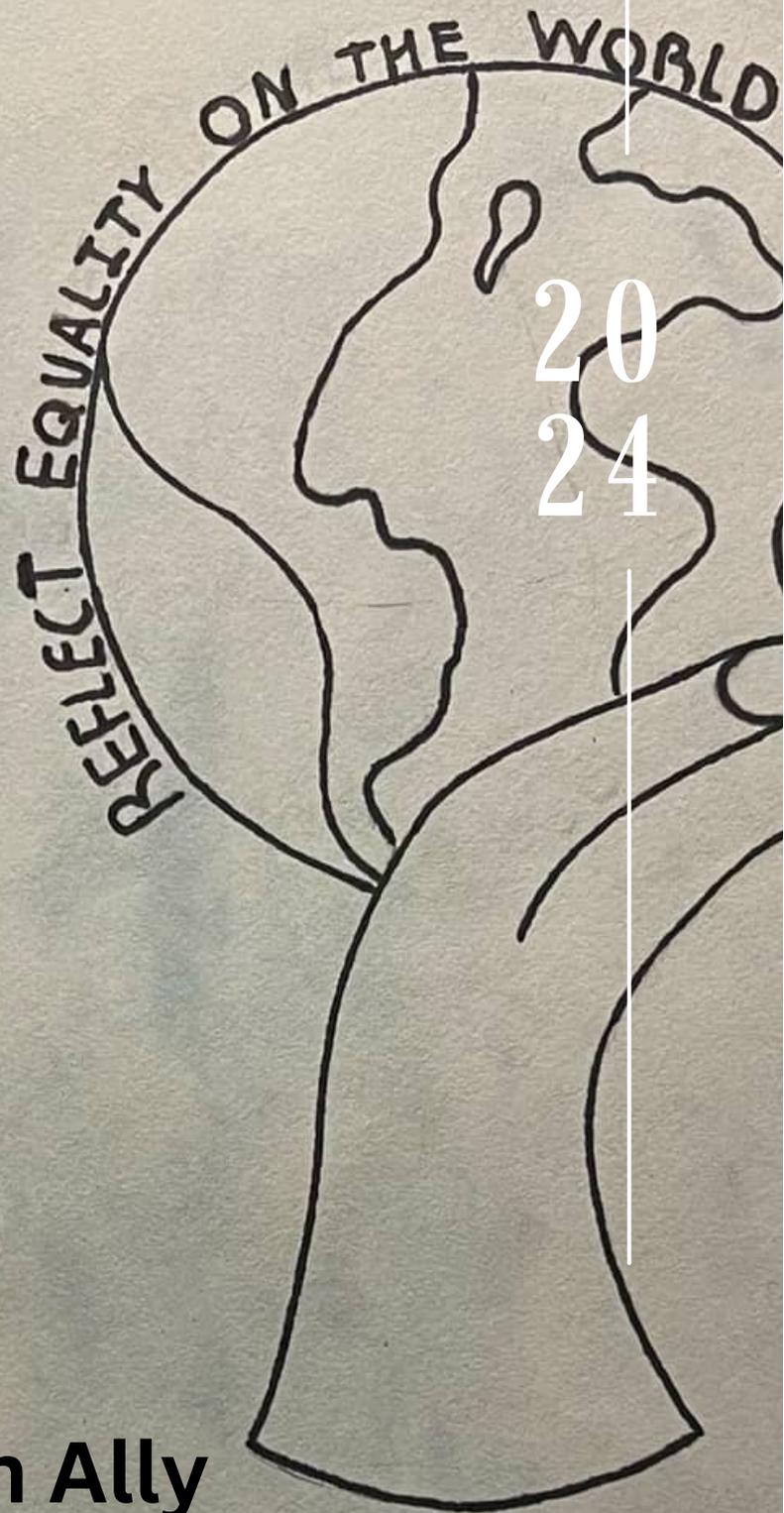


VOICES



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Be An Ally

Voices Magazine Edition 3

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LBPSB Beaconsfield High School

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class, Tarak Sharma and Cristiano De Melo**

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ISSN 2818-7539



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EDITORS- IN- CHIEF



Sydney Schenk



Alexa Skalkos

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Welcome to the second issue of Beaconsfield High School VOICES Magazine!

