

Parkview Epiphany

February 2021
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PARKVIEW ADVENTIST ACADEMY

Week of Prayer

In celebration of Black History Month here at PAA, a group of our students and some of our teachers got together and planned a variety of activities and tributes to influential black people in Canadian history. Along with these daily activities was a week of prayer focused on Martin Luther King's "I have a Dream" speech and the Biblical implications of loving one another as God has loved us. Mr Ndekezi, Reashanna, Orla, Thandie and Ishemwe all took the time to prepare a sermon that focused on one section of Dr. King's speech and connected it to a different Bible story. Each sermon emphasized the importance of looking at the example of Jesus and how we need to love one another and respect each other as He did.

Because of the cohort restrictions in our school, week of prayer looked a little different this time of year and we were forced to do it online in separate classes. This restriction however opened up the opportunity to be creative and flexible with the delivery of each sermon with videos, music, and tributes to black influences in Canada. As a result, many other students were inspired to use this new medium to share their own perspectives and experiences with God.

We were definitely blessed this week and we hope to continue navigating, connecting, and sharing in new ways through this interesting and challenging time.

1 Corinthians 1:10

- Pastor Marc

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY

Now is the time to make
justice a reality for all of
God's children"



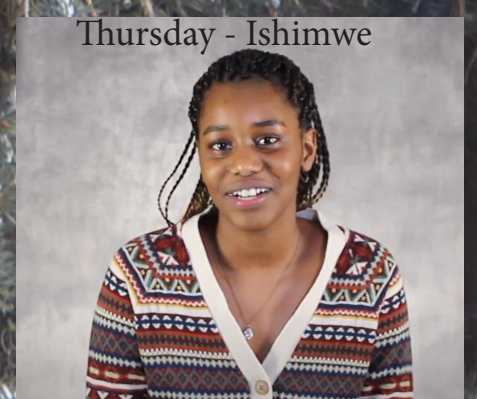
Monday - Mr. Ndekezi



Tuesday - Orla



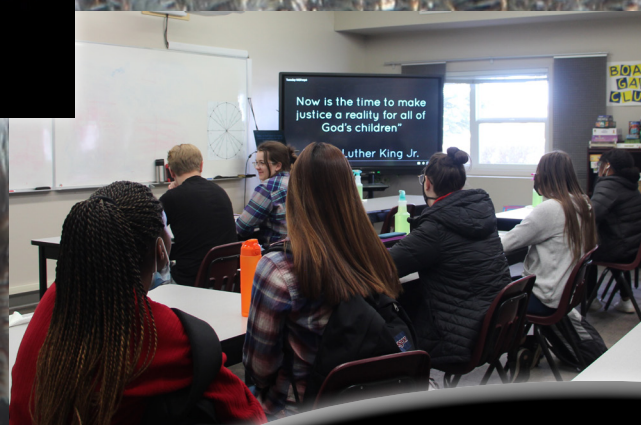
Wednesday - Thandie



Thursday - Ishimwe



Friday - Reashana



"It is easier to break an atom
than a prejudice"



Pink Shirt Day February 24th, 2021



Bullying is a major problem in our schools, workplaces, homes, and online. Over the month of February, and throughout the year, CKNW Kids' Fund's Pink Shirt Day aims to raise awareness of these issues, as well as raise funds to support programs that foster children's healthy self-esteem.

Now a movement celebrated across the globe, Pink Shirt Day has humble beginnings. Inspired by an act of kindness in small-town Nova Scotia, CKNW Kids' Fund, working with partners Boys & Girls Clubs and 980 CKNW, was inspired to raise funds to support anti-bullying programs. Here is a snippet of an article detailing the original incident:

