



# KIMBERLEY JR P.S. SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR KIMBERLEY FAMILIES

FEBRUARY 2023

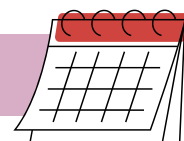
## BLACK HISTORY MONTH (AND EVERY MONTH) AT HOME

In a [2017 opinion piece](#) in *The New York Times*, American philosopher and professor George Yancy wrote, "White people ought to use [Black History] month to engage in a shared form of vulnerability and mourning, a collective recognition, with a fearless countenance, of how white racist complicity and black suffering were historically linked and are currently intertwined. Such a courageous act of vulnerability is not about white guilt, but white responsibility."

Although it's been six years since Yancy penned that article, it's clear that a "white responsibility" remains. If your family identifies as white, we encourage you to use Black History Month as an opportunity to build awareness and deepen the understanding of this responsibility at home. At Kimberley Beaches Alternative we are on a journey to help build an inclusive future for our community. Celebrating Black history, Canadians and communities isn't about one month of the year. It is a lifelong commitment where we are learning, celebrating and breaking down barriers to empower future generations. We want to encourage families to continuously have these conversations with their children. In this issue we have included resources for all families to reflect and celebrate Black histories and Black futures: from foundational theory texts to social media influencers, Afrofuturist artists and how to have "difficult" conversations about racial identities. We hope this material inspires you to explore these themes this month and throughout the year. You can also follow us on Twitter at [@kjps\\_council](#) as we share resources from and about Black educators, artists and trailblazers this month and beyond.

If there is something specific you'd like to see here, if you think we've missed the mark, or if you just want to say hi, email us at [kimberleyjpscouncil@gmail.com](mailto:kimberleyjpscouncil@gmail.com).

## IMPORTANT DATES



- **Lakeridge Ski Trip for grades 4-6** – February 9
- **Family Movie Night** – February 10
- **School Council Meeting** – Wednesday, February 22, 7:00 p.m.
- **Purdys Easter chocolate sale** – February 27-March 11
- **Skating Day at Ted Reeves** – March 7
- **Family Math Skills & Games Night** – March 27
- **School Council Meeting** – Tuesday, March 28, 7:00 p.m.
- **★ Save the Date! ★ Kimberley Fun Fair** – Thursday, June 1 (more info on page 7)

## MOVIE NIGHT IS NEXT FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10



Our next Movie Night is Friday, February 10. Doors at 6:00 p.m. Movie at 6:30 p.m.

Please help your child(ren) fill out this form to vote for the movie we should screen and let us know how much pizza to order.

Each student can vote once for *Encanto*, *DC League of Super-Pets* or *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*.



If you missed it last time, you do not want to miss this one! Movie Night is a fun night out for students and a chance for parents to mingle. Run by school council, we sell pizza, drinks and treats to raise money for our initiatives (but it's mainly about the fun for the kids!). Students vote in advance on which movie they would like to see and they can bring blankets and pillows to get comfy on the gym floor. Parents/guardians are required to be in the gym with their children.

Want to help? Email Laura ([laurajflanagan@gmail.com](mailto:laurajflanagan@gmail.com)). We need volunteers to set up the gym before, set up, sell and serve food/drinks for the first 30 minutes and clean up after the movie.



## JOIN THE SCHOOL COUNCIL BUDGET COMMITTEE

School Council is forming a Budget Committee and we are looking for 3-5 interested parents, caregivers or teachers to join. The committee, led by our Treasurer, will invite and receive proposals from parents, caregivers and teachers for new initiatives and events for the school that require school council funds. The committee will review each proposal and evaluate whether it should be allocated funds for the following school year. Successful proposals will be brought forward by the committee to be included in the final budget and presented for approval to the school council in June. Help us decide how the budget is spent! Email [kimbereysc@gmail.com](mailto:kimbereysc@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining the Budget Committee. Note that if we have more than five people interested, we will draw names (or have a Karaoke competition) to determine the committee members.

## WE'RE ACCEPTING PROPOSALS FOR NEW INITIATIVES!

In related news... Do you have an idea for a school initiative, event or program that you would like to champion? Does it require money from the school council budget to run?