In this issue we delve deep into how we can help fight the many forms of racism. It's important to realize how everyone's experiences differ, be it from their background, culture or race. This magazine is an amazing opportunity for the BHS community to express how they feel about these topics. Throughout this magazine you will read about how students perceive these topics as well as some parents and teachers, in the form of writing, poetry, and photography. We hope this magazine inspires you to take a stand against social injustices that happen every day.

We thank you for reading this year's issue of our magazine and hope this allows you to find out more about this very pressing topic. Thank you as well to everyone involved in the making of this magazine. Happy reading!



Message from the supervising teacher

The second edition of *Voices* magazine is filled once again with powerful insights by young people. Over thirty-two students share their views on various topics surrounding social justice.

Included in this edition are also the voices of our staff members, alumni and parents. It is an example of how when a community works together change happens. This magazine through words holds the heart of our community, which is one that believes that all voices should be heard. We work together as a team to achieve this.

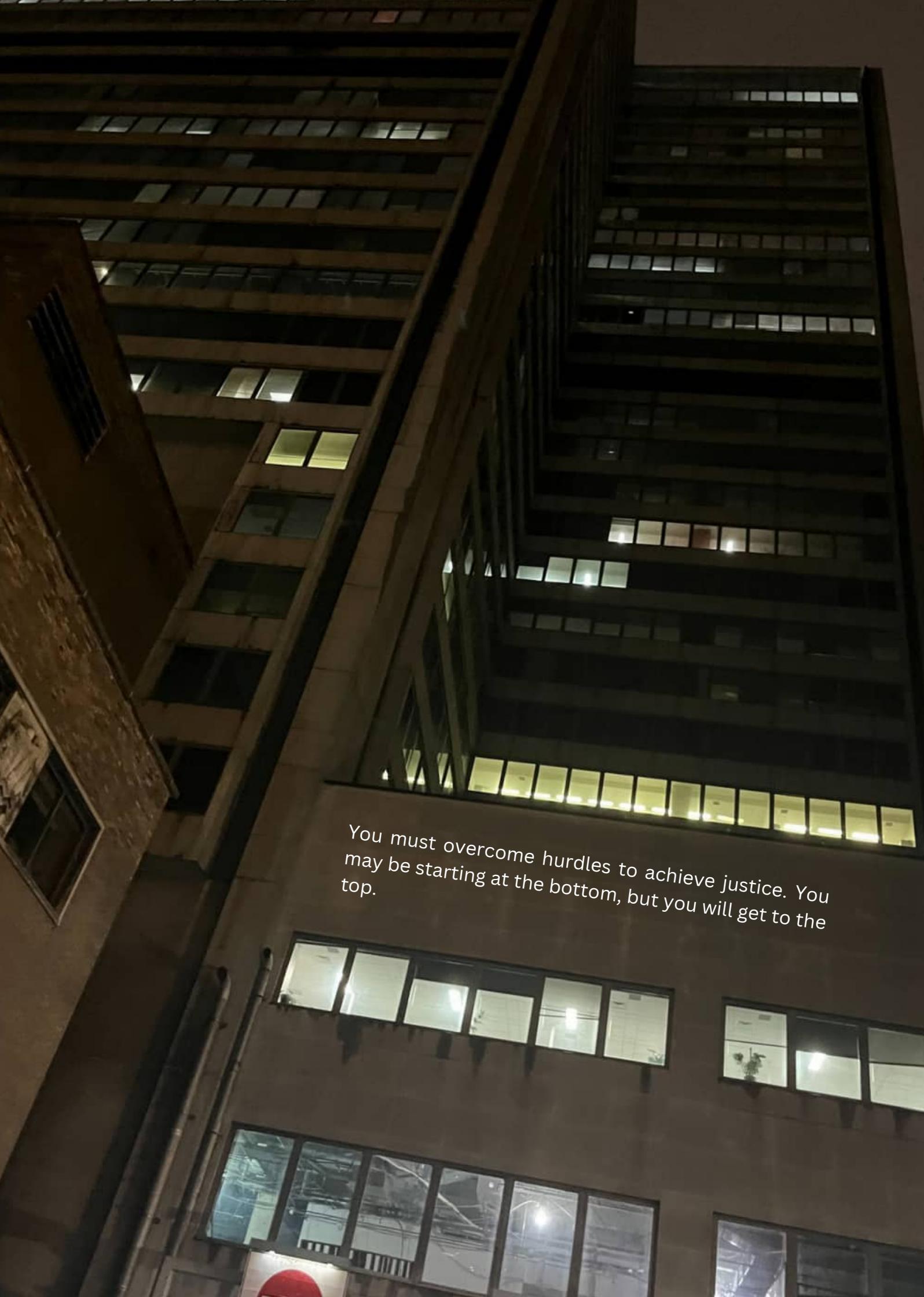
Our two editors, Sydney and Alexa, gave up their lunches to bring this magazine to fruition. They also helped design the interior and brought the magazine to its final draft. Once again, the dedicated work of our students brought a magazine to life.

