Community Update – Spring 2019

Delmore “Buddy” Daye Learning Institute

Excellence in Africentric Education & Research

P2-3 / Community Data Collectors / Chair’s Message

P4-5 / SMU Viola Bursary / Youth Writers Workshop / AMI Girls Conference

P6-8 / JRJ Chair Appointment / NSDPAD Appoints Program Coordinator / GTO Program

P9-11 / King’s Scholarships / Maxine Tynes Celebration / REP Provincial Spelling Bee

P12-14 / New Board Members / Cohort Member Wins Human Rights Award / Government House Presentation

P15-18 / 2019 History Challenge Awards

P19-20 / MSVU Panel Discussion / NSTU Draw Winner / Scholarship Resources Directory Coming Soon!

The Power of Poetry

An evening of readings and remembrances

Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019, 6 to 8 pm
Delmore “Buddy” Daye Learning Institute, 5450 Cornwallis St., Halifax
Comminuity Data Collectors (CDC)
It takes a community to make data count

Background

The research at the Delmore “Buddy” Daye Learning Institute (DBDLI) is informed by the core African idea of “Ubuntu” (I am because you are) and the African proverb “it takes a village to raise a child”. The Institute recognizes the importance of involving community members in all aspects of the research processes to ensure credible interpretation and representation of community voices. The Institute has therefore started developing research capabilities within African Nova Scotian communities through an initiative referred to as ‘Community Data Collectors’ (CDC).

Position Profile

A Community Data Collector (CDC) should have the following profile:

- Self-identified as African Nova Scotian
- At least 19 years old
- Knowledge of African Nova Scotian community strengths
- Knowledge of education issues confronting African Nova Scotian communities
- Comfort level working independently and in groups
- Basic computer skills in MS office and excel
- Basic experience in research and data collection either through workshops, course work or involvement in specific research activities or training
- Belief in the African proverb—“it takes a village to raise a child”

The Key Responsibilities of the CDC include working with a project manager to:

- develop interview protocol and data collection instruments
- inform the community about the research
- mobilize the community for data collection
- contribute to data analysis and report writing strategies
- mobilize the community for the dissemination of research findings

DBDLI provides training to CDCs.
Compensation is provided on a project-by-project basis.

If you meet the position profile and can carry out the key responsibilities, please send your name, contact information (email, mailing address and phone number) to contact@dbdli.ca and indicate why you are interested in this role. Please indicate in the email subject line – “Community Data Collector”.

Questions related to the research work should be directed to Dr. George Frempong at george.frempong@dbdli.ca

***Through a research collaboration with Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC), DBDLI has been able to provide training to 10 African Nova Scotian Community members who were able to collect data from over 100 research participants from 12 African Nova Scotian communities. The Institute is grateful and recognizes the contribution of these CDCs in this research project. The research project is intended to help NSCC further develop an Africentric program that supports the educational success of African Nova Scotians.
OUR ROLE

As an Africentric Institute, the DBDLI creates educational change and genuine opportunities for learners and communities of African ancestry to reach their full potential.

Educational research is vital to achieving our vision. We conduct, research and disseminate findings that inform policy makers, educators, parents and the general public on how to best improve educational opportunities and outcomes for Nova Scotian learners of African ancestry.

The Institute works directly with African Nova Scotian / Canadian organizations, communities, government partners, and educational institutions to identify, develop and implement educational and community capacity enhancement policies, initiatives and services.
Saint Mary’s University celebrates the new Viola Desmond Bursary

African Nova Scotian students attending Saint Mary’s University will soon have more support available to them as a result of a newly established bursary.

The Viola Desmond Bursary was announced on November 8, the date of Viola’s heroic anti-discrimination action in 1946. The bursary is fully-endowed and will be given out every year to qualifying full-time African Nova Scotian students at Saint Mary’s.

“At Saint Mary’s, community is at the heart of what we do. We are very proud to be part of commemorating Viola Desmond, and to have a financial award named in her honour,” said Dr. Malcolm Butler, Vice-President, Academic and Research. “This award will assist generations of African Nova Scotian entrepreneurs attending Saint Mary’s on their path to success.”

