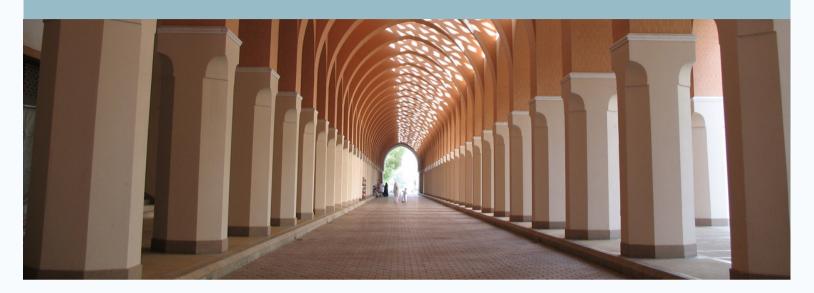
## ATN NEWSLETTER

**Eradicate Hate & Elevate Muslim Excellence.** 



### DATES OF NOTE FOR OCTOBER

All Month: Islamic Heritage Month Latin American Heritage Month Women's History Month LGBTQ+ History Month

Spirit Vigil
October 5th - Yom Kippur
October 11th International Day of the
Girl Child
October 17th to October
22nd - Secret Path Week
October 19th International Pronouns
Day
October 24th - Diwali



### OCTOBER IS CANADIAN ISLAMIC HERITAGE MONTH!

#### From the desks of the Antiracist Teachers Network:

Islamophobia continues to escalate in Alberta as noted by The National Council for Canadian Muslims (NCMM) in their campaign to have action taken in Alberta to denounce and combat this hate. October 16th will mark one month since Alberta Human Rights Commissioner Collin May was removed from his role due to upholding Anti-Islamic sentiments which leads us to ask, how do we as educators directly or indirectly uphold Islamophobia in our classrooms and schools?

**The NCMM** hosted a town hall with Muslim students across Canada to explore this question. It was shared that:

"Muslim students experience Islamophobia more in the hands of educators than their own peers."

As educators, we must do better. Muslim students are going through 12+ years of the education system, but not once learning about the contributions of Muslim Canadians. They are not seeing themselves reflected in their own classroom materials. Muslim students have to constantly fight and advocate for a space in school to practice their faith. They continue to carry the weight of the biases we internalize about the Muslim community, as they navigate the school system. **This must change.** 

We challenge educators this month to take some time to learn more about prominent Muslim Canadians, and elevate Muslim role models to your students. We challenge you to learn more about Islam, and take what you learn to help students learn about Muslim excellence, create learning spaces where students don't feel they have to hide their culture, and schools where Muslim students can thrive and bring their whole selves to school.

### OUR MONTLY BOOK RECCS

From the ATN Resource Bank!

K to 4 - Muslim Child by Rukhsana Khan, Muslim Girls Rise by Saira Mir, Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns by Hena Khan, My Name is Bilal by Asma Mobin-Uddin, Yaffa and Fatima: Shalom, Salaam by Fawzia Gilani-Williams,
The Proudest Blue by Ibtihaj Muhammad, In My Mosque by M.O. Yuksel, One Sun and Countless Stars by Hena Khan,
Like the Moon Loves the Sky by Hena Khan, Yo Soy Muslim: A Father's Letter to His Daughter by Mark Gonzales

5 to 9 - 1001 Inventions: Enduring Legacy of Muslim Civilization by Salim Al-Hassani, The Hijab Boutique by Michelle
Khan, Amal Unbound by Aisha Saeed, Unsettled by Reem Faruqi, Other Words for Home by Jasmine Warga, When Stars

Are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed, Zackhary Ying and the Dragon Emperor by Xiran Jay Zhao,
The Henna Wars by Adiba Jaigirdar

10 to 12 - Does My Head Look Big In This by Randa Abdel-Fattah, Proud by Ibtihaj Muhammad, An Emotion of Great
Delight by Tahereh Mafi, If You Could Be Mine by Sara Farizan, Home Is Not a Country by Safia Elhillo, How It All Blew Up
by Arvin Ahmadi, The Love and Lies of Rukhsana Ali by Sabina Khan

For Teachers - We Have Always Been Here by Samra Habib, Brown: What Being Brown in the World Means Today (to everyone) by Kamal Al-Solaylee, Supporting Muslim Students by Laura Mahalingappa, Terri L. Rodriguez, Nihat Polat Book Clubs! - The Noname Book Club is an online book club which offers new titles for you to explore every month at your own pace! The Banned Book Club is a great way to explore banned books independently or with a student book club.

## HONOUR ISLAMIC HERITAGE MONTH



- The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) has put together
  an Islamic Heritage Month Resource Guidebook for
  Educators FULL of resources and suggestions for how to
  recognize Islamic Heritage Month in your schools. It features 30
  age pre-written announcements you can share every morning,
  as well as videos, book, and ready made lesson plans to include
  in your classes this month.
- Check out the <u>Muslim Alliance for Sexual and Gender</u>
   <u>Diversity</u> for articles, videos, and resources to explore the
   intersections of Islam and Sexual and Gender Diversity.
- Check out the <u>NCCM's Educators Guide to Islamic Religious</u>
   <u>Practices</u>. It is a guide to help schools proactively create inclusive learning environments for Muslim students and parent community.
- The Anti-Racist Educator Reads Podcast has an episode entitled <u>Focus on Islamophobia</u> that features of panel of Muslim educators to discuss Islamophobia in Education.
- Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Canada will be hosting an online event regarding the <u>historical contributions of Muslims to</u> <u>the science of Engineering</u> with supporting resources on their website.
- Rabia Khokar (@Rabia\_Khokhar1) developed an internationally recognized reading challenge for students and families focused on Centring Muslim Characters in Literature which can be used inside the K-4 classroom or at home to tackle Islamophobia. Rabia also has a variety of resources for decolonizing your resources and teaching with an anti-oppression lens.
- <u>Salaam Canada</u> is a national volunteer-run organization dedicated to creating and cultivating safe and supportive spaces for LGBTQ Muslims.