The photographs within the magazine also share the voice of students at Beaconsfield high school through the use of symbolism to represent their views of a just and fair world.

As a teacher, I am very proud of the students who bravely added their words to this magazine. The work within this magazine represents the souls of these wonderful people.

I would also like to take this space to thank Rachel Chua Wilson, our principal, for her support and encouragement of the magazine and the purpose it serves. We wish you a wonderful retirement and we hope you continue to write.

Sincerely,
Melinda Cochrane



*You must overcome hurdles to achieve justice. You
may be starting at the bottom, but you will get to the
top.*

Systematic Racism

by Julian Cicchetti

Systematic racism is very prevalent in our society and continues to restrain minorities from succeeding and thriving in an equal matter. What is most important however is having an actual understanding of what systematic racism is. A simplified definition of it is the harmful treatment of different races and ethnic groups within a composed and/or serious system. Inequalities are quickly created and diffused within populations in very subtle ways. Simply overlooking or disregarding someone's needs due to people's looks or appearance is consistently done. It is a hard subject to cover since so many people don't even experience it at all. This interesting dynamic allows for its existence to be denied and hidden by an immense demographic. As something that isn't very easy to physically perceive, people's beliefs of it continue to narrow. Another problematic issue is that anyone who has actually experienced systematic racism firsthand doesn't have very many resources to turn to for justice. Justice is the ultimate goal for everyone but practices such as systematic racism move away from it entirely.



Everyone walks together through life.

Alumni Perspective

Blending

By: Emma Pitts BHS Alumni 2023

We are constantly surrounded by other people...

Growing up, however, I always felt separated from my peers. The social expectation to fit in was never appealing to me. As a kid, I believed everyone had received a social manual, had they forgotten to give it to me?

As I entered elementary school, I felt this gap increase, constantly singled out or questioned on my reclusive behavior. If you don't *blend* in, you're the odd one out. Soon enough, I was the last person chosen for dodgeball, that kid who played alone at recess.

It wasn't long until my classmates ignored me altogether...

Still, I found solace in my artwork. One sunny afternoon, when all my classmates were out at recess, my teacher handed me a package. *Pastels?* I read. *I've noticed how often you use the classroom crayons. Maybe you'd enjoy something more... sophisticated?* She replied.

Not knowing at the time, her kind gesture meant the world to me. It was the first time anyone had expressed seeing potential in me.

...I believed in myself.

As the bullying intensified, I hid in my sketchbooks. The more hate my classmates threw at me, the more I drew. I drew and I drew until my hands went numb. Burning colors expressing complex emotions I couldn't express or explore at the time.

I buried myself in catharsis, layering myself in shades of vibrancy and intensity. Although I didn't speak to many people, I was very observant of them. I quickly took to drawing people, fascinated by fantastical adventures and heroic characters.

...*Are you drawing me?* My classmates would ask.

For a while, my artwork created a medium in which I could *blend*. With my passions guiding me, others became interested in my work. Some of my peers would even commission me. I almost felt normal, until the 5th grade.

A dreadful day, spent with dreadful people. Just a week before summer break, I was getting ready to go home when a group of girls cornered me in my school's bathroom. They tore my sketchbook from me.

What is this junk? So THIS is what you've been doing in class? What a JOKE!

Paper by paper, shred by shred they tore. They tore and they tore at my book until their hearts went numb. The burning colors that had expressed my distress when words failed me. The pages of my pain, gone.

My teacher walked in, seeing the pages on the floor. *What's going on girls?* She asked. *Emma wasn't feeling very well... we're helping her.* Bullshit. My teacher desperately looked at me, looking for a response, looking for anything.

...I couldn't speak...

Storming out of the building, I ran as far as my legs would take me.