The initial award amount will mark the year of Viola Desmond’s anti-segregation action, 1946, with students receiving $1,946. While this award is not renewable, it may be awarded to the same student more than once.

While preference for the bursary will be given to students in the Sobey School of Business, the bursary may also be awarded to students in programs featuring entrepreneurship. Preference will also be given to female students from Halifax County. Students must also have a financial need.

This award was established with the permission of the Desmond Family and through the generosity of The Honourable Wilfred P. Moore, Q.C., LL.D., and Ms. Jane Adams Ritcey.

“Viola Desmond has been very good to our city, our province and our country,” said Senator Wilfred Moore. “My family is very pleased to assist Saint Mary’s University in this most noble virtue—the transfer of knowledge. We do so in keeping with the bedrock tradition of Saint Mary’s, offering a hand up.”

Restorative Inquiry holds “Youth Writers Workshop” with George Elliott Clarke

On March 16, the Restorative Inquiry hosted 17 young writers at a workshop with renowned author George Elliott Clarke. The full day event was held at the Institute’s community space and gave African Nova Scotian youth participants the opportunity not just to hear but, engage with George Elliott Clarke through interactive demonstrations on honing their voice and telling their stories.

Throughout its mandate, the Restorative Inquiry has recognized the importance of ensuring youth—especially African Nova Scotian youth—have a voice in addressing systemic and community issues that affect them. The inquiry has held space for youth in many of its workshops, forums and circles.

(L-R) Sylvia Parris Drummond, DBDLI, George Elliott Clarke & Deborah Emerson, BEA.
The Alexa McDonough Institute for Women, Gender and Social Justice’s 2019 Girls Conference was held on March 8th. This was the 8th annual conference held in celebration of International Women’s Day.

Over 350 young women aged 11 – 19 years from across the province attended, along with their teachers, parents, and community leaders. Thirty-nine workshops were at capacity throughout the day. The workshop topics included literary writing, sexual health, legal rights, body image, self-confidence, creating businesses, STEM careers, First Responder careers, social justice, environmental issues, financial literacy, self-defence, yoga and meditation, youth leadership, community involvement and much more.

Two welcome video messages from special guests, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General and Madame Sophie Gregoire Trudeau, who inspired all of the delegates with their enthusiasm and encouraging words. The Honourable Maryam Monsef, Minister of International Development and Minister for Women and Gender Equality, wrote a welcome letter for the conference delegates.

The morning keynote speaker was Mam-Yassin Sarr, the co-founder and director of Starfish International, a non-profit organization that seeks to advance humanity through girls’ education and service-learning opportunities in The Gambia, West Africa.

The mission of Starfish International is to uplift Gambian girls by providing them with an advanced education that is focused on service to humanity, while at the same time providing international service-learning opportunities for volunteers. The keynote was joined by her 12-year-old daughter, Mam Mary, who shared a beautiful poem for which she received a standing ovation.

El Jones, DBDLI Fellowship recipient, poet, activist, community organizer, scholar, teacher, radio host, journalist, and the Mount’s Nancy’s Chair in Women’s Studies presented the afternoon keynote address and performed a stirring spoken word poem written that day specifically for the occasion.

Overwhelmingly positive reviews were received from the delegates about all aspects of the conference and the DBDLI was proud to be a partner in this, their biggest and best year yet!
Dr. OmiSoore H. Dryden has been named Dalhousie’s James Robinson Johnston (JRJ) Chair in Black Canadian Studies. The Chair will be located in the Faculty of Medicine’s Department of Community Health & Epidemiology. This six-year appointment is effective May 1st, 2019.

Dr. Dryden is an interdisciplinary scholar working at the intersections of health science, social science and humanities. She earned her PhD in Social Justice Education from the Ontario Institute for the Study of Education and the University of Toronto, where her dissertation examined how blood donation rules discriminate against certain populations. Her research has been published in various peer-reviewed journals and books. She has been a Researcher-In-Residence with the Ontario HIV Treatment Network and has received research grants from Canadian Blood Services and the Public Health Agency of Canada.

The hiring followed the standard academic search committee process, with representation from the Dalhousie Black Faculty Caucus and black student representation. The DBDLI in its capacity as the Africentric education and research Institute, and in partnership with Dalhousie University, hosted an African Nova Scotian Community Meet & Greet with each of the three candidates last fall. In this open forum, each candidate delivered a presentation and the public had an opportunity to meet the candidates and talk about their research with a focus on community health needs.