#### **CCMF CULTURE COMMONS**

Teachers of all grades and disciplines!
The Canadian Cultural Mosaic Foundation (CCMF) has developed Culture Commons a K-12 resource hub that focuses on disrupting systemic racism in education. as an added plus, everything was made by local educators so it aligns with the Alberta Program of Studies.

**Culture Commons** has also developed a <u>Multicultural</u> <u>Calendar</u> to bring awareness to key days of awareness and religious events missed by Western traditional calendars.



## LOOKING FOR PREVIOUS ATN ISSUES?

You can find them under

<u>Antiracist Teacher</u>

<u>Network Newsletter</u>

here!



Hava is a community driven zine and online platform to uplift and celebrate the voices of Calgary's youth of colour through sharing their creative works. If you have students ages 14-19 encourage them to check out this opportunity <a href="mailto:@havazine.yyconinstagram.">@havazine.yyconinstagram.</a>



JOINING THE LOCAL 38 ANTI-RACIST TEACHERS NETWORK?

Email
LDECChair@ata38.ab.ca
for more information!





#### What is Diwali?

Diwali often called the Indian "Festival of Light" is a celebration celebrated in relation to the darkest night of the lunar month. The significance and story of Diwali differs depending on the religious and cultural affiliation of those celebrating the occasion.

In Hinduism, Diwali (also called **Deepavali**) can represent many important things. It coincides with the **Ramayana** where Rama, Sita, Lakshman and Hanuman reached Ayodha after fourteen years of exile. **Diwali** is also connected with the **goddess of wealth and prosperity Lakshimi** and a time to celebrate new beginnings. **Tamil and Telugu communities** connect **Diwali** with the **Hindu goddess Kali who represents good triumphing over evil** or when the god Krishna overcame Narakasura. In Hindu **Gujarati** communities, Diwali represents the start of their new year.

In Jainism, Mahavira Nirvana Divas in honour of Mahavira and his final nirvana where he asked this day be observed with the lighting of lamps. For Sikhs, Bandi Chhor Divas is observed to remember the release of Guru Hargobind Singh Ji from the Gwalior Fort of Mughal King Jahangir and arrived at the Golden Temple in Amritsar. Newar Buddhists or Nepal also observe Diwali in relation to Vishu and Lakshmi.

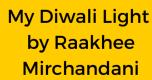
#### **Books Celebrating Diwali!**

Binny's Diwali by Thrity Umrigar



DINAL

The Best Diwali Ever by Sonali Shah







Happy Diwali by Sanyukta Mathur

# FIVE EDUCATOR READS TO START THE YEAR STRONG!

#### **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Reflecting on Anti-Bias Education in Action: The Early Years by Debbie LeeKeenan, John Nimmo and Filiz Efe McKinney

Advancing Equity and Embracing Diversity in Early Childhood Education: Elevating Voices and Actions edited by Iliana Alanis & Iheoma U. Iruka

Don't Look Away: Embracing Anti-Bias Classrooms by Iheoma Iruka Ph. D, Stephanie Curenton Ph D, Tonia Durden Ph.D, Kerry-Ann Escayg Ph.D

Woke Kindergarten led by Akiea
"Ki" Gross

Anti-Bias Education in the Early Childhood Classroom: Hand in Hand, Step by Step by Katie Kissinger

#### **ELEMENTARY**

**How to Raise an Antiracist** by Ibram X. Kendi

Social Justice Paranting: How to Raise Compassionate, Anti-Racist, Justice-Minded Kids in an Unjust World by Dr. Traci Baxley

Wish We Knew What to Say: Talking with Children About Race by Dr. Pragya Agarwal

**10 Ideas to Overcome Racism** by Eleonora Fornasari

The Young Activist's Dictionary of Social Justice by Duopress Labs

#### **JUNIOR HIGH**

This Book is Anti-Racist: 20 Lessons on How to Wake Up, Take Action and Do the Work by Tiffany Jewell

Stamped (for Kids): Racism, Antiracism, and You by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi

Antiracist Kid: A Book About Identity, Justice, and Activism by Tiffany Jewell

**Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults** by Robin Wall Kimmerer and Monique Gray Smith

How To Fight Racism Young
Reader's Edition by Jemar Tisby

#### **HIGH SCHOOL**

**Cultivating Genius** by Gholdy Muhammad

Ratchetdemic: Reimagining
Academic Success by Christopher
Emdin

Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain by Zaretta Hammond

The Anti-Racist Writing
Workshop: How to Decolonize the
Creative Classroom by Felicia Rose
Chavez

Not Light, But Fire: How To Lead Meaningful Race Conversations In the Classroom by Matthew R. Kay

#### SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

Courageous Conversations
About Race: A Field Guide for
Achieving Equity in Schools and
Beyond by Glenn E. Singleton

**Street Data** by Shane Safir & Jamila Dugan

Culturally Responsive School Leaderhip by Muhammad Khalifa

**Decolonizing Education** by Marie Batiste & Rita Bouvier

We Want To Do More Than Survive: Abolitionist Teaching and the Pursuit of Educational Freedom by Bettina L. Love

Bonus:

Canadian School Libraries
Diversity Audit Guide