**Complete this form by March 17, 2023** for consideration by the School Council Budget Committee. This year, school council planned movie nights, read-a-thon, math skills night, skating day, healthy families night and more. Is there something else you would like to see happen at Kimberley? This is your chance. Have your say! We welcome all ideas, big or small. Don't hesitate to contact us at [kimbereysc@gmail.com](mailto:kimbereysc@gmail.com) with any questions.

## REMEMBERING BLACK HISTORIES & CELEBRATING BLACK FUTURES



### RESOURCES FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS

**[The visionary thinking behind Black History Month](#)** – This Black History Month, start at the beginning. In this article for the Boston Globe, Associate Professor Jarvis R. Givens pays tribute to Black history with a book written almost a century ago by Black History Month founder and academic, Carter G. Woodson.



**[Black Soul \(9 mins\)](#)** – Martine Chartrand's animated short from the National Film Board of Canada dives into the heart of Black culture with an exhilarating trip through history. Watch as a young boy traces his roots through the stories his grandmother shares with him about the events that shaped their cultural heritage.

**[If your child asks, "Why isn't there a white history month?"](#)** – Instagram influencer and educator Britt Hawthorne (@BrittHawthorne) provides accessible language and tactics on how to (re)educate your children and yourself about racial identities, white supremacy and why BHM isn't only about historical perspectives. Hawthorne provides support for free but welcomes donations of a few dollars for her labour.

**[Meleko Mokgosi: Imaging Imaginations](#)** – The Art Gallery of York University presents artist Meleko Mokgosi's first solo exhibition in Canada. On view until June 10, this exhibition debuts a new body of paintings and prints by Mokgosi, who is well known for his imposing and vivid multi-panel paintings that feature hyper-realistic depictions of Black figures within narrative scenes.



**[White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack](#)** – This 1989 article by Peggy McIntosh is a seminal piece on recognizing white privilege. If you identify as white and it's been a while since you've read it (or if you haven't read it before), it's an important message to revisit.

**[Toronto Black Film festival](#)** – Running February 15–20, the Toronto Black Film Festival is a platform for Black artists to share their creative voices. Watch more than 125 films from 20 countries.

### RESOURCES FOR KIDS

*(See the DEI Committee insert on page 5 for more resources)*

**[This list of e-books](#)** from the Toronto Public Library focuses on Black lives in stories for children.

**[African Heritage Month](#)** at the TDSB celebrates the many achievements and contributions of peoples of African descent to Canada and the world. The chosen theme for 2022-2023 is Black Joy.

**[Black History Month began in the United States](#)**, initially for one week in 1926, as a way to combat eurocentric curriculums in schools. Watch this video from *National Geographic Kids* to learn more.





## REMEMBERING BLACK HISTORIES & CELEBRATING BLACK FUTURES

EXPLORE THE BEAUTIFUL KALEIDOSCOPE OF AFROFUTURISM



For the uninitiated, Afrofuturism is a fluid ideology shaped by generations of artists, musicians, scholars, and activists whose aim is to reconstruct “Blackness” in the culture. You’ve seen Afrofuturism represented in music and fashion (George Clinton and Janelle Monáe), in film (*Black Panther* and *A Wrinkle in Time*) and in literature (science-fiction writer Octavia E. Butler). Explore and celebrate further the beautiful kaleidoscope that is Afrofuturism through the below resources.

**[Afrofuturism Has Always Looked Forward](#)** – This *Architectural Digest* article explores Afrofuturism and provides “notes on the future” by asking, How can the ideology serve as a blueprint for cultural growth?

**[Meet artist Quentin VerCetty](#)** – Montreal artist Quentin VerCetty is a multiple award-winning multidisciplinary storyteller, educator, and Afrofuturist. In this Carnegie Hall interview they talk about their work as one of the world’s leading Afrofuturist artists.

**[Black is King](#)** – This film/visual album by Beyoncé reimagines the lessons from *The Lion King: The Gift* for today’s youth in search of their own crowns. It is an Afrobeat-infused collection of musical vignettes that features many Afrofuturistic images.

