

THE CENTRE FOR BLACK STUDENT EXCELLENCE

The Centre for Black Student Excellence Newsletter | October 2022

Message from the Team

We welcome families back to school for the 2022-2023 school year. We look forward to continuing to develop opportunities for supporting Black students, families and staff within the York Region District School Board, in partnership with community partners. Stay tuned for opportunities to connect this year.

We wish everyone a successful and wonderful year ahead.

To request support from a member of the Centre for Black Student Excellence team please email BlackStudentExcellence@yrdsb.ca

Centre for Black Student Excellence

YRDSB is pleased to launch the **Centre for Black Student Excellence**, a space committed to the promotion of Dismantling Anti-Black racism and amplifying voices that have been historically marginalized.

We invite you to explore our new online presence at www.yrdsb.ca/blackexcellence to:

- Access videos, resources and information about community partners.
- Learn more about our work to dismantle anti-Black racism, guided by our strategy.
- Celebrate Black excellence through video, feature stories, podcasts and more.
- Find out about programs available to Black students and families.
- Check out our new community newsletter.
- And much more.

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Meet the Team



How we provide support...

Darcie Sutherland, Principal

Responsible for coordinating the implementation of YRDSB's [Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy \(DABRS\)](#). A significant part of the role includes supporting all YRDSB staff in acquiring the racial literacy skills needed to recognize, discuss, dismantle and disrupt racist ideologies that perpetuate the disparities that Black students face.

Mawuli Chai, Strategist

Supports the full implementation of the Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Strategy Implementation Plan alongside the principal

Veron DeBique, Jonatan Fuentes, Nicolette Bryan, Graduation Coach for Black Students Provides intensive culturally-responsive support to Black students that will assist with helping to improve their academic achievement and well-being.

Shani Blake, Community & Partnership Developer

Establishes and maintains relationships with our community partners and organizations and directs schools toward a number of programs and resources to support our students, parents and staff.

Heather Henry, Equity Teacher Facilitator

Works together with school teachers and administrators to meet the diverse needs of students and families across the region. This includes fostering school-community relationships and supporting the implementation of inclusive curriculum.

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Partners

The **Alliance of Educators for Black Students (AEBS)** is committed to promoting well-being and excellence in achievement for students of African/ Caribbean heritage. You can follow them on Twitter [@AEBSyrdsb](#)

Learn more about Black community agencies that provide supports in your area:

[Aurora Black Community \(ABC\)](#)

[ANCHOR \(Formerly Vaughan African Canadian Association \(VACA\)\)](#)

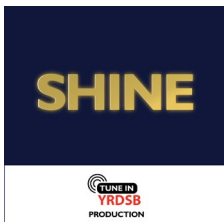
[Markham African Caribbean Canadian Association \(MACCA\)](#)

[Newmarket African Caribbean Canadian Association \(NACCA\)](#)

[Parents of Black Children](#)

[The Black Foundation of Community Networks \(BFCN\)](#)

[York Region Alliance of African Canadian Communities \(YRAACC\)](#)



Listen to the [SHINE Podcast](#)

SHINE is a YRDSB podcast that features voices from the Black community. It introduces conversations that inspire and challenge. Guests share their lived experiences, advice, industry expertise and more.

SHINE is a production of Tune In YRDSB. [Tune In YRDSB](#) is the first podcast of its kind in Ontario, featuring a wide range of topics related to education.

Tune In YRDSB is available on all major podcast platforms.