Dr. Dryden will help the Faculty of Medicine strengthen Dalhousie’s institutional priorities to enhance diversity, foster community outreach, and build a health research mandate that is collaborative, interdisciplinary and nationally recognized.

Vanessa Fells Appointed as African Nova Scotian Decade for People of African Descent Coalition (DPAD) Program Coordinator

The African Nova Scotian Decade for People of African Descent Coalition (DPAD) is pleased to welcome Vanessa Fells as their new Program Coordinator.

Vanessa was born and raised into a large family in the African Nova Scotia Community of Yarmouth. The importance of education was instilled in her at a young age and she took this to heart earning 2 Bachelor’s degrees (Sociology and Criminology) and a Master’s of Education in Afrocentric Policy. Vanessa is also the 2015 United Nations Canadian Representative for the UN Human Rights Decade for People of African Descent Fellowship Program which took place in Geneva, Switzerland.

In her new role, Vanessa will oversee the operations of the Coalition including their strategic plan, working groups & committees (justice, health, education, youth, community services data etc.), build strong relationships with community & government stakeholders, build membership, develop a communications plan as well as outreach & programming, hire new staff and much more. The DPAD Coalition is excited to have Vanessa on board as we work collaboratively to positively impact the lives of all African Nova Scotians.
The Administrative Coordinator at HFX Learning Centre knows first-hand the challenges that many marginalized youth face on the road to academic success.

And that insight is helping Shakisha Downey, her employer and the communities they serve to develop a strong foundation for individual growth and literacy skills development across HRM.

As a teen with some family support but mainly under the care of The Department of Community Services in Halifax – Dartmouth, Shakisha focused on centering her energy into school and education. This became her starting point and anchor for personal and professional development.

Now a Dalhousie University graduate with a Sociology degree, Shakisha works full time at the Halifax Learning Centre (HLC) not only as an administrator but also to develop partnerships within communities to mirror the learning support they provide to communities such as North Preston. HLC assesses youth literacy needs and delivers programs to support youth in reaching their full learning potential.

“I first started at HFX Learning, as an office administrator,” says Shakisha. “But we are now shifting my role to take on more outreach, to create more partnerships with communities who may not have access to such literacy programs and see what we can do together to encourage everyone, of all ages and backgrounds, to get serious about their journey to literacy. I can relate personally to these kids on a lot of levels. Now we have an opportunity to build positive programs to support these youth in academic success.”

Executive Director of HLC, Sarah Arnold, says Shakisha has been making an impact since the start.

“Her ability to project manage, and to understand and
upgrade technology has taken us to a whole new level – and this was just in the first year. Now she is actively developing outreach programs in HRM,” says Sarah. “As someone who is a shining example of a successful, young African Nova Scotian, who used education as a foundational building block, she brings intelligence and insight into her role connecting and engaging community in a strategy to educate youth,” says Sarah.

Hiring well-educated post-secondary graduates in Nova Scotia is made easier for employers with the help the Provincial funding program, “Graduate to Opportunity” (GTO). Eligible employers can receive 25% of a grad’s first year salary and 12.5% of the grad’s second year salary from the government. This incentive made it easier for HFX Learning to hire Shakisha right out of university.

If the grad is a member of a designated diversity group such as aboriginal, persons with a disability, a visible minority, international student, women in a non-traditional occupation or African Nova Scotian, the employer will receive an extra 10% of the grad’s first-year salary.

“I am continuously inspired by my coworkers, who challenge me to want more.” says Shakisha. “Now I am in a position where I have colleagues to support what I am doing. In many ways I learn from them, and they learn from me too.”

Recently Shakisha met with a group home director for a facility that she lived in at a younger age, to talk about implementing literacy assessments to determine where the girls in residence need academic support.

“We identify their strengths and the learning areas that need improvement,” says Shakisha. “I am thinking back to when I was living there, and I could have really benefited from that. It is amazing that now I am in a position to help it come together for others.”

The Graduate to Opportunity program helps build a stronger workforce in Nova Scotia by retaining young people like Shakisha in their fields of study and attaching them to meaningful careers in the province.