**[Experience the music of AfrotroniX](#)** – AfrotroniX merges electronic music with African rhythms and electric Touareg blues. Created by the Chadian guitarist Caleb Rimtobaye, AfrotroniX live shows mix an electro DJ, live instruments, African urban dance performances and digital art. Listen to the music and watch the mesmerizing videos.

**[Afrofuturism inspires](#)** – Carnegie Hall presented its citywide Afrofuturism festival last year but you can still explore a myriad of carefully curated online resources on the ever-expansive aesthetic of Afrofuturism.

# DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE

The content on this page is provided by the DEI Committee.



## READ



- [Children's book list](#) for black history month from the Toronto Public Library
- [Books on black history](#) in Toronto and Ontario

## WATCH



- CBC Kids News | Black History Month: [Exploring the past and future of February's annual celebration](#)
- For the parents: [32 Movies About Black History](#) That Should Be On Your Must-Watch List

## DO



- [Support black-owned local businesses](#) during BHM and every day of the year
- Activity: Read aloud story and conversation starters
- [Little People, Big Dreams: Rosa Parks](#)

If you're up for it, here are a few ideas for questions you might ask to begin some discussions:

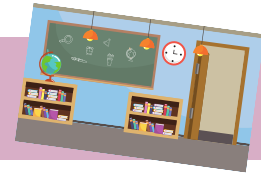
- How do you think Rosa felt when people told her to give up her seat on the bus?
  - Do you think it was fair that people told Rosa to give up her seat?
  - Would you have helped Rosa? Do you think it would have been scary?
  - Do you think Rosa was brave? Why?
  - What do you think you would have done if you had been on the bus?
- Spread kindness (and model spreading kindness for your children)

**“People will forget what you said,  
people will forget what you did,  
but people will never forget  
how you made them feel.”**

*- Maya Angelou*

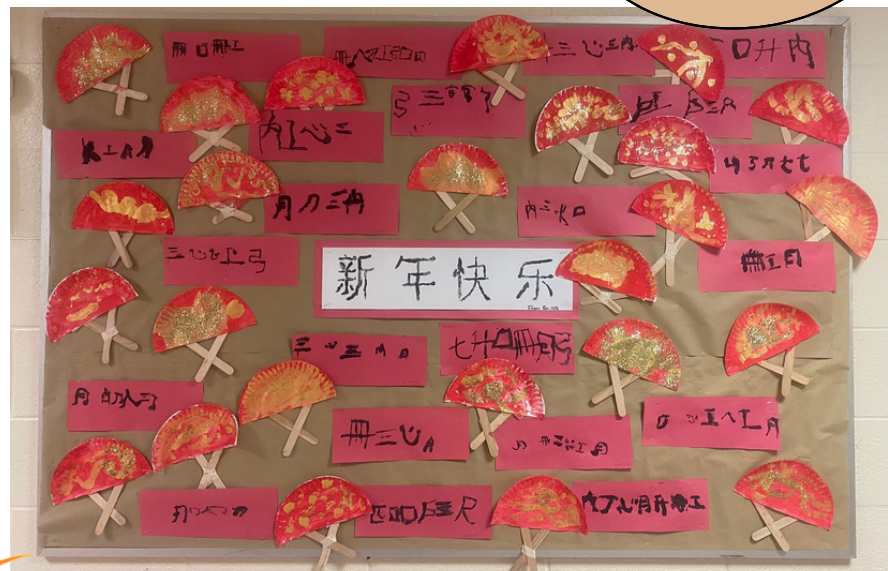
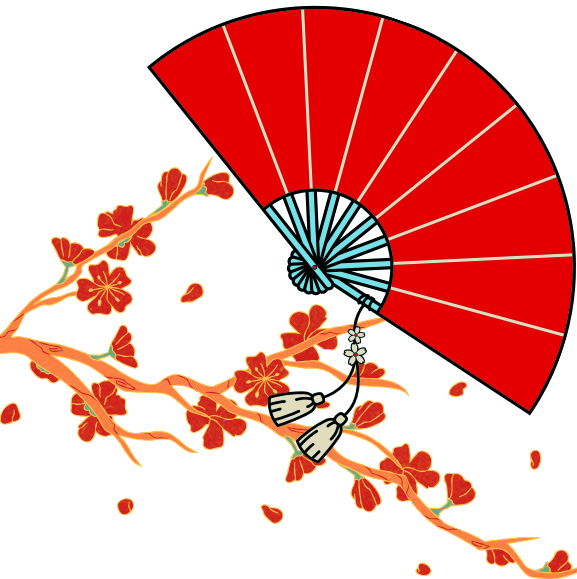
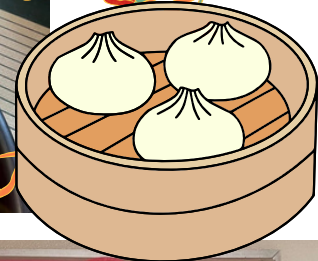


