

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

October 4th - Sisters in
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 MONTHLY 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 **Muslim Alliance for Sexual and Gender Diversity** for articles, videos, and resources to explore the intersections of **Islam and Sexual and Gender Diversity**.
- Check out the **NCCM's Educators Guide to Islamic Religious Practices**. 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 **Focus on Islamophobia** 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 **historical contributions of Muslims to the science of Engineering** 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.
- **Salaam Canada** 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 **Multicultural Calendar** 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 **Antiracist Teacher Network Newsletter** [here!](#)



HAVA NYC YOUTH ZINE

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 [@havazine.nyc on instagram.](#)



INTERESTED IN JOINING THE LOCAL 38 ANTI-RACIST TEACHERS NETWORK?

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

CELEBRATING DIWALI



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 Lakshmi** 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



The Best Diwali
Ever
by Sonali Shah



My Diwali Light
by Raakhee
Mirchandani



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" Cross

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 Parenting: 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 Leadership 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