Employers are eligible if they are small businesses with less than 100 full-time employees, start-ups, non-profits, registered charities or social enterprises. Since the implementation of the diversity bonus, over 130 diverse graduates like Shakisha have been employed full-time in their fields with the support of the program.

“Companies with diverse teams are better equipped to reach a broader audience and often deliver business more efficiently because they can understand their audience on a more personable level,” says Shakisha. “Having an African Nova Scotian who is familiar with the experiences of some of the people we want to reach is essential to understanding the needs of clients. I think other employers could see the same kind-of benefits that Sarah has seen. Most importantly, the community is thinking this person speaks my language. We are the same kind of human being.”

“Shakisha is one of three wonderful grads we were able to hire with the support of GTO,” says Sarah. “This hiring is essential to the growth, reach and longevity of HFX Learning. They are the next generation of warriors to fight to eradicate illiteracy in Nova Scotia.”

HFX Learning looks forward to tapping into the GTO program again as they continue to grow in size.

For employers interested in learning more about hiring recent post-secondary graduates like Shakisha, check out the GTO program: https://novascotia.ca/programs/graduate-to-opportunity/.
King’s announces re-establishment of Prince Scholarship for African-Nova Scotian students

King’s has re-established the Prince Scholarship, and this time as an endowed award. In 1959, thanks to a benefactor who requested anonymity, King’s established the first Prince Scholarship, then a renewable $1,000 scholarship for an African Nova Scotian student - the first of its kind in the 1960s. It was available for 10 years but when its benefactor died, the funding ceased.

Now endowed in perpetuity, the scholarship is currently valued at $6,000 and will be renewable for four years, bringing the total value of the scholarship to $24,000 over four years. It will again be awarded to African Nova Scotian students entering the Foundation Year Program and pursuing a degree in arts, science, journalism (honours) or music.

Chair of King’s Board of Governors, Doug Ruck, who graduated from King’s in 1972, spoke at the announcement, citing his own experience as an African Nova Scotian coming to King’s in the late 1960s. As an applicant, he recalled reading the King’s calendar and learning there was a scholarship for black students. At the time, King’s was the only university in Nova Scotia to offer such a scholarship.
On February 28, 2019 “The Power of Poetry Celebrating Maxine Tynes” Reading and Remembrance event was held at the Delmore Buddy Daye Learning Institute. Presented in cooperation with the Writers Federation of NS (WFNS) and Halifax Public Libraries, the event gave the audience an intimate evening in recognition and celebration of Maxine, through her works of poetry and performances by contemporary spoken word artists. Stories of Ms. Tynes’ impact on her students and colleagues were also shared and provided a small glimpse into her life.

The evening readings were hosted by Augy Jones, Manager of Student Experience at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. Augy holds a Bachelor of Arts in poetry and a Bachelor of Education in English Language Arts from St. Francis Xavier University. Augy was taught by Ms. Tynes and has provided poetry workshops to some of the evening’s poets.

The audience was blessed to have several pieces of Maxine’s poetry performed by a great mix of poets and spoken word artists including Lindsay Ruck, Andre Fenton, Dr. Afua Cooper, Marjorie Stone and Evelyn White. There were also video performances from Guyleigh Johnson and Abena Beloved Green.

Special thanks to Marilyn Smulders of the WFNS and Heather MacKenzie of the Halifax Public Libraries for their design and logistical support.
SAVE THE DATE!

The 13th Annual REP Provincial Spelling BEE

S P E L L I N G

Saturday, MAY 11, 2019 at 1PM

For information & registration:
424-7036 | 1-800-565-3398
www.theblackeducators.ca

Come BEE Part of the EXCITEMENT!
New Board Members

**Marcus Marsman**

Marcus was the first in his family to attend university. His great-Grandfather, Clem Marsman, owned two properties in Africville overlooking the Bedford Basin until the mid 1960s. Two generations later, Marcus was born into a single parent family and raised in public housing in the west end of Halifax. Marcus is passionate about education, distributive justice and reducing inequality in society. In 2018, he returned to Dalhousie to study at the Schulich School of Law through the Indigenous Blacks & Mi’kmaq Initiative. The initiative was established in 1989 to address discrimination in the justice system and to make the legal profession more accurately reflect the communities most impacted by our criminal justice system. Still wanting to be involved in the education of youth, Marsman now serves as a member of the DBDLI Board, to help assist with developing programs and providing services on behalf of African Canadian/Nova Scotian learners of all ages.