Lying down on a park bench by the water, I observed nature in its lively delight. Trees dancing to the wind's tune. Tides responding to the moon's call. Swaying side by side, *blended* in perfect harmony. I envied their bond. Why had mother nature singled me out? Was I an anomaly?

I certainly didn't feel special.

Replaying the day's events in my head, searching for an answer, I was overwhelmed. *Blending...* I wondered. A slow wave of calm washed over me. Almost like a distant dream... reaching towards me with her loving arms, the Ocean embraced me.

I remembered the adventures my art had taken me. Be it the bottom of the ocean, or up in the clouds. My imagination had taken me places most people my age had yet to explore. Although I was just 11, my art gave me a perspective on life that far surpassed the horizon up ahead.

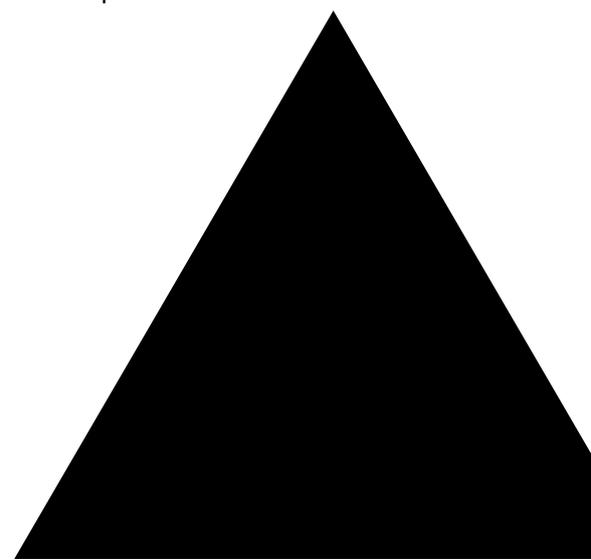
Staring at the glowing star, her warmth permeated within me.

Engulfed in sunset, this fleeting beauty that blended day to night. I embraced life's dualistic nature, finding compassion in the face of hatred.

Looking past my horizon, I saw my peers' lives. Casting away judgment and frustration, I resonated with the reality that they too felt adversity and hardship in their personal lives.

I didn't want a handbook. I didn't want to blend...

...I just needed to feel.



Take a risk and you shall make the world a better place

by Elijah Shapiro

Beaconsfield- Around the world, teenagers are afraid to speak out against injustices. When witnessing injustices, such as discrimination and favoritism, teenagers remain quiet. The only way to counter these injustices is to take a risk and speak out against the inequality. When injustices occur, someone has to take a risk and speak up for those being treated unfairly. That someone can be you!

Wherever and whenever people discriminate against others.

This discrimination can be based on someone's race, sex, gender, religion, language, origins, political views, and many other unique characteristics people may have. These inequalities are one hundred percent wrong and can result in conflicts and propaganda. These issues need to be countered, and the only way to do so is to take a risk. Every individual on the planet has the power to counter injustices. This includes you! You have the power to make the world a better place. That power comes from the risks you take. It comes from your mouth, from the words you speak. It comes from your pen and paper, the literature you use to make a change. That power comes from the petitions you create, and the protests you organize. You have the power to create a change in the world.

Don't ever wait for someone else to speak up.

Take the initiative to be the one who says the obvious. The one who says that something isn't fair. As teenagers, we tend to question ideas, laws, philosophies, and rules. By questioning, we can reveal what isn't fair, and what needs to be changed. Teenagers have unique ideas. We like to think outside the box. This causes us to be the group of people with the greatest potential to change the world. All that needs to be done is for one of us to take a risk.

Never think that you're too young and insignificant to make a change.

You have the power to make the world a better place. Use it, and you won't regret it. Take the risk, speak your mind, and make a change.

Are there any injustices in your town? Like a restaurant only giving good seats to people of European origins? If there are, you can take a risk, speak up, and make your town a better place. Put posters on mailboxes and street poles. Inform your neighbors, and you will make a positive change. All you have to do is take a risk. Like Mahatma Gandhi said: "Be the change you wish to see in the world."

Elijah Shapiro is a ninth-grader at Beaconsfield High School. His hobbies include reading, playing board and card games, playing the piano, and playing a variety of sports. He plays the euphonium in the BHS Band. Elijah likes to learn and excels at his academic record. He enjoys music from the 1940s to the 1980s, and he is a certified Bronze Cross lifeguard.

