

# NEWSLETTER

## NORWOOD PARK EQUITY COMMITTEE



EQUITY LENDING  
LIBRARY

WINTER 2025-2026

### WELCOME!

The **Equity Committee** is a school council subcommittee comprised of parents and guardians of Norwood Park students. Together, we examine equity issues within our community, share ideas and perspectives, and develop initiatives. Our goal is to help develop a supportive community of allies and advocates so that all Norwood Park students, guardians, and staff feel safe, supported, and loved.

One of our equity initiatives is this newsletter, where we will provide book suggestions for parents and students, profile agencies that support marginalized communities, highlight community events, and offer ideas on how to approach equity in day-to-day life. We look forward to working together this school year!

*If you have questions or feedback, please email School Council at [norwoodparkSC@hwsb.on.ca](mailto:norwoodparkSC@hwsb.on.ca)*

### THE MOCCASIN IDENTIFIER

**School Council** is excited to fund an upcoming **interactive workshop** with the Moccasin Identifier, an Indigenous-led organization committed to educating and promoting awareness about First Nations Treaties, history, traditions and culture through workshops, installations and partnerships.

When Carolyn King, C.M., founder of the **Moccasin Identifier**, was asked to find a symbol that would, "identify us and connect us to the land," she identified "our footwear," and that is where the idea for the Moccasin Identifier arose.

Students will be able to learn about Indigenous communities and celebrations, the importance of caring for the environment, reconciliation and more through an educational presentation, after which they can engage in conversations about what they have learned. Then each student will participate in a unique stencilling activity, resulting in artwork they can bring home.

Find online education resources at <https://moccasinidentifier.com/lesson-plans-and-videos/>

### READING SUGGESTIONS



FOR KIDS: **When We Were Alone** by David A. Robertson (8 hard copies and 1 ebook available at HPL)



FOR PARENTS: **Braiding Sweetgrass** by Robin Wall Kimmerer (2 copies available in our lending library; 19 hard copies, 40 ebooks available at HPL)

### PROFILE: ALL OUT COLLECTIVE

**All Out Collective** is a local, volunteer-run non-profit in Hamilton, founded by Heather, a social worker with over 20 years of experience supporting children and families. Heather launched the organization to create safe, affirming spaces for 2SLGBTQ+ youth, especially those who are gender diverse.

They offer arts-based and therapeutic programs, including the True Colours Club for younger gender-diverse children, a summer day camp, and the All Out Art workshop for teens. Their Families in Transition program is a 10-week virtual support and education group for caregivers of 2SLGBTQ+ youth — it helps parents understand social and legal transition, improve communication, and navigate challenges like transphobia and mental health.

The programs offered by All Out Collective are free and accessible due to generous community support.

Learn more at [www.alloutcollective.ca](http://www.alloutcollective.ca)

### RAISING EQUITY CONSCIOUS CHILDREN



When we talk about equity, we acknowledge that everyone's starting point in life is influenced by factors like ability, socio-economic status, race, and gender. Teaching your children to be equity conscious not only fosters a more inclusive and diverse community, but also benefits them personally. Kids who grow up with an awareness of equity tend to show greater empathy, build stronger relationships, and work collaboratively with their peers.

You can nurture equity awareness at home by modeling empathy in your daily interactions, exploring diverse books and media together, and encouraging thoughtful conversations. Ask questions that help your child see the world through different perspectives, such as:

- "How would you feel if someone treated you like that?"
- "What could you say to make them feel better?"

By teaching your children about equity, you are helping them grow into compassionate, thoughtful individuals who will contribute to a fairer, more just world.

Source: <https://ed2grow.com/liberty-and-justice-for-all-talking-about-equity-with-kids-of-all-ages/>