

## April 2022

- **Positive Racial Identity Series**
- **Human Library Podcast**
- **A Day in Aviation**
- **Black Girls' Book Club**
- **Black Students in Business Collective**
- **Black Student Summer Leadership Program**
- **ADVANCE Music Discovery Program**
- **EnVision Conference**

## Positive Racial Identity Series

The Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement in collaboration with several TDSB departments and committees, including the African Heritage Month Committee, Early Years, English Literacy, Mathematics and Numeracy and STEM, are offering learning experiences focused on honouring and affirming African, African-Caribbean and Black students' identities and embedding African-centred practices in instructional programming.

These sessions support participants in cultivating environments focused on enhancing joy, building positive racial identity development, and affirming students' experiences and identities.

Upcoming April sessions include:

April 5 [Itah Sadu](#)  
April 12 [Lawrence Hill](#)

For a full list of offerings and registration details, view the [flyer](#). Staff may access additional offerings, recordings of educator professional learning opportunities and student learning experiences on our [staff website](#).

## About Us

*The Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement is the first of its kind in public education in Canada. The Centre is dedicated to improving the experiences and outcomes for Black students and aims to be responsive to the voices of Black communities who continue to advocate for systemic change within educational institutions and for dismantling anti-Black racism at the TDSB.*

### Counterstories and Reimagining Community Partnerships



**Itah Sadu**  
Storyteller  
April 5, 2022  
4:00 - 5:00 PM

### Identity Affirming Stories with TDSB Families



**Lawrence Hill**  
Novelist  
April 12, 2022  
5:30 - 6:15 PM

## Human Library Podcast

The second episode of *TDSB Human Library Podcast Series, Conversations Around Black Student Success and Excellence* is now available [online!](#)

This episode entitled, *Unpacking Ourselves in Anti-Oppression Work*, features Dr. Nicole West-Burns drawing on Dr. Sealey-Ruiz's work, *The Archaeology of Self*, as a component of understanding this process.

In addition, check out *Beyond the Podcast*, where educators are given reflection questions to enhance their engagement with the podcast.

Throughout this season, host Shayle Graham touches on topics that challenge educators to critically reflect on their pedagogy and explore innovative ways to centre students, deepen relationships with families and enhance community partnerships.

To catch up on last season's episodes, visit the [TDSB Human Library Podcast webpage](#).



## A Day in Aviation

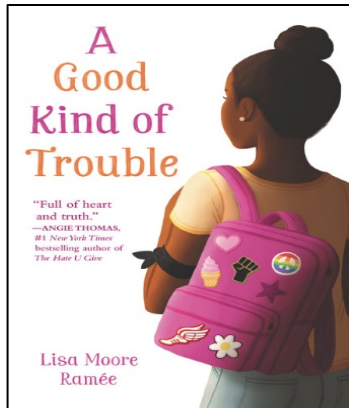


The Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement is collaborating with the Black Aviation Professionals Network to produce the *A Day in Aviation* program.

This program engages Black-identifying students in the exploration of aviation as an academic and career pathway. Students will receive mentorship and guidance from Black professionals as they explore different opportunities in the aviation and aerospace industries.

Interested students in Grades 7 to 11 can login and [register online](#) for the series of sessions.

April 6	5 – 6 p.m.
April 13	4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
April 20	4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
April 27	4:30 – 6:30 p.m.



## Black Girls' Book Club

This spring, the Black Girls' Book Club is back and has launched a new [program](#) for middle school students.

Students from Gr. 6 to 8 can login and [register online](#) before April 28. Middle school students will read, *A Good Kind of Trouble* by Lisa Moore Ramée.

The secondary school cohort is reading *Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi. The session for secondary school students runs from March 23 to April 21, 2022.

Launched by Graduation Coaches for Black Students, the Black Girls' Book Club is a space to build community, explore new stories and ways of creative expression. The club meets with self-identifying Black girls in the TDSB to celebrate the voices of Black women authors.

To learn more about the Black Girls' Book Club or to express your interest, contact [keisha.evans@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:keisha.evans@tdsb.on.ca)

## Black Students in Business Collective

The Black Students in Business Collective is a partnership between the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement, Ivey Business School at Western University, Schulich School of Business at York University and Smith School of Business at Queen's University.

On March 10, students participated in a business competition. As part of this competition, students designed a product and presented a business plan, budget, design strategy, marketing strategy and pitch.

In advance of the business competition, sessions were held on February 17 and 24 for Grades 10 students interested in exploring business as a post-secondary pathway. During these sessions, students learned about academic and career opportunities in business, and the breadth of offerings from the three business schools.

To learn more about the Black Students in Business Collective contact [kai.gordon@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:kai.gordon@tdsb.on.ca)

## Black Student Summer Leadership Program

The Black Student Summer Leadership Program led by the Graduation Coaches for Black Students facilitates the exploration of career fields including, community development, information technology, public health, skilled trades, business, media and creative industries.

Enrolled students are offered paid experiential learning opportunities in the summer, in addition to mentorship and training sessions.

On March 2 and March 3, [pre-employment workshops](#) facilitated in partnership with Tropicana Community Services and the YMCA of Greater Toronto were held.

The pre-employment workshops provided students with knowledge about social media, professionalism, managing a digital footprint and interview skills.

This program is made possible through collaborations with a variety of organizations, where TDSB students are placed with post-secondary institutions, community educators and for-profit and not-for-profit establishments.

If you are a representative from an organization who would like to provide a placement opportunity for a student this summer, please contact [keisha.evans@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:keisha.evans@tdsb.on.ca) for additional information. An information session will be held on April 12 at 4 p.m.

## ADVANCE Music Discovery Program

The Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement in collaboration with ADVANCE Canada's Black Music Business Collective is running a 9-week program from March to June for Grade 11 and 12 students.

This program connects Black youth with industry executives and professionals in the music business.

Throughout the program, students receive mentorship and support in the development of transferable skills and obtain increased access to professional and academic opportunities.

Enrolled students explore career pathways in the music industry including the roles of a content creator, data analyst, royalty administrator, marketing manager and more.

An information session was held on March 10 and on March 24, students explored opportunities within the realm of concerts and music festivals.

For more information on this program, contact [dwight.bleary@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:dwight.bleary@tdsb.on.ca)



## EnVision Conference

The annual [EnVision Conference](#) took place on Tuesday, March 29 and Wednesday, March 30. This year's focus was 2SLGBTQIAP+ Indigenous, Black and racialized collective care and activism. The event featured keynote speakers Tru Wilson, Dr. Andrew B. Campbell and the Toronto Kiki Ballroom Alliance.

The EnVision Conference invited 2SLGBTQIAP+ elementary and secondary students and their allies/co-conspirators to honour and celebrate 2SLGBTQIAP+ communities and issues faced across Ontario in addressing homophobia and transphobia.

Participating students explored ways to celebrate gender and sexual diversity through a variety of live and pre-recorded workshops.

## Featured Stories:

[Black TDSB students explore the wide world of engineering in latest summer program](#)

[Pre-K Summer Learning Program helps give racialized students a voice](#)

[TDSB's Black Student Summer Leadership Program inspires youth to take on the world](#)

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## Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement

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