

Black Excellence Day

May 15, 2024

Celebrating Black Excellence Day on May 15, 2024, within Halifax Regional Centre for Education is important for several reasons:

- 1. Representation and Recognition:** Black Excellence Day provides an opportunity to celebrate the achievements, contributions, and successes of Black individuals within the community. It highlights the talent and accomplishments within the Black community, ensuring that Black students have an opportunity to highlight all their positive contributions within the educational system.
- 2. Empowerment and Inspiration:** By celebrating Black Excellence, students are inspired and empowered to pursue their own goals and dreams. Seeing examples of successful Black individuals from various fields, such as science, arts, politics and sports, can motivate students to strive for their own excellence.
- 3. Education and Awareness:** Black Excellence Day serves as an educational opportunity to raise awareness about the rich history, culture, and achievements of Black people. It provides a platform to share stories of resilience, innovation, and leadership, helping to combat stereotypes and promote understanding and appreciation of Black heritage.
- 4. Equity and Inclusion:** Recognizing Black Excellence fosters a culture of equity and inclusion within schools. It sends a message that all students, regardless of their background, have the potential to excel and make valuable contributions to society. By celebrating diversity and promoting inclusivity, schools create a more welcoming and supportive environment for all students.
- 5. Community Engagement:** Black Excellence Day can serve as a platform for community engagement and collaboration. It provides an opportunity for schools to partner with local organizations, leaders, and activists within the Black community to organize events, workshops, and discussions that promote dialogue and understanding.

Overall, celebrating Black Excellence Day within HRCE schools is important for fostering a culture of inclusivity, empowerment, and appreciation for the diverse talents and contributions of Black individuals.



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Activity #1: And in Other News...

Create a video montage featuring interviews with Black students who have started clubs or initiatives, showcasing their projects and the impact they've had on the school community. Incorporate footage of their activities, testimonials from teachers and peers, and highlight how their efforts have enriched school culture.

- <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/black-loyalists-heritage-centre-chronicles-turbulent-history-1.3111060>
- <https://pier21.ca/research/immigration-history/shaping-a-community-black-refugees-in-ns>

Activity #2: Notable People: Past & Present

Create a digital presentation or slideshow honouring a notable Black community and or staff member, past or present. Include photographs, quotes, and anecdotes from colleagues and students about the person's impact on the school community. You could also interview the individual or their colleagues to capture firsthand accounts of their contributions.

- <https://blackloyalist.com/cdc/index.htm>
- <https://subjectguides.nsc.ca/african/black-nova-scotian/notable-nova-scotians>
- <https://www.cbc.ca/news/education-combat-anti-black-racism-1.5910374>
- <https://museum.novascotia.ca/resources/african-nova-scotians>
- <https://bccns.com/resources/>

Activity #3: And the winner is...

Produce a video or podcast featuring interviews with Black student/s or community member/s who have won awards or achieved significant milestones. Share their stories, accomplishments, and the journey that led to their success. Include visuals or audio clips of their achievements and celebrations to bring their accomplishments to life.

- <https://artsns.ca/news/koumbie-wins-2023-emerging-artist-recognition-award>
- <https://artsns.ca/news/jahmila-wins-2023-black-artist-recognition-award>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Black_Nova_Scotians
- <https://artsns.ca/news/cyndi-cain-wins-2022-portia-white-prize> scroll down to find Adina Fraser
- <https://artsns.ca/news/andre-fenton-wins-2022-emerging-artist-recognition-award>
- <https://www.halifaxexaminer.ca/black-nova-scotia/peace-basketball-tournament-returns-to-help-promote-inner-peace-in-the-black-community/>



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Activity #4: A day in the life of an ANS student

Write a diary entry or short essay from your perspective as an African Nova Scotian student, detailing your daily experiences, dreams, challenges, and goals. Incorporate personal reflections, anecdotes, and aspirations to provide insight into the unique experiences of being an ANS student. You could also include illustrations or photographs to enhance the narrative.

Activity #5: Express Yourself

This activity offers the most creative freedom, so feel free to explore various formats such as:

- Writing and performing a spoken word poem or rap celebrating Black Excellence.
- Creating an art installation or digital artwork showcasing themes of empowerment, innovation, and achievement.
- Designing a board game or card game that celebrates the achievements of Black individuals throughout history (Nova Scotia, Canada, the world).
- Producing a short film or animation highlighting key moments in Black history or profiling inspirational figures.
- Hosting a virtual or in-person panel discussion that showcases Black students and community members sharing their experiences and insights on success, triumph, and positivity, with a particular emphasis on Black Excellence. Resilience is understood as inherent and does not need to be the primary focus of the discussion.

Ultimately, the goal is to celebrate Black Excellence in a way that highlights the positive contribution and attributes of Black people. These activities must honour the achievements, contributions, and stories of Black individuals and communities within our HRCE and school community.

Special thanks to the Delmore Buddy Daye Learning Institute. The activities here have been adapted from the DBDLI African Nova Scotian History Challenge. The African Nova Scotian History Challenges recognize students whose submissions best exemplify the contributions of African Nova Scotians to the history, heritage, and culture of Nova Scotia.



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