

REDI NEWSLETTER

Practicing Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

New Year, New Opportunities for REDI

What are your REDI goals for 2024? How might I build community in my classroom and school?

This issue of the REDI newsletter offers some resources and ideas that might ignite some new ways of approaching teaching and learning with lens of reconciliation, equity and inclusion for the new year.

Celebrations: Broadening our Lens



Images from Unsplash and Dreamstime

With most countries around the world following a Gregorian calendar, New Year traditions that include fireworks, noisemakers, polar bear swims, and resolutions on January 1st might feel commonplace and universal. In what ways do students, families, and staff from diverse traditions and ancestry in our school community celebrate a new year? By focusing on learning about the diverse new year celebrations observed in our class and school community as well as elsewhere in the world, educators encourage students to develop positive personal and social identities as well as an awareness and appreciation for the diversity that exists around them. While it is certainly not possible to celebrate and learn about all of them, the make-up of your community can direct which ones you can amplify and begin with through learning. A guiding principle of REDI work is that we all exist in relationship. In doing this work in an ongoing, relational, and student-centred and community-centred manner, we practice equity in action and anticolonial pedagogy.

Guiding questions for planning could include:

- What are the stories that are shared on your holidays?
- What values are uplifted on your holidays?
- What are some similarities across the new year celebrations observed in our class?
- What traditions have my ancestors shared with me to celebrate the new year?
- How do holidays invite people to celebrate together or care for each other?
- What practices and traditions make celebrations joyful?

New year celebrations across cultures, faiths, and regions include:

- Lunar New Year (East Asian)
- Hijri (Islamic)
- Nowruz (Persian)
- Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
- Mahayana (Buddhist)

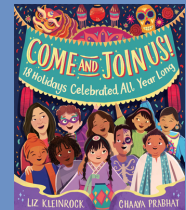
- Hobiye (Nisga'a)
- Thingyan (Burmese)
- Seollal (Korean)
- Diwali (South Asian)

...and many more! Begin by asking students, colleagues, and families in your community what they celebrate!

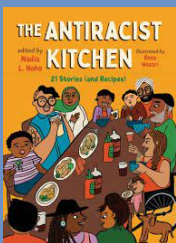
COME JOIN US, BY LIZ KLEINROCK

Who says the holidays only happen in the winter? Every day's a holiday when you live in a world as diverse as ours! From Juneteenth to Vesak, and Yom Kippur to Día de las Muertos, the festivities never end. Learn about eighteen holidays celebrated by a diverse group of children in this inviting and joyful picture book written by renowned antibias and antiracist educator, Liz Kleinrock of Teach and Transform,

This book is useful for discussing holidays in the classroom and can be an enjoyable resource for making sure no one holiday is more valued than the other.



THE ANTIRACIST KITCHEN, NADIA L. HOHN (EDITOR)



What if talking about racism was as easy as baking a cake, frying plantains or cooking rice? The Antiracist Kitchen: 21 Stories (and Recipes) is a celebration of food, family, activism and resistance in the face of racism. In this anthology featuring stories and recipes from 21 diverse and award-winning North American children's authors, the authors share the role of food in their lives and how it has helped fight discrimination, reclaim culture and celebrate people with different backgrounds.

LUNAR NEW YEAR KIT



This kit is available for booking through the District Resource Centre. Contact drcbookings@sd38.bc.ca Contents: 15 Books + 2 lion puppets, 10 Chinese rattle drums, 1 Korean butterfly norigae, Chinese lucky coins and bag, Chinese red envelopes, Chinese paper lanterns, metal Chinese zodiac poster, metal Chinese zodiac wheel.

Audience: Grade K-7.

Learning Resources for Commemorative Dates

INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

JANUARY 27

The anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. This day of remembrance was established to honour the six million Jews and millions of other victims of the Holocaust and Nazism. The United Nations calls on individuals to hold memorial services and undertake educational initiatives to learn more and help prevent such tragedies from occurring in the future. Find some helpful resources for educators linked below:

- The Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion has curated an extensive collection of educational resources available [here](#).
- This [NFB playlist](#) provides secondary-school educators with new ways to teach students about the Holocaust. With a mix of documentary and short animation, these films offer perspectives that might not have been previously considered.

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE QUEBEC CITY MOSQUE ATTACK AND ACTION AGAINST ISLAMOPHOBIA

JANUARY 29

The anniversary date of the attack on Centre culturel islamique de Québec in Sainte-Foy in 2017 - one of the deadliest mass shootings in Canadian history. This is a day to remember the victims, their families, and the survivors of this attack and to reaffirm a stand against Islamophobia. Find some helpful resources for educators linked below:

- A [playlist of NFB films](#) that lift the voices of Canadians of Muslim faith and address Islamophobia in our society.
- From CBC Kids, [Islamophobia: What it means and what's being done to stop it](#) discusses Islamophobia, how it impacts Canadians and what is being done to stop it. (Grades 4-12)
- A more extensive list of CBC videos on Islam and Islamophobia are available on Curio [here](#).



SD 38 has paid access to digital databases such as NFB and Curio. Please see the Teacher Librarian at your school for support logging in.



NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION TO HONOUR MISSING MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN, GIRLS, TRANS, AND 2-SPIRITED

February 14th is a national day of action to bring justice to murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls (MMIWG) across Turtle Island. It is marked by an annual MMIWG Memorial March, also known as the Stolen Sisters Memorial March which began in 1992 in Vancouver's DTES where community members demanded awareness and action as a result of members of the Indigenous and non-Indigenous women, girls and the 2SLGBTQIA+ community going missing or being murdered at alarming rates. Their Voices Will Guide Us is an educational resource offering lessons, background info, activities and further resources to introduce the value of Indigenous women's and girls' lives into the classroom and into the minds and hearts of students. *The Moose Hide Campaign is also an Indigenous-led grassroots movement that began in BC to engage men and boys in ending violence towards women and children. It has since grown into a movement of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians. Please note a correction to the district calendar: this year's campaign date is May 16.*

New and Notable



SUPPORTING NEWCOMER FAMILIES FROM WAR ZONES

Dr. Sofia Noori (Assistant Professor at UBC's Faculty of Education, Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy) has developed a free online resource, Supporting Teachers to Address the Mental Health Needs of Newcomers from War Zones, to strengthen the capacity of elementary and secondary school communities in providing culturally appropriate support for war affected learners and their families. The chapters include:

1. People Coming from Warzones to BC Schools
2. Effects of War and Forced Migration
3. Distress and Resilience During Resettlement
4. The Role of Schools, Communities, and Parents in Developing Resilience
5. Teacher Practices That Support Refugee Students Increased Resiliency.

Dr. Noori is presenting her work in a webinar on February 27. Register [here](#).

Every effort has been made to highlight resources that are useful and appropriate for a wide range of students. The resources offered are not meant to be prescriptive. Each class of students and teacher is different, and previewing all the resources is essential.