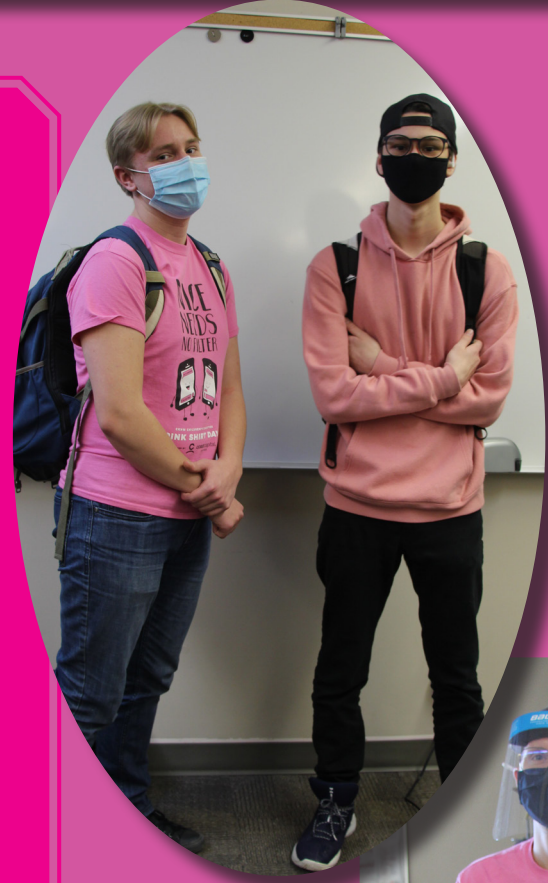
"David Shepherd, Travis Price and their teenage friends organized a high-school protest to wear pink in sympathy with a Grade 9 boy who was being bullied [for wearing a pink shirt]...[They] took a stand against bullying when they protested against the harassment of a new Grade 9 student by distributing pink T-shirts to all the boys in their school. 'I learned that two people can come up with an idea, run with it, and it can do wonders,' says Mr. Price, 17, who organized

the pink protest. 'Finally, someone stood up for a weaker kid.' So Mr. Shepherd and some other headed off to a discount store and bought 50 pink tank tops. They sent out message to schoolmates that night, and the next morning they hauled the shirts to school in a plastic bag. As they stood in the foyer handing out the shirts, the bullied boy walked in. His face spoke volumes. 'It looked like a huge weight was lifted off his shoulders,' Mr. Price recalled. The bullies were never heard from again."

— GLOBE & MAIL

After David and Travis' act of kindness in 2007, CKNW was inspired to help other youth affected by bullying, with many staff members wearing pink shirts and collecting funds to support Boys and Girls Clubs. Since then, the idea has only grown each year, with worldwide support and participation. Countries across the globe are now organizing anti-bullying fundraisers of their own, including Japan, New Zealand, China, Panama, and numerous others. In fact, last year alone, people in almost 180 countries shared their support of Pink Shirt Day through social media posts and donations.

Source: <https://www.pinkshirtday.ca/>



ROVING REPORTER



Grade 12 students were asked, “What are your plans after graduation”?

Madisen Asante

I would like to do something in environmental studies or ecology. I have a passion of our natural world, how it functions within itself and the people in it.



Avery Tataryn

I plan take a little bit of time for myself and just rest and enjoy relaxing. I also plan on working over the summer, before university, and then later preparing to move out.



Haylee Bruins

I am planning to spend a year working and do some traveling through Europe. After that, it's Lakeland College, taking animal health technology.



Helaina Heimann

I will be moving back to Armstrong, BC, where I grew up. I am currently planning on taking a gap year to work and figure out what I truly want to do to fulfill the purpose God has for me.



Janelle Glover

I hope to work at summer camp over the break. I am still discovering what program I would like to take, but I hope to attend an SDA university in the fall.



Eowynn MacDonald

I am planning to attend Burman this coming school year for Psychology. I am excited to just relax once school is done. I might work at camp or go to Ontario if COVID permits.



Alexandra Buttler

I plan on seeking new adventures and experiences. Whether through camping, interactions, travel, or other activities, I am excited for the opportunity to enjoy the world around me.



Emily Morency

I am moving to Quebec. I hope to work, travel and get settled that year. After that, I plan go to attend Andrews University and be a part of their nursing program.



Josiah Blaney

Move to Kelowna, start my mechanics career and potentially start a truck driving company.



Shasta Morton

I'm planning on buying a young horse that hasn't been trained; I will work on getting it green broke. After it's broke I will sell it. Also, I will be going to the mountains to ride. This time in the mountains helps me build my relationship with my family and God.



Jessica Harrington

I will be going into a three-year wellness program at Burman. After, I will head to Andrews to become a doctor of physical therapy, focusing on the care of children. I will continue writing music, drawing, and baking.



