



CULTURALLY RELEVANT AND RESPONSIVE PEDAGOGY: **SUGGESTED PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES** **FOR HERITAGE MONTHS**

Display:

- Prepare a display of literature (books, magazines, newsletters), videos, artifacts, and/or bulletin board(s)
- Locate display in a prominent place in the school or work site (e.g. library, office, central display case)
- Showcase contributions from members of the specific Diaspora (local, national, international) through pictures, posters, photographs, etc
- Encourage educators and staff to decorate classrooms, hallways and /or walls with examples that reflect curricula outcomes, current or historical events that speak to the commemoration of the month
- Provide resources in staff rooms and libraries to assist where necessary.

Education through Announcements:

- Set aside three to five minutes a day for a public announcement in schools and worksites on the subject specific Canadian Heritage during the morning, as part of the general announcement period
- Designate a student (or staff) daily, reflective of the diversity of the demographic of the school or worksite, to read information pertaining to specific Canadian Heritage (e.g. a quote from a writer on social justice; an excerpt from the work of a Canadian of Celtic descent; historical data that reflects struggles and victories; a short poem that reflects the subject)
- Research and articulate information pertaining to the life and times of saints or clergy of an ethno cultural descent (e.g. St. Patrick)

Curriculum Initiatives:

- Engage students in research on elements pertaining to the specific Diaspora with connections to individuals and themes in Canada, the United States, the Caribbean, Central America, Europe, the Continent of Africa, Asia and Southeast Asia.
- Have students analyze the messages behind the leaders and the applicability in today's world
- Integrate students' work as part of various subjects (e.g. Math – review its origins and people responsible for the development of the subject; research the location of the first university and contributions to the world, Science – review inventors and inventions – e.g. the ironing board; the lubrication system for engines; ice-cream; and other contributions to the world; Music – review

the origins of Jazz, Hip-Hop, Rap, Reggae, classical and its impact on today's music scene) throughout Canada

- Review Canadian settlements of the specific Diasporas and connections with communities in the greater Toronto Area.
- Develop interactive activities for students and staff by utilizing models such as “Reach for the Top” or “W5H” through ‘friendly’ competition based on historical facts and reward students for their work
- Have students create songs, puzzles, displays, literature that speaks to the commemoration of the month.

Community Initiatives:

- Host a Mass in commemoration of the contributions of the specific Diaspora towards religion (e.g. St. Anselm, St. Patrick, St. Aidan)
- Invite storytellers and local artists to your school to share expertise and knowledge
- Contact specialty bookstores to display resources and give readings to students, as well as presentations to community members
- Involve Catholic School Advisory Council members to host speakers on the subject of specific Diaspora
- Utilize resources, such as the Consular Corps Association, and invite representatives to present information from countries that speak of the demographics of the specific Diaspora (e.g. Ireland, Scotland, Wales)
- Invite local media to showcase school activities in commemoration of the month.