

Social Studies Report to Community

“Save Australia campaign”

During the Australian wildfires a group of Grade 10 Geography students took the initiative to raise awareness and money for the cause. The group held a bake sale and raised over \$300 to help rehabilitate fire-affected Koalas.



MB 150 Contest

Several History classes took part in the division-wide MB 150 Contest. Students explored aspects of Manitoba’s Heritage while connecting to the required curricular Historical Thinking Concepts (HTCs). Topics included events in Indigenous heritage, Chinese Canadian heritage, and the Spanish Flu with connections to the current COVID-19 pandemic. The contest was run in consultation with several historians.

Socially distanced Strike 1919 field trip

During the closure several History students attended a socially-distanced field trip walking tour of the Exchange to explore the Winnipeg General Strike history. Students were appreciative of the opportunity to see these sites in person and to connect with some of their classmates!

Law Class Mock Trial

Mr. Pereira's Law class successfully held an online mock trial. Students valued the opportunity to have this experience!

History teachers Educational Leave

This year, several History teachers were granted an Educational Leave to explore best teaching practices in History and to raise student engagement.

The History courses are currently being revamped to include more diverse perspectives and hands-on learning experiences or field trips. The focus is on a deeper study of history from the viewpoint of Indigenous, Black, and other Canadians of diverse backgrounds.

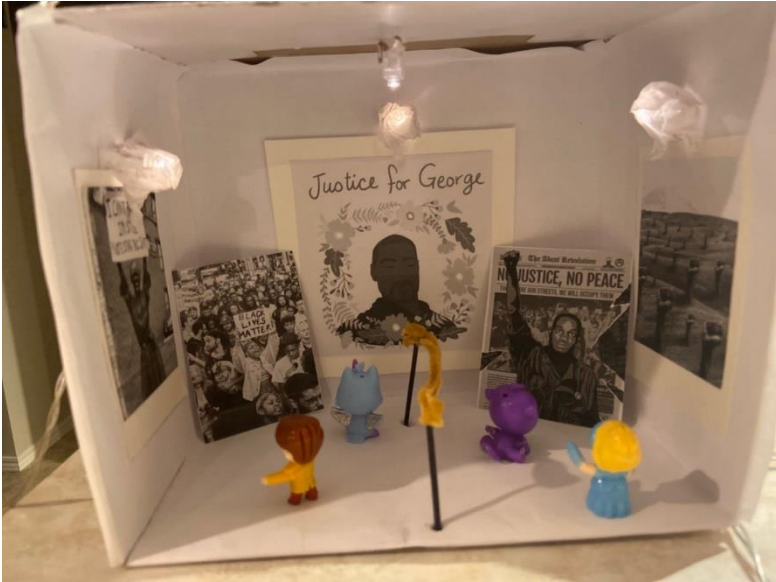
Justice4BlackLives Winnipeg Rally

Students expressed their outrage at the racial injustice that has recently surfaced in the news, from eyewitness accounts, and of course firsthand accounts from those who have been targeted. Many students chose to attend the June 5 Justice4BlackLives rally and reflected on how positive and powerful an experience it was. Students were given a choice as to their response, and many cumulated the experience by signing related petitions for social justice in Winnipeg or / and by writing letters to government officials demanding changes.



Poster by Chloe, Grade 11 student

The following student created pieces and their reflections are shared here with permission:





For our final History project, we decided to talk about Black Lives Matter movement. We created a diagram museum to represent and shine a light on the art that the community has made to support this cause. We feel like this is a very important topic to talk about and to shine a perspective on because it is currently been ongoing for quite some time now and deserves more recognition more than ever. As you can see, we decided to print our pictures out in a black and white format. We considered printing our pictures in color but decided to print them out in black and white instead. We decided this not because we didn't want to show the bright side of the situation but instead to focus on the side that will pull us into dark reality people are facing day in and day out. To show justice to those who have been lost because of racial injustice.

-Chloe and Yozef, Grade 11 Students

Canada is known to be “less racist” than the United States, but how different are we? There is still racial injustice towards Black people in our history that we cannot just ignore as Canadians. Although statistics may say that more race involved Black deaths occur in the States, a death anywhere is a death, and as Canadians we must do better. We must not forget those who have died due to racism in our country either.

Today, all 50 states have held protests in support of the Black community, as well as George Floyd and hundreds of other Black American’s whose lives were taken due to racism. Countries around the globe have also shown their support through peaceful protests. George Floyd’s story reminds us that racism is still very prominent in the world we live in. We must remember that we cannot remain silent anymore. Today, with the help of social media, the world’s collective voice has never been louder. We must lead the change that we want to see in the world. In the words of Malcom X, “By any means necessary.”

-Marc, Grade 10 Student

As an ally, we must use our privilege to protect those the system does not. Our first step is educating ourselves. We must acknowledge why we will never face the same hardships people of colour face, and that we are born with a head start. It doesn't matter that we didn't ask to be born with privilege, innocent Black people didn't ask to be targeted either but it is something we must continue to deal with today. As we educate ourselves, we must educate one another too. We are not born hateful, this is taught, which means that we are able to teach to love one another. Many parents fear to expose their children to racism at an early age, but we must start the conversation young and let them understand the world around them. Children can show bias towards a certain race as early as the age of 5. Once again, we must teach them that colour should not separate us and that we are the ones that have to break this bias. To have a direct impact on the community we must sign petitions, attend protests and donate money towards fundraisers supporting the BLM movement. Additionally, we should support Black artists, musicians and small businesses as it helps to close the racial wealth gap and help nourish local communities. To be an active supporter and ally we should ask ourselves questions such as, “Is it my place to speak about the experiences of Black people as someone with privilege? Does dismantling the police solve the problem of police brutality? Are police officers obligated to speak up when coworkers are doing wrong? Is the killing of someone who is resisting or in self defence justified? Am I allowed to take a break for the sake of my mental health when Black people have never had the privilege to?” Asking these questions holds us accountable to our actions and beliefs, as well as starting a conversation to fight towards a better future.

-Kate, Grade 11 Student