**Lillian (Missy) Searl**

Lillian (Missy) Searl is currently the Operations and Information Technology Lead at the Association of Workplace Educators of Nova Scotia. Missy has over 14 years experience in the field of Adult Education, with an Early Childhood Educators and Family Support Worker background. Missy has been active in her community serving on a health board, parent teacher organizations, Military Family Resource Centre board of directors, sports and a variety of community committees.

Missy is passionate about helping others and since 2009 she has coordinated a collection drive called “WINNOW”; over the past 10 years she has collected more than $30,000 in personal care items for local shelters, from friends, family and strangers who hear about her collection. She is a recipient of the Woman of Spirit award from Dress For Success Halifax, because of this project. Missy resides in Eastern Passage.
New Board Members (Continued)

Angela Simmonds

Angela believes that education and the law can be used as a tool to address inequities in our society. She is a lawyer and is currently the Manager of Equity of Access at the Nova Scotia’s Barristers Society. She provides education, strategies and counsel on issues of equity, diversity and inclusion. She previously worked for Nova Scotia Legal Aid, Federal Prosecution Service Canada, Department of Natural Resources, and the Halifax Regional School Board.

Angela has been able to use her legal knowledge and connection to community members to address anti-black racism and discrimination. For her dedication and work on this issue she was the recipient of the 2017 Burnley “Rocky” Jones Human Rights Award, 2018 Canadian Association of Black lawyers “Pathfinder” award and the co-recipient of the 2017 Judge Corrine Sparks Award.

She is a member of the Canadian Association of Black Lawyers, The African Nova Scotian Decade for People of African Descent Coalition, and the Legal Education Action Fund (LEAF).

She currently resides in North Preston with her husband Dean and has three children - AJ, Angelina, Adre and a beautiful grandson Amari Antonio.

DBDLI Cohort Participant Receives Human Rights Award

One of our Master of Education in Counselling Cohort participants was the recipient of a Nova Scotia Human Rights Award.

DeRico Symonds, nominated by DBDLI’s Coordinator Youth Initiatives and Projects and endorsed by the Institute, was recognized for his advocacy efforts to find solutions to some of our community’s most pressing issues.

DeRico was awarded the Dr. Burnley “Rocky” Jones Award on International Human Rights Day, December 10, 2018, at the Halifax Central Library.
On Tuesday, February 26th, 2019 a public evening at Government House took place at Government house in observation of the 2019 African Heritage Month theme: “Our History is Your History”.

Sylvia Parris-Drummond, CEO of the DBDLI and Otis Daye, grandson of the late Delmore “Buddy” Daye co-presented a recount of the life of Delmore “Buddy” Daye and the work of the Institute named after him.

Otis’ presentation gave those in the audience in-depth insight into who Delmore “Buddy” Daye was and how he worked closely with young leaders to seek viable solutions to the very real problems of unemployment and sub-standard living conditions in the community. Daye went on to become the first African Nova Scotian to be appointed as Sergeant-at-Arms at the Nova Scotia House of Assembly.

Sylvia presented the vision of the DBDLI as an Africentric Institute, that creates educational change for learners and communities of African ancestry to have genuine opportunities to reach their full potential. Their presentation illustrated that the man - Delmore “Buddy” Daye - and the work of Institute are closely intertwined.

The evening concluded with a reception giving folks an opportunity to connect and explore Government House.

For additional photos of the event go to the Government House official website at: www.lt.gov.ns.ca
The 2019 African Nova Scotian History Challenge Awards

This year’s celebration and awards ceremony was once again held at Chebucto Heights Elementary School. The venue was packed with students, teachers, family members and community who witnessed our largest group of award recipients yet.

To all the students and teachers who worked hard on all of the submissions we received, well done and a special congratulations to the Winners and the Honourable Mention recipients. Your submissions of various written and creative platforms best exemplified the contributions that African Nova Scotians have made to the history, heritage and culture of our province.

