/OrangeShirtDay.pdf>  
<http://www.orangeshirtday.org/resources-supplies.html>

## Community News

### York Region District School Board Community Partners

[Black Foundation of Community Networks \(BFCN\)](#)



[Markham African Caribbean Canadian Association \(MACCA\)](#)



[Newmarket African Caribbean Canadian Association \(NACCA\)](#)



[Ontario Alliance of Black School Educators \(ONABSE\)](#)



[Thornhill African Caribbean Canadian Association \(TACCA\)](#)



[Vaughan African Canadian Association \(VACA\)](#)



[York Region Alliance of African Canadian Communities \(York Region AACCC\)](#)



**Kamilah Clayton,**  
MSW, RSW, CBT



**Roxanne Francis,**  
MSW, RSW,  
Psychotherapist

Newmarket African Caribbean Canadian Association (NACCA)  
Presents

## AFRICAN POSITIVE IDENTITY FORMATION AS A FOUNDATION FOR MENTAL WELLNESS - SUPPORTING OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN DEVELOPING A POSITIVE SENSE OF SELF

African-centred workshop

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 12, 2019**  
**9AM-12 NOON**  
**OLD TOWN HALL, 460 BOTSFORD ST**  
**NEWMARKET**

FREE ADMISSION - LIMITED SEAT  
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED  
REGISTER AT  
[HTTPS://NACCAWORKSHOP.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://nacca-workshop.eventbrite.com)

#naccaNewmarket  
@NaccaNewmarket  
naccacommunity.ca



### Who should attend?

- Parents and caregivers of children of African descent seeking to enhance their ability to support their child(ren) with developing a positive sense of self.
- Children of African descent, between the ages of 6 and 12 that may be struggling to develop a positive sense of self.

### Benefits of attending this workshop:

- Parents and Caregivers will gain tools that will allow them to be more intentional in supporting their child(ren) in the development of a positive sense of self.
- Children will have a better understanding of the various influences on their identity formation and will feel more confident in their identity as a person of African descent.

## NACCA

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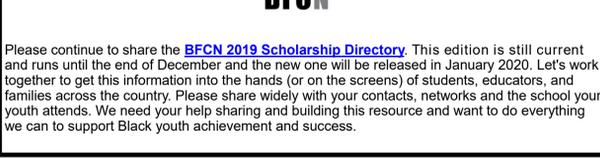
### JAMAICAN ENGLISH CREOLE/PATOIS LANGUAGE LESSONS

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfOenaSARqYnhe1Wg097uEW5EuthPq7-98LZUgl\\_w6NA8q/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfOenaSARqYnhe1Wg097uEW5EuthPq7-98LZUgl_w6NA8q/viewform)

The Newmarket African Caribbean Canadian Association (NACCA) would like to offer a language heritage class in Newmarket that teaches Jamaican English creole or patois to preserve our linguistic heritage among children and youth. In order to begin, we would need 20 elementary school students.

### PARENTS OF BLACK CHILDREN MEETING

PoBC meets quarterly with parents from across the Greater Toronto Area. PoBC are currently focused on York Region, but parents in other regions are welcome to join as well. PoBC discuss challenges within the school's system, and try to help parents navigate their way through. It's an opportunity to learn from each other, strategize and plan for our children's future.  
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/october-parent-meeting-parents-of-black-children-tickets-72875006105>



### BFCN SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTORY 2019



Please continue to share the [BFCN 2019 Scholarship Directory](#). This edition is still current and runs until the end of December and the new one will be released in January 2020. Let's work together to get this information into the hands (or on the screens) of students, educators, and families across the country. Please share widely with your contacts, networks and the school your youth attends. We need your help sharing and building this resource and want to do everything we can to support Black youth achievement and success.

### SANKOFA MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

There are still spaces available at both locations: Vaughan Secondary School and Bur Oak Secondary, Markham. Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity for Black students 12 and up, to learn about the Negro Saba (seven principles).  
**If interested, contact Maxine BROWN, Program Manager**  
Email: [pgmmgr@yorkregionaaccc.ca](mailto:pgmmgr@yorkregionaaccc.ca)



Please visit <http://onabse.org/membership.html> to fill out the membership form online for new memberships and renewals.

## Opportunities

# BLACK POETRY RECITATION CONTEST

The Black Poetry Recitation Contest is a poetry recitation contest for students in Grades 9 - 12 attending high schools in the Greater Toronto Area.

Registration is free and open to all students.

### HOW DOES THE CONTEST WORK?

- Student contestants choose and learn to recite poems from our anthology of Black poetry.
- Each student has to commit their selected poem to memory and practise their recitation skills.
- Students compete in the spring in celebration of Black History Month 2020.

### STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

- For students to be eligible for the contest, they must work with a teacher at their school to participate in the Black Poetry Recitation Contest.
- Finalists will have an opportunity to work with a poet in preparation for the competition.
- A school can name up to 5 students to participate in the Finals.
- Students must be attending a school in the Greater Toronto Area, defined as City of Toronto, Peel Region, York Region, Durham Region, and Halton Region.
- All competitors must be aged 18 or younger by September 30, 2019.

### KEY DATES

- Monday, October 7, 2019: Schools indicate interest in contest at <http://bit.ly/2i0F2bl>
- Monday, November 18, 2019: Registration of individual student contestants
- Saturday, March 7, 2020: Finals at York University

### WHY PARTICIPATE?

- STUDENTS**
  - Increase your knowledge about Black poets and poetry
  - Improve your presentation and public speaking skills
  - Receive coaching from actual poets
  - A chance to win a cash prize
  - A chance to win a prize for your teacher
- TEACHERS**
  - Support the integration of Black literature and arts in the curriculum
  - Increase your knowledge of Black literature and poetry
  - Support your students in learning more about Black literature and poetry
  - A chance to win a prize

The purpose of the Black Poetry Recitation Contest is to raise the visibility and prestige of formal poetry by Black writers of the Diaspora among teachers and students. The absence of Black literature - and more so, Black poetry - in secondary and tertiary school curricula invalidates our work. It is our hope that those who participate in this contest as competitors, coaches, and spectators will have an increased interest in and appreciation for the poets and poetry of the Black diaspora.

Jean Augustine Chair in Education, Community & Diaspora | Department of Humanities | education | YORK UNIVERSITY

## Holiday Recognition

### SHANA TOVA HEAD OF THE JEWISH YEAR - ROSH HASHANAH Begins at sundown on Sunday, September 29 and continues through to nightfall on Tuesday, October 1, 2019

Rosh Hashanah is a Jewish holiday marking the first and second days of the Jewish year, and it is the anniversary of the creation of Adam and Eve. These High Holy Days are the most religious days of the year for many Jews, and is a time for reflection and atonement.