Olivia Williams

After I graduate, I plan to get a degree in nursing at RDC and then possibly become a travel nurse or CRNA at some point in the future.



Orla Kayonga

As a kid I've always wanted to design and build houses; that is why I want to be an architect. I know it will be hard, but I know if I stay positive I will succeed.



Paxton Huether

I plan on working during the summer and enjoying as many sports as possible.



Reashana Walters

My main goal is to take American Sign Language and Deaf Studies either in Vancouver or Edmonton so I can become a sign language interpreter. I would love to sleep in and read more.



THE PROFILE FILES

Mr. Emile Ndekezi Social Studies Teacher

Favorite Bible Verse: “For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.” 2 Timothy 1:7

With this Bible verse in mind, one can see its importance in the character and personality of Mr. Ndekezi. He boldly shares his philosophies and ideologies with his colleagues and students with a loud tenor and a cheerful disposition. His booming laugh is very distinctive in the halls of PAA.



Currently teaching Social Studies to all grade levels, Mr. N. truly practices what he preaches. His interest in the political climes of our region and our world filters through his discussions and debates both in and out of the classroom. He takes the curriculum and relates it to current scenarios and personal levels. Students in his classroom have commented on their ability to really succeed under his tutelage. He is also the co-sponsor of the current graduating class of 2021.

Mr. Ndekezi’s credentials for teaching come from the University of Al

berta. He has his Bachelor of Education specializing in secondary Social Studies with a minor in Physical Education. He has been in the teaching business for five years; the most recent four of them have been here at PAA.



When asked about a success story, Mr. Ndekezi responded: “When a student who ‘hates’ social studies can’t stop talking about it. This is common for grade 12 students (Social Studies 30 is awesome!!).”

With regards to spirituality, Mr. Ndekezi shared some interesting points. His favorite Bible character is the apostle Peter. When asked why, he responded: “He was flawed but Jesus still used him. As a guy who constantly screws up I find a lot of encouragement in that.” This down-to-earth connection makes Mr. N. very approachable by all. As a teacher in our SDA system, we take pride in the infusion of Christ into our lesson plans



and teachable moments. When asked, “How do you incorporate elements of Spiritual nature into your lessons?” Mr. Ndekezi replied, “I think God is a God of tough questions and Justice. In Social Studies we look to ask hard questions and question that structures that hurt ‘the least of these’ and how to dismantle these systems.”



There is another side to Mr. Ndekezi: a personal one. He is currently unattached in the marital sense, but is devoted in his family life. He is the middle son of three brothers. When he does have spare time, his hobbies include playing soccer and working out. This is a good set of hobbies, which serve to counteract his favorite food: any chocolate-based desserts. He doesn’t really



engage in board games per se, but he states, “I am a machine at the Wikipedia game. Challenge me at your own risk.” Touché! His interest in music features Hip Hop, notably J. Cole. His personal side balances his academic side, making Mr. N. a very well-rounded part of our school environment. We appreciate you, Mr. N.!



The Last Word Mrs. Kay

February is a difficult month for us here at PAA. The memory of Colby and his impact on our school is still felt two years after his passing. We are so grateful for the example he gave us in deep, contented joy. As we snuggled in for a week of below -40 weather it was easy to let the frustrations of this year take over. We’ve been back online, separated from those we love and forced to cover our faces for far too long. Mental health is taking a big hit and we’re struggling to see the positive. So let me see if I can help. February is also the month of love and the celebration of black history. Good things can happen in the midst of the struggle. We all learned a lot about various amazing people from

black history that changed our world for the better in the midst of the struggle. They stood up. They persevered. And they left a mark on history that is still felt today. When people look back at the pandemic years, will they be able to say the same about us? Does the struggle make you stronger? or bitter? We can’t control what happens to us, but we can control how we react to it. So try this. Take the things that frustrate you and find the joy in them. I am grateful for lockdown because it has given me time with my kids that I wouldn’t get otherwise. I am grateful for the mask because I don’t have to worry about bad breath! I am thankful for online school because it brought out teaching skills I didn’t know I had. There is always a positive. And our attitude is our choice. So even when there is a lot to be frustrated by, we still have the option to choose joy.