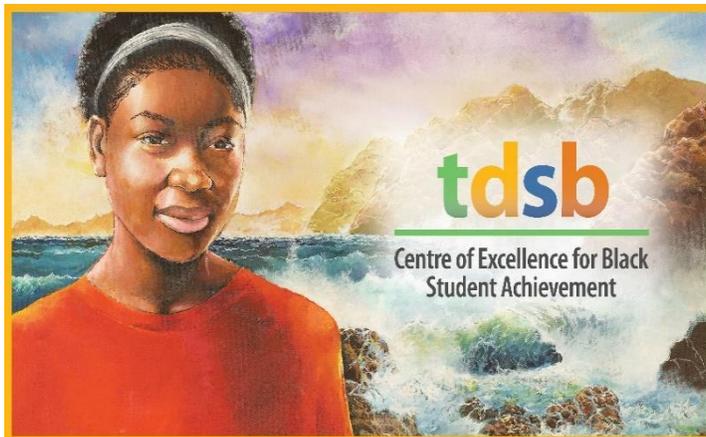


February 2022

- African Heritage Month
- Sunnybrook Focused Ultrasound Lab Internship
- Broadcast Learning Experiences
- Black Girls' Book Club
- Black Students in Business Collective
- Human Library Podcast
- University of Toronto, Faculty of Engineering
- Websites
- Black Student Summer Leadership Program



African Heritage Month

February is African Heritage Month! This year's theme is *Nia: Walking in our Purpose*.

Throughout February, the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement in collaboration with various community educators are offering diverse learning experiences focused on honouring and affirming African, African-Caribbean and Black students' identities and embedding African-centred practices in instructional programming. During February and beyond, experiences that support educators in cultivating school and classroom environments focusing on enhancing joy, building positive racial identity development, and affirming students' experiences and identities will be offered. Staff may access a menu of offerings, recordings of educator professional learning opportunities and student learning experiences on our internal [staff website](#).

Please also visit the [African Heritage Month Committee](#) webpage to explore additional opportunities and learn more about the theme: *Nia: Walking in our Purpose*.

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.

Focused Ultrasound High School Summer Research Program

In collaboration with Sunnybrook Hospital and Research Institute, Black-identifying students in Grades 11 & 12 (aged 16-18 years) are invited to explore STEM and healthcare research as a viable academic and career pathway.

The Focused Ultrasound High School Summer Research Program is an eight-week paid opportunity, where students will:

- Receive 1:1 mentorship with health professionals.
- Gain hands-on knowledge through Experimental, Programming, Biology or Engineering and Technology Development projects.

An application support opportunity is available on Monday, January 31, 2022 from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Please contact kai.gordon@tdsb.on.ca and veronica.montague@tdsb.on.ca for more information.

Applications for the [Focused Ultrasound High School Summer Research Program](#) are due February 4, 2022.

Broadcast Staff and Student Learning Experiences

The Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement is facilitating learning experiences that support educators in cultivating school and classroom environments, focusing on enhancing joy, positive racial identity development and affirming students' experiences and identities. These experiences build on research-based understandings of the topics presented, and explore concrete strategies focused on honouring and affirming Blackness and embedding African-centred practices in pedagogy.

The student learning experiences are divided into themes of literacy, wellness, STEM and African history.

Guest presenters include:

- Spoken Word Artist, Dwayne Morgan
- Author and Storyteller, Itah Sadu
- Ontario's 1st Poet Laureate, Randell Adjei
- Drummer, Lance Cumberbatch
- Reggae Instructor, Kevin Carrington
- Ontario Heritage Trust, Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site
- Canadian Multicultural Inventors Museum

Staff can visit the [internal website](#) for a full list of offerings and links to access the sessions.



Black Girls' Book Club

The Black Girls' Book Club is back!

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.

The spring session will run for five weeks from March 23 to April 21, 2022.

Secondary students will be reading *Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi.

Stay tuned for the Middle School session beginning in May!

To learn more about the Black Girls' Book Club or to express your interest, contact 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.

The Black Students in Business Collective launched on January 13, 2022 for students in Grades 10 interested in exploring business as a post-secondary pathway. During this session, students learned about academic and career opportunities in business, and the breadth of offerings from the three business schools.

Participants heard messages of inspiration from business school deans and from guest speaker, TDSB and Ivey alumni Sakariya Ahmed.

On January 6 and 27 enhanced learning sessions were also held to support Grade 11 and 12 students with their post-secondary applications.

Upcoming sessions for the Black Students in Business Collective are February 17 and 24.

To learn more about the Black Students in Business Collective contact kai.gordon@tdsb.on.ca

Human Library Podcast

The second season of the *TDSB Human Library Podcast Series, Conversations Around Black Student Success and Excellence* is now available online! This season, host Shayle Graham will be touching on topics that challenge educators to critically reflect on their pedagogy and explore innovative ways educators can centre students, deepen relationships with families and enhance community partnerships.

This season will also have an additional learning component, *Beyond the Podcast*, where educators are given questions to keep in mind as they listen to the podcast.

The [first installment](#) in the series dives into the topic of supporting positive racial identity in the Early Years with Dr. Kerry-Ann Escayg.

This season is grounded in the mandates of the [Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement](#) and will introduce audience members to leading scholars, emerging thinkers, and fellow educators passionate about creating learning spaces dedicated to Black student success, well-being and positive racial identity.

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



University of Toronto Faculty of Engineering

The Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement in collaboration with University of Toronto Faculty of Engineering invites Black identifying-students in Grades 10 and 11 who are interested in careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math with a strong interest in Engineering to attend the [Blueprint](#) information session on February 9, 2022, from 6 - 7 p.m.

Blueprint is an academic enrichment program that includes four weeks of summer programming taking place from July 11 to August 5, 2022.

[Register](#) to attend the information session.

Website Launch

The Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement has created a new website that features resources and programs, opportunities for ongoing collaboration with families, and initiatives to enhance partnerships with community organizations and service providers. The content is focused on improving experiences of belonging and academic outcomes for Black students.

Please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/cebsa for information on programs, resources, news and more.

An [internal website](#) that contains additional resources for educators is available on the Google Sites platform for staff. Many professional learning opportunities are currently available for registration via myPath.

Mailing List

Sign-up for our [mailing list](#) so you can receive future updates directly from the Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement.

Follow us on social media

Twitter: [@tdsb_cebsa](#)

Instagram: [@tdsb_cebsa](#)

Black Student Summer Leadership Program

Coming soon! The Black Student Summer Leadership Program is returning for another year.

The eight-week program offers paid experiential learning opportunities to students over the summer. Through collaborations with a variety of organizations, students are placed with post-secondary institutions, community educators and for-profit and not-for-profit corporations.

Students enrolled in this program can explore career fields within community development, information technology, public health, skilled trades and construction, business, media, and creative industries.

There will be an upcoming information session for students. Organizations who would like to provide an experiential learning opportunity, please contact keisha.evans@tdsb.on.ca for additional information.

Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement

www.tdsb.on.ca/cebsa

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