



HARMONY DAY FINDS A WAY

February 18, 2021

Kelowna, BC – Students throughout the District were able to celebrate the 14th Annual Harmony Day in Central Okanagan Public Schools with a little innovation and a lot of heart.

The theme for this year's day to celebrate diversity and inclusion was Courage – as well as Equity and Anti-Racism – and educators used a variety of resources, lesson guides, and books from the District's Harmony Day Committee to open conversations about the themes.

"We've seen a lot of courage from both leaders and learners in our District this year," said Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO. "This Harmony Day comes at a time when we all need courage to help us move forward as a society, and we appreciate both the courage of educators to lead these conversations and the courage we see from students as they express their ideas and learn more about equity and anti-racism."

While the usual multicultural potlucks and assemblies were curtailed by the pandemic, schools hosted virtual assemblies and coordinated artistic displays with groups of students. Middle and Secondary students once again signed out human "books" through a virtual Living Library that featured a wide range of presenters, including: Rawle James (Human Rights Activist & poet), Alya Ramadan (CBC Radio), Pyrialli Kanti (UBC student), Poppy Chaiboripan (SD23 International Student), Sam and Ruba Belete (new immigrants), Tor Broughton (student at KSS), Naim Cardinal (VP of Indigenous Education), and Kevin Lamoureux (Indigenous Scholar from University of Winnipeg).

"The virtual Living Library actually allowed us to reach a greater number of students," said Leigh-Ann Yanow, District ELL Support Teacher and Harmony Day Committee Chair. "It was amazing to see how students connected with the larger themes of Harmony Day this year through a variety of activities, and we are always inspired when we hear how they express themselves through conversation, art, and writing."

For comments, please contact:

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