Congratulations and thank you for being part of this important initiative.

Challenge 1: Breaking News

Winners:
Hailey Phillips
Chebucto Heights, Grade 5, (Viola)

Kiki Boutilier
Eastern Shore District High School, Grade 10, (Kirk Johnson)

Honourable Mentions:
Evangeline Gribbin
St. Joseph’s A. McKay, Grade 5, (Viola)

Randi Davidson, Scarlett Evans, & Skyler Harding
Madeline Symonds, Grade 8, (Eddie Carvery “rediscovered video”)

Sakoda Colley
John MacNeil Elementary, Grade 5/6, (interview with Kirk Johnson)

Harmony Sharp, Mya Sisco, Jonan Abutu
Meadow Fields Community School, Grade ¾ (Viola)

Grade 9 class, Ms. Janie Lumsden,
Dr. John Hugh Gillis, (video about Rocky)
Challenge 2: African Nova Scotian Communities

Winners:
Natavia Gray
Cole Harbour High, Grade 10, (essay North Preston)

Grade 6 class, Ms. Cheyanne Gorman-Tolliver
Fairview Heights, (Birchtown, Pit House, map, etc.)

Honourable Mentions:
Grade 4/5 class, Ms. Cherret
Nelson Whynder Elementary, (“segregation then and now”)

Ms. Robinson & Mm. Quinn
Chebucto Heights, class ½ & 5/6 (map of NS with quiz/QR codes)

Tyairah Slawter
St Joseph A Mackay, Grade 5, (North Preston)

Grade 2 class
Basisview Drive, (history of Lucasville with QR codes)

Bryce Goodyear
Ross Road Elementary, Grade 7, (Edith Clayton)

Josh Desmond
Whitney Pier Middle School, Grade 7, (upper Big Tracadie)

Amanda Vuong
Sydney Academy, Grade 10, (Africville & King’s Road Reserve)

Challenge 3: Notable Nova Scotians

Winners:
Imogen Branden-McMullen
Eastern Shore District High, Grade 10, (Bucky Adams)

Jessica MacNeil
Sydney Academy, Grade 12, (Clotilda Yakimchuk, Royal Dalton Cup)

Alyvia Gaudet & Sage
Cromwell
Yarmouth Central School, Grade 6 (Bruce Johnson)

Honourable Mentions:
Sean Flinn
Caledonia Junior High, Grade 7, (Rocky Jones)

Braxtyn Jodrey-Dixon, Claire Cowen, Brooklyn Herasimko, Morgan Clarke & Cassie Malloy
Humber Park Elementary, Grade 5/6, (Maxine Tynes book)

Mica Anderson
Madeline Symonds, Grade 8, Notable nomination (Lennett Anderson)

Grade 9 class, Ms. Jill Ernest
Madeline Symonds, (3 posters ANS women who made a difference)

Ivy Hodder
John MacNeil Elementary, Grade 5/6, (the ABC’s of Shauntay Grant)

Jaya Anderson
St Joseph A Mackay, Grade 5, (Lindell Smith)

Jada Desmond
Dr. John Hugh Gillis, Grade 11, (no.2 Construction Battalion)

Grade 3 class, Ms. Jennifer Desmond
St. Andrews Consolidated School, (Notable Calendar)

Sara Letourneau & Nevaeh O’Connell
Ridgcliff Middle School, Grade 7 (Bishop Waterman)
Challenge 4: Top 10 Lists

Winners:
Jayda Atkins
North Queens, Grade 5, (top 10 athletes)

Honourable Mentions:
Grade 5, Ms. Kuranda Slaunwhite
Harry R. Hamilton Elementary, (2 top 10 posters)
whole class (25 students)

Cooper Small-Mailman & Aaron Carvery-Crawford
Westmount, Grade 6, (top 10 list)

Ryder Hennick, Davan MacDonald, Lemuela Ajuwon
Whitney Pier Middle School, Grade 7, (top 10, powerpoint)

Michael Cousins & Sam O’Driscoll
Porter’s Lake Elementary, Grade 5/6, (top 10 sports)

Challenge 5: A Day in the Life

Winners:
Josie Pottie and Charlotte Pottie
Madeline Symonds, Grade 6, (First Jobs poster)

