

ATN NEWSLETTER

Combat Censorship & Support Diversity!



DATES OF NOTE FOR SEPTEMBER

- September 7th** - Ukrainian Canadian Heritage Day, Ganesh Chaturthi
- September 8th** - International Literacy Day
- September 10th** - World Suicide Prevention Day
- September 11th** - Enkutatash (Ethiopian New Year) Ganesh Chaturthi
- September 13th** - Anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, [Calgary Chinatown Lantern Festival](#)
- September 15 to 16th** - Mawlid Al-Nabi
- September 16th to 18th** - Chuseok (Korean Thanksgiving)
- September 17th** - Zhongqiu Jie (Mid-Autumn Festival/Mooncake Festival)
- September 18th** - Powley Day
- September 18th to 22nd** - Treaty 7 Week
- September 20th to 24th** - Mabon
- September 21st** - UN International Day of Peace
- September 22nd** - Treaty 7 Day & Fall Equinox
- September 22nd to 28th** - Gender Equality Week, [Banned Books Week](#) (Theme: [Freed Between the Lines](#)) & Bisexuality Visibility Week
- September 23rd** - Celebrate Bisexuality Day, International Day of Sign Languages
- September 30th** - National Day of Truth & Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day)



ELEVATING DIVERSE VOICES IN DIVISIVE TIMES!

From the desks of the Antiracist Teachers Network:

Welcome back to another school year with the Anti-Racist Teachers Network right by your side (digitally or physically)!

As we enter a new school year and review all of our start-up materials (be sure to refer back to [Issue 14](#) of our newsletter) one thing we have been watching is the increase in censorship of diverse voices through the process of book banning. Book Banning is defined by the [Free Speech Center](#) as:

"...When private individuals, government officials or organizations remove books from libraries, school reading lists or bookstore shelves because they object to their content, ideas or themes. Those advocating a ban complain typically that the book in question contains graphic violence, expresses disrespect for parents and family, is sexually explicit, exalts evil, lacks literary merit, is unsuitable for a particular age group, or includes offensive language. Other complaints have been that the book is written by or deals with sexual orientation or gay issues or brings up topics like slavery that might make individuals uncomfortable."

Now, we know what you're thinking, I've heard that this is only happening in the United States. There is no way this is happening in my area! Unfortunately, dear readers, **it is**. So this month's ATN issue is not only coming in with our usual recommendations but ways to ensure diverse voices continue to live and thrive in your classrooms. We hope this helps provide another way to frame your anti-racist school year and allow your students to bring their whole self into your space.



PODCAST RECCS.

From the ATN!



Check out [How Book Banning Works](#)



We recommend the episode [Prince & Knight](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS WITH THE ATN

JOIN THE ATN!

Interested in joining the ATN for this school year? Email: local38atn@gmail.com for more information!



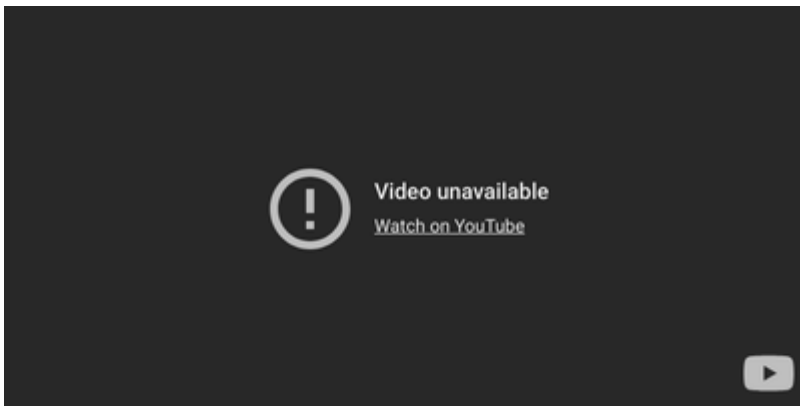
RACIALIZED STAFF AFFINITY SPACE

The ATN will be holding space for Racialized Staff to come together, find support, and heal together in community. Takes place the first Friday of every month!

Email: local38atn@gmail.com for more information!

COOL STUFF!

- Need some general guidance on fostering diversity? Check out the [Making Space guide!](#)
- **The Government of Manitoba** has developed [Creating Racism-Free Schools through Critical/Courageous Conversations on Race](#) perfect for any school staff!
- Consider reviewing (or making your own) [Book Résumés](#) which highlight the educational value and significance while still being easily accessible.
- Make sure your literacy instruction is Culturally Responsive with some help with [Keys to Literacy](#) or [Reading Rockets](#) (or both!)
- We've highlight [Banned Books Book Club](#) before, but have you checked out: Calgary Public Library's Rouge Book Club, [The Banned Books Museum's Banned Books Club](#), [The Banned Book Club](#) (more US centric but still interesting with [a cool podcast!](#))
- Is your math classroom culturally responsive? Check out this [Education Week article and podcast episode](#) to learn more!
- Can science be culturally responsive for all students? [Edutopia](#) says YES with these [5 Tips for a Culturally Responsive Science Classroom!](#)
- None of those suggestions seem neat to you? Try starting your own [Challenged Book Club](#) at your school! Or [DIY a Book Club](#) through the Calgary Public Library.
- **Learning for Justice** has a fabulous secondary grades lesson plan to discuss [Discrimination in Banned Books](#) and how to [Uplift Banned Books Week](#)
- Curious about Book Banning in Canada? Check out [BookNet Canada's](#) mini-series on [Banned Books in Canada](#)
- Excited for Banned Books Week? So are we! Check out Read Write Think's [A Case for Reading Lesson](#) for a great way to introduce, discuss and explore Banned Books for Grades 3-10
- Learn more about what is happening with the Asubpeeschoseewagong First Nation (Grassy Narrows) by exploring [Free Grassy](#) or [Justice for Grassy Narrows](#)
- Exploring geography but unsure of the size of countries (unless you got an [AuthaGraph world map](#))? Check out [The True Size Of...](#) to help reframe thinking around geography and size!
- **Stimpunks Foundation** has developed a guide to [Create A Neurodiversity Inclusive Environment](#)



Looking for a new anthem for your elementary classroom community? Take a listen to **Be You** by VanVan ft Heiress Harris!

BANNED BOOKS WEEK RECCS



From the ATN Resource Bank!

K-4

And Tango Makes Three by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell
My First Ramadan by Karen Katz
Jasmine Toguchi series by Debbi Michiko Florence

5-9

The Great Bear by David A. Robertson
Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi
This One Summer by Mariko Tamaki

10-12

Extraordinary Evil: A Brief History of Genocide by Barbara Coloroso
When Everything Feels Like the Movies by Raziell Reid
Milk and Honey by rupi kaur

For Educators

Mediocre: The Dangerous Legacy of White Male America by Ijeoma Oluo
The Satanic Verses by Salman Rushdie



Looking for previous ATN issues? Find them under

[Antiracist Teacher Network Newsletter](#) here!