




## Henderson Library "The Nest" Weekly Check-IN

TEACHER-Librarians: Mrs. K. Matterson and Ms. Purewal

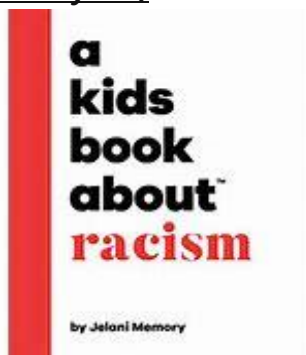
**"Darkness cannot drive out darkness only light can do that".**

Martin Luther King Jr.

I decided to hold off on the newsletter yesterday as we continue to reflect, discuss and attempt to find voice after the upsetting events dominating the news this past week. Teachers, staff, and students at Henderson have consistently addressed the dialogue around racism and injustice long before last weeks events. However, we certainly have heard the call for action and cry for change yet again this June 2020. I have been teaching now in the VSB for over 20 years, leading up to that I worked providing programming for children at the YMCA. Prior to working with kids I was *also* a kid myself right here in Vancouver! I am white... I like to highlight that I am a range of white with a mixed assortment of ancestors. But it all still boils down to that fact that I am white. White privilege and racism are spaces within which I search for truth and guidance. Discussing injustice and systemic racism is difficult and uncomfortable for me as a white person due to shame. It turns out, I have learned that it is good to expose this emotion as guilt allowing me to move past shame to grow. As much as it is disheartening that we find ourselves discussing racial injustices still in 2020 I do take solace in the light that is education. As a student I did not learn about white privilege or learn the truth of how Canada became Canada. These past 2 decades of teaching has been as much about learning, growing, and listening to more truthful history of all people. Most recently, my understanding of how listening is not my only responsibility as it further promotes SILENCE. This suggests that as a white person that does not act or feel racist I am not apart of the problem. Silence is key to the problem. I cannot and would not talk about what it is like to be black, indigenous or a person of colour. I can, however, clearly participate in education about injustice, privilege, and diversity by providing access to and safe spaces for critical thinking about people who have been or are being oppressed. I can encourage all people including white people to learn more, listen more, and to speak up. Education has given me this gift as a white person with white privilege. Good quality education that our public schools in Canada seek to provide and one that is determined to eradicate injustices is the brightest light in any darkness. **Educating** ourselves and each other and especially our children is **the** hope. **Children** have the brilliant quality of unconditional **love** and acceptance. Hate cannot end hate but acceptance and **love** certainly can.  **Education** has the unique quality to harness this unconditional **love** through knowledge and acceptance!

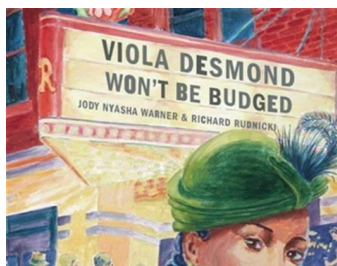
### Books that Lend Light and Love to combat Racism

#### Kindergarten and Grade 1 (+everyone)



<https://youtu.be/LnaltG5N8nE>

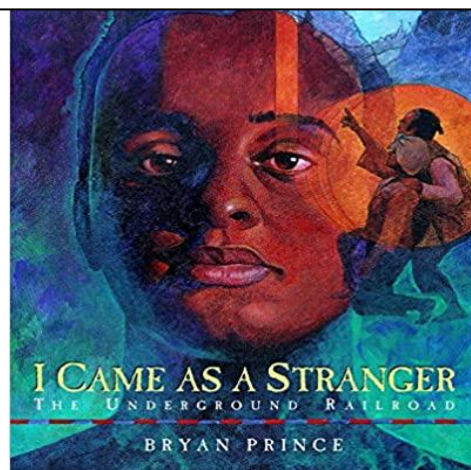
#### Grade 2- Grade 4 (+everyone)



Viola Desmond is an important figure in the fight against racism. As a Canadian in 1946 she was asked to move to the balcony of a movie theatre due to being black. She refused and stayed in her seat on the main floor. Viola was arrested and charged she continued her fight and helped ignite the end to racial segregation in Canada.

#### Gr. 5-7+ I came as a Stranger: The Underground Railroad. By: Bryan Prince

The story of the Underground Railroad is one of suffering and of bravery. It is not only one of escape from slavery but of beginnings: of people who carved out a new life for themselves in the most difficult situations. Bryan Prince, a descendent of slaves, describes the people who made their way to Canada and the life that awaited them.





# Library "HOME" Work for June 8<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>



## 1. IMPORTANT BOOK RETURN REMINDER

Please return your library books to school if you are able to.

**Students Attending in-class:** please return any school books to your classroom and they will be collected from there. This should have already happened, if not please bring all school books into your class on your next scheduled day.


**Students Learning at-home:** please return your books on  
**Wednesday, June 10th 9:30-11:30**

\*\*\*Mrs. Matterson will collect books outside of the office entrance on the big side of the school overlooking the big field near the basketball courts. **Please DO NOT ENTER** the building. It is an excellent opportunity to have a bike ride, skate, scoot, or a walk around the neighbourhood and school.\*\*\* Added bonus: a chat with Mrs. M.\*\*\* Please come with your books.


If this time **does not** work due to class online meetings please contact me at [kmatterson@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:kmatterson@vsb.bc.ca) to arrange a different drop-off time.

**2. READ and SHARE...** please read and talk about the issue of racism and how it affects you and your loved ones if you have not yet. If you often do, consider thinking about people and or history you and your family could learn more about to understand "some" body better. See the featured books and visit VPL and epic that are featuring many quality books dealing with issues of race and racism. Please email Mrs. M for help locating materials...[kmatterson@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:kmatterson@vsb.bc.ca)

## 3. GRATITUDE and BLESSINGS

**Blessings:** It is without question that Canada and all places in this world has inflicted grave injustices on groups of people based on colour or belief. What I find to be the blessing is that together in this diverse country as Canadians we can offer QUALITY PUBLIC education that uncovers these stories and allows for the important discussions and reconciliations required to create a beautiful diverse Canada inspired by understanding and powered by love. **Blessed.** 

*Think/share/write about something in you consider a blessing in your life?*

**Gratitude:** Mr. Peters, Mr. Singh and the Henderson PAC community belief in the ongoing success and growth of the Henderson Learning Commons and communal learning spaces. We are very grateful to them as the space transforms and welcomes all learners and creates a safe space to explore, question and discover. **Love.** 

*Think/share/write about people you are thankful for outside of your home and why?*

HENDERSON LIBRARY "THE NEST"

Image: Presented by Mr. Singh