Ying-Huang, Ho (Benson)
Millwood High School, Grade 11, (Underground Railroad)

Honourable Mentions:
Kyra Maritz
Madeline Symonds, grade 8, (the Land of Flowers)

Evelyn Nodwell
St Agnes Jr High, Grade 8, (painting family in ox cart)

Avril Barnes
St. Joseph’s A. McKay, Grade 5, (A day in the life)

Riley Wells
Millwood High School, Grade 11, (The Journal of Emmitt Reynolds)
Challenge 6: Express Yourself

Winners:
Talyssa Steiger & Michelle McIsaac
Whitney Pier, Grade 7, (mask, beads, dress & belt)
Kosten Giovannetti
Sydney Academy, Grade 12, (spoken word, Express Yourself, CD)

Honourable Mentions:
Aniqua Jalal
Park West, Grade 8, (woven basket)
Asiah Sparks
Caledonia Junior High, Grade 7, (poem B.L.A.C.K.)
Jenna Longmire
Digby Regional High School, Grade 9 (painting Black woman), (poem “Not Me”) Grades 8 & 9, Mr. O’Hearn & Ms. Munroe
Madeline Symonds (weaving art, 3 panels)
Arnezz Ellison
St. Joseph’s A. McKay, Grade 5 (original song and recording, Cry.)

Top Schools List

Madeline Symonds
Ms. Karen Mahaney, Ms. Cathy Munroe, Ms. Keshna Williams, Ms. Allison Sydney, Mr. Peter O’Hern, Ms. Jill Ernest
St Joseph A MacKay
Ms. DeWare, Ms. O’Connor, Ms. Mott
Ridgecliff Middle School
Mr. Godfrey Sampson, Mme. Tanya MacDonald, Mr. Moore
St Agnes Jr High
Bonita Fougere, Ms. Joanne Boutilier
Westmount Elementary
Ms. Kelly Boyle, Ms. Westhaver, Ms. Deanna Gibson
Chebucto Heights
Ms. White, Ms. MacKenzie, Ms. Ramoutar, Ms. Brooks, Ms. Poitras, Ms. Heisler, Ms. Robinson, Ms. Quinn
Whitney Pier Memorial Middle School
Ms. Tara Vincent
Sydney Academy
Mr. Michael MacNamara
MSVU Panel Discussion on Being Black in the Education System

On February 11, DeRico Symonds, Black Student Support Coordinator at MSVU, moderated a panel discussion entitled Being Black in the Education System.

One of the event objectives was to help educate attendees about the challenges, successes and barriers of Black Nova Scotians who have gone through the education system or who are currently in the education system.

Panelists included Halifax Councillor Lindell Smith, DBDLI’s Chanae Parsons, Citadel High School student (Grade 11) Sophia Wedderburn, and MSVU student Rex Charlton. All brought different and important perspectives to the conversation based on their own personal experiences within the education system.

The event was well attended by a broad mix of professionals, students, teachers and community members from HRM, many of whom engaged in and enhanced the conversations that took place throughout the evening.

Promotion of Black History Text Book to NSTU Membership

As part of African Heritage Month the Institute, in partnership with the Nova Scotia Teachers Union ran a contest to increase awareness about the new DBDLI education resource entitled Black History Africa The Caribbean and The Americas and information about of the Institute programs and initiatives.

NSTU members were asked to explore the DBDLI website to find the Proverb/Word of the month and send their answer in for a random draw to win one of our Notable Nova Scotian Posters.

Congratulations to the winner of the draw, Ms. Brandi Kozuch of J.L. Ilsley School.

African Word Meaning: Sankofa

Sankofa is an African word from the Akan tribe in Ghana. Sankofa teaches us that we must go back to our roots in order to move forward. That is, we should reach back and gather the best of what our past has to teach us, so that we can achieve our full potential as we move forward.
The DBDLI Scholarships and Bursaries Listing for African Canadian Students - 2019 Edition

Coming this Spring!

If you have an interest in knowing more about the DBDLI and what role you can play in helping to improve the academic achievement of African Nova Scotia learners and educators, contact us. Call us at 902.407.3200, or check out our website at www.dbdli.ca