## WELCOME TO OUR CLASSROOM



Every issue we take a look inside a Kimberley classroom. This month, it's Mrs. Gray's Kindergarten class.

Mrs. Gray's Kindergarten class learned that red is a lucky colour during the Lunar New Year, which they used to decorate fans, a traditional Chinese symbol that represents the moon and signifies happiness. Students used Chinese characters to paint their names. They also learned about traditional food, such as noodles and dumplings, that are customarily eaten during the celebration. Students were encouraged to explore the drama centre with all the fun Lunar New Year-themed items.



Did you know you can support school council activities just by shopping through FlipGive? Buy gift cards or shop online at popular retailers such as Sport Chek, Canadian Tire, Starbucks and more using our unique code: BCTC9Z



## GETTING TO KNOW YOU: MARK GLYN WILLIAMS, LIBRARIAN

**Q: What is your favourite thing about yourself?** A: My sense of humour. I like to have a good laugh and making other people laugh makes me happy. Looking at the funny side of life is a good way to stay positive.

**Q: What are you looking forward to this school year?** A: Spring! I love it when the weather starts to warm up. Not to mention it also means the spring book fair and track and field.

**Q: How would you spend your "perfect day"?** A: Relaxing with a book by the water. I also really love food and music so dinner out and a concert would also be at the top of the list.

**Q: When you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up?** A: To be honest I never knew what I wanted to be. It was always up in the air. That changed when I was a teenager teaching swimming lessons and I realized I really liked working with kids and teaching them new skills.

**Q: What are some of your favourite foods?** A: I can't resist a good curry and roti, other than that, pretty much anything Italian.

**Q: Who do you like to spend time with?** A: When I'm not hanging at home with my husband Doug and our dog Sophie, I love big family get togethers. I come from a large family. My dad is one of 18!

## SAVE THE DATE: KIMBERLEY FAMILY FUN FAIR

**Kimberley Public School Family Fun Fair**

**Thursday, June 1, 2023**

**Time: 5:00 - 7:00pm**



If you've never been to our fun fair before, here's what you can expect: an evening of laughter, huge smiles, community building, fun games, amazing food, fresh air and watching your kid(s) run around making memories with their friends. Basically, it's what childhood is all about. We'll have a bouncy castle, inflatable obstacle course, and many more games and activities. As well as face painting so good that your kids won't want to shower for a week! Stay for dinner and eat some BBQ and lots of other different types of food and sweets. Your family is going to have a blast!

**Volunteers Needed** It takes a lot of help to make this night a success and we are looking for a few more people to join the Fun Fair Committee. (We are a welcoming, laid back, fun group of parents and we promise it won't be stressful or too much of a time commitment.) Closer to the event we will ask for more volunteers to sign up for volunteering on the day. Stay tuned!

**Sponsorships Available** We are looking for sponsors! Do you have your own company or know someone who does? Getting your company or product name on a ride, activity, or food booth can provide great visibility within the Kimberley/Beaches community. Roughly 300 local parents and their children participate in Family Fun Fair every year. There are sponsorship opportunities available at many different levels and one is sure to suit your business! Without these sponsorship we would not be able to run the fair. If you would like to sponsor or just make a donation please contact Fundraising Co-chairs Ellissa (ellissaglad@gmail.com) and Poppy (poppyphioukham@gmail.com).