



**EQUITY LENDING
LIBRARY**

NEWSLETTER

NORWOOD PARK EQUITY COMMITTEE

Jan/Feb 2026

EVENT: COMBATTING ANTI-BLACK RACISM

Norwood Park is excited to host the upcoming **Combating Anti-Black Racism Workshop**, to be presented by **The Get REAL Movement** organization on **January 29th** from **6:30-8:00 p.m.**

The Get REAL Movement is a Canadian non-profit in its 15th year, dedicated to its steadfast mission of "combating 2SLGBTQ+ discrimination, racism, and bullying in schools, summer camps, and workplaces" through interactive and informative workshops, partnerships, and programs.

In the **Combating Anti-Black Racism Workshop** participants learn about the history of anti-Black racism in Canada and gain practical tools to help identify, unlearn, and combat anti-Black racism, discrimination, and bias in our daily interactions. In line with Get REAL's goals to foster compassion, empathy, and inclusivity while dismantling prejudice and its harmful effects, the facilitators will also share their own experiences, creating a supportive and open space for questions and meaningful discussions.

We look forward to you joining us!

**Combating Anti-Black Racism workshop: January 29th
6:30-8:00 p.m. Norwood Park Library**

For more information and resources:

<https://www.thegetrealmovement.com>

COMMUNITY RESOURCE: The Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre (HARRC) is a community-based non-profit created in 2018 by the City of Hamilton, McMaster University, and the Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion to provide help and resources to Hamilton residents experiencing racism and discrimination.

HARRC supports our community through:

- workshops and events focused on anti-racism education
- support services, referrals to community resources
- advocacy for policy and legislative changes that address racism at a systemic level

Read more: <https://www.harrc.ca/>

Take a moment to stop by and check out our **Equity Bulletin Board** (by the front entrance of Norwood Park school) highlighting the topic of Accessibility in Jan and Black History Month in February!

TALKING TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT RACISM



While we may want to shelter our children from racism and discrimination, it's important to talk about it with our children from a young age. Research shows that **children as young as preschoolers can exhibit racial bias and discrimination**. Children absorb and internalize information coming from their family, community, and media—and learn to assign worth or value to attributes like skin colour, body size, and physical characteristics—which can lead to them form racial bias. When caregivers talk openly about the existence and effect of racism, children learn how to question bias and become more empathetic allies.

Talking about racism can look different depending on a family's background. For example, white families often need to recognize their privilege in a society where they have certain advantages that people of colour do not. For children of colour, the conversation around racism can be particularly painful, since they often face it in their daily lives. Families typically don't have the option to avoid discussing racism. Instead, caregivers need to prepare their children for the reality that they may be treated unfairly and could feel unsafe—or be in real danger—because of their skin color.

Here are some examples of how to broach the topic with children:

- In the past, certain opportunities were only created for white people, which was unfair to people who were not white. This is called racism.
- Many unfair things still happen to people because of their skin colour.

While conversations are important, how caregivers react to racism in everyday life—like racist depictions in media and overheard racist remarks can have an even greater impact, as they offer real life examples that children can relate to. Ultimately, talking to all children about racism and racial inequality will help the next generation to examine and dismantle prejudice and work towards building a community of compassionate allies.

For more info, read this PBS article: <https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/why-and-how-to-talk-to-your-child-about-racism>

READING SUGGESTIONS



FOR KIDS: **The Kids Book of Black History in Canada** by Rosemary Sadlier (8 hard copies available at HPL)



FOR PARENTS: **How to Raise an Antiracist** by Ibram X Kendi (3 copies in our lending library; 5 hard copies + 1 audiobook at HPL)

PROFILE: NORWOOD PARK BLACK STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Norwood Park is proud to share that a dedicated space has been created for Black students to feel safe, supported, and free to be unapologetically themselves.

The aim is to provide a **supportive, judgment-free environment where Black students feel comfortable expressing themselves openly**. It is intended for students who may not always feel able to discuss certain topics with peers and who would benefit from a space to share honest thoughts and experiences. Mme Amoah and Mme Daniel facilitate the group in collaboration with an HWDSB Equity & Well-Being Consultant, who provides additional guidance and support.

Students are encouraged to explore their identities, learn about cultural history, and celebrate Black trailblazers in our community and globally. This space is intentionally **student-led**, giving participants a voice in shaping discussions, activities, and areas of learning. It is open to all Black-identifying students of African and Caribbean descent in Grades 6 to 8.

In February, Norwood Park will participate for the first time in the **Reverend John C. Holland Awards Gala**, presented by the **Hamilton Black History Council**. Staff have also nominated five students for the **2026 Ainara Alleyne "Rising Star" Award**, several of whom are members of the BSA.

For more information, students may speak with Mme Amoah or Mme Daniel, or attend a meeting—details are shared during morning announcements. The group meets weekly on Day 5 during the second nutrition break.