

ATN NEWSLETTER

Have Yourself an Anti-Racist Holiday



DATES OF NOTE FOR DECEMBER

**November 25th to
December 10th** - 16 Days of
Activism Against Gender
Violence
December 3rd -
International Day of
Persons With Disabilities
December 6th - National
Day of Remembrance and
Action on Violence Against
Women
December 10th - Human
Rights Day
December 19th to 26th -
Hanukkah
December 21st - Winter
Solstice
**December 26th to January
1st** - Kwanzaa



WELCOME TO THE "CHRISTMIFICATION" OF WINTER

From the desks of the Antiracist Teachers Network:

We know what some of our dedicated readers are thinking right now ... No, we are not the Grinches in your school trying to steal Christmas by knocking over trees and taking tinsel off doors. The ATN is not against the spirit of Christmas or becoming the Scourges that need some festive seasonal cheer (we appreciate the kindness that emerges at this time of year).

ATN members discussed during our last collaborative meeting how "**Winter Time**" quickly becomes "**Christmas Time**" in many schools when the first snow falls. This had us thinking - **How could we holistically recognize the various holidays of different cultures throughout the year, and what challenges come with this?** The ATN's discussion led to many strong ideas and information to help schools move towards a more balanced representation of different holiday recognitions.

Here are our **five key ideas**:

- **Bring it back to your students** to suggest celebrations without making them the monolith for learning, centre them in the conversation.
- **Diversify your parent council** to help with sharing information about certain cultural celebrations as parents are one of the most important pieces of a student's educational experiences
- **Set up a culture days calendar** with families, students and staff that is accessible and visible to all in your school and online
- **Recognizing that your concerts and celebrations** around this time of the year can include information about other cultural celebrations with care
- Last but not least, **don't force it**--As some ATN members pointed out **the intent does not remove the impact of certain actions**. Don't force holiday celebrations on your students that don't observe them and don't expect students to educate you or have strong ties to certain culture celebrations. Everyones identities are different and intersect in ways that make them unique individuals.

Still stumped on how to make this work for everyone? When in doubt, you can always check out the rest of this month's newsletter for ideas and explorations!

OUR MONTHLY BOOK RECCS

From the ATN Resource Bank!

K to 4 **Happy All-Idays!** by Cindy Jin, **Freedom Soup** by Tami Charles and Jacqueline Alcántara, **Seven Spools of Thread: A Kwanzaa Story** by Angela Shelf Medaris and Daniel Minter, **The Night of Las Posadas** by Tomie dePaola, **The People Remember** by Ibi Zoboi, **Way Too Many Latkes** by Linda Zolotic, **Hanukkah Bear** by Eric A. Kimmel, **Daddy Christmas and Hanukkah Mama** by Selina Also, **Latkes and Applesauce** by Fran Manushkin, **Holidays & Celebrations** by Carron Brown, **A Year Full of Celebrations and Festivals** by Claire Grace, **Let's Celebrate: Special Days Around the World** by Kate DePalma, **Mouse Celebrates the Winter Solstice** by Terri Mack, **Queen of the Hanukkah Dosas** by Pamela Ehrenberg


5 to 9 - **The Return of Light: Twelve Tales from Around the World for the Winter Solstice** by Carolyn McVikar Edwards, **Brother's Keeper** by Julie Lee

10 to 12 - **How to Excavate a Heart** by Jake Arlow

For Teachers - **Teaching Across Cultures** by James E. Plueddemann, **Teaching and Learning for Intercultural Understanding** by Debra Rader

COOL STUFF!

- **The McCormick Center** has developed [a quick guide to ten different winter celebrations around the world](#) along with discussion questions about winter holidays.
- **The Anti-Defamation League (ADL)** echoes the conversations had by the ATN and [provides a straightforward guide](#) to making December a teaching opportunity for educators, families and caregivers.
- Looking to add some Social Studies to your classroom alphabet? **Miss. McRae's Teaching Tales** has a [Canadian Influential/Important Figures Alphabet](#) to help start some conversations!
- Check out the **Center for Racial Justice in Education** and their [Racial Justice Guide to the Winter Holiday Season](#)



WINTER SOLSTICE FROM AN INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVE!

Elder Wilfred Buck shares how the Cree recognize the shortest day and longest night of the year in [this short video from CBC Indigenous](#) great for any class!



ARTICLE EXPLORATION IDEAS!

The History Channel provides two articles about [Christmas Traditions Around The World](#) and the [History of Christmas Trees](#) which would be great for classroom jigsaws or discussions.!



LOOKING FOR PREVIOUS ATN ISSUES?

You can find them under [Antiracist Teacher Network Newsletter](#) here!



INTERESTED IN JOINING THE LOCAL 38 ANTIRACIST TEACHERS NETWORK?

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

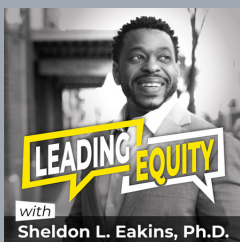


Cultural differences should not separate us from each other, but rather cultural diversity brings a collective strength that can benefit all of humanity.

~ Robert Alan

POWERFUL PODCASTS TO CHECK OUT!

With winter comes longer commute times due to snowfall and weather fluctuations. Here are Five Powerful Podcasts you can check out to keep you company during those long commutes home!

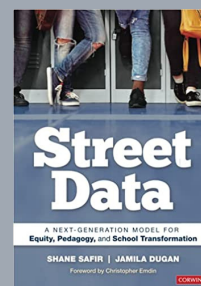


Leading Equity Podcast

The Leading Equity Podcast, hosted by Dr. Sheldon Eakins, focuses on supporting educators with the tools and resources necessary to ensure equity at their school. On this podcast, listeners can expect to hear interviews and stories from voices of equity in education today.

Street Data Podcast

Join Shane Safir and Alcine Mumby as they launch Street Data Pod: Imagining the Next Generation of Education. They each share their "why" for this project and name some ways of being that help them navigate working across differences. You'll also hear what people get wrong about the work they do and what kind of data they think educators must collect in these complex times to be alive and human.



Anti-Racist Educator Reads

A broadcast for educators who understand that we need to be talking about race and racism in schools now. We will learn, and unlearn through a great book on racial justice. Each week, your host Colinda Clyne invites educational leaders to be in conversation about sections of selected texts, discussing historical contexts and connections to education.



Teaching While White

"Teaching While White (TWW) seeks to move the conversation forward on how to be consciously, intentionally, anti-racist in the classroom. Because "white" does not mean a blank slate. It is a set of assumptions that is the baseline from which everything is judged; it is what passes for normal. TWW wants to have conversations about those assumptions: what they are, how they impact our students, and how we can confront our bias to promote racial literacy."



The UnLeading Project

The UnLeading Project makes two assumptions: Leadership exists in all spaces, and we are all leaders. If you are a leader or aspiring leader, or if you are interested in leadership in classrooms, schools, communities, homes, districts, and academies, this podcast series is for you. If you know that traditional approaches to leadership have not addressed the realities or attended to the aspirations of students and communities most harmed by schooling, this podcast series is for you.