Systemic Racism is Making its Way into the Law

By Sydney Schenk

Quebec's secularism law, also known as Bill 21, has been in place for five years now. It's a law that prohibits some public sector workers, like teachers and police officers, from wearing religious symbols at work. Recently, the government has been trying to renew this law by reapplying a notwithstanding clause. This lets the government bypass the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and infringes on people's rights and also makes it harder for the law to be challenged in court. The law was challenged in November 2022, but we are still waiting for a decision to be made by Quebec's highest court. Bill 21 is making religious minorities feel unsafe and unaccepted in their workplaces. This is an example of overt systemic racism in Canada, which is a country that most people believe is welcoming and accepting. The law is making it seem like everyone should be the same and encourages the idea that being different is wrong, which leads to threats and violence against people who are different from the norm.



Racism: What's your reason

Why is everyone discriminating against each other's skin or culture?

By Brodie Shawanda

Racism, everyone could have caused or experienced it once or more in their life, but the reason why people cause it confuses me and millions of other people. Racism, many and millions have had terrible experiences with this form of discrimination. Most of America's history is based on racism, but what is it? Racism is a term for hate and discrimination on either person's skin colour, hair or culture.

I have dealt with racism in my life and/or heard other people be racist to each other. Sometimes I would ask why we are like this and the majority have always said "I don't know" as an answer. There has to be a true reason behind racism, discrimination and slurs.

Culture, culture is what you believe in, what your ancestors and elders have seen, felt and tasted. They passed down their language and stories to the youth or the next generation to carry on. But some people are public about hating a culture, this hate can cause a harsh attack on the community. But why? Why are people cruel to what people believe and celebrate? Sometimes the attacker could only be biased or come from no culture themselves.

Skin colour is one of the causes of racism.

There are many variants of skin colour in the world. White, originating from Europe and the most controversial skin colour is Black, originating from almost everywhere around the world, Brazil, Jamaica, Africa and many more. Every Black individual I have met is either sweet, sassy or funny. It really confuses me why people are racist and discriminate against these people.

Riots and race movement.

A lot of riots and protests have happened due to racism. The most recent protest happened just a few years ago. George Floyd's riot began when a video was posted on the internet, it captured an officer kneeling down on the African American throat, blocking the oxygen from entering his lungs. When George screamed "I can't breathe" it escalated. Days later riots and protests happened all over America. This goes to show the effects of racism. Since George Floyd's passing, recent riots and protests have happened all over America. Continuing the protests there was a Black movement all over social media. Race movement is a way of showing, and celebrating your race or culture. My favourite medium of race movement is through music albums. There are many artists who have made albums about worldwide problems, culture and racism.

All lives matter, every single person. There is much chaos in this world, and all we can do is contribute as much as we can. Through skin colour, and culture there should be a form of understanding and respect. And as for all readers, respect everyone and be better.

Biases Hurt More Than you Think

By Sami Bandari Nejad and Kaitlyn Chiarella

In today's society, racism isn't so obvious. A lot of people have biases that they don't even realize. These unknown biases can cause subtle inequalities in society, like, in the workplace and education. These biases are examples of systematic racism. Systematic racism is the unequal treatment of people of a certain ethnic group who are discriminated against because of some advantages or disadvantages we have over other ethnic groups. To be an ally in the fight against systemic racism, amplifying the voice of those affected by it is the best way. The more people who hear about victims the more people get informed about the awful injustices that systematic racism brings them. The number one step to becoming anti-racist is to start realizing the biases that you may have and putting in work to counteract them. Openly speaking about racism to others and sharing experiences is also a very good way to spread anti-racism to others. With these methods in mind, the ultimate goal of achieving an anti-racist society seems possible.

Perception Bias

Many people have a perception bias that we are not even aware of. This happens when we judge or treat others based on inaccurate stereotypes or assumptions about the group people belong to. This type of bias leads to discrimination and social exclusion. Systematic racism is a form of racism that is embedded in systems, laws, policies, and beliefs. Systematic racism can be found within education, employment, food insecurity, immigration policy, and much more. In order to move forward we need to confront this issue. Having knowledge and understanding of Canada's history with racism provides us with what we need to fight against injustices. We can all become anti-racists by attending events or protests that focus on race-related issues, and support the work and businesses of people of color. We need to see people for who they truly are. We need to notice their individuality, details, and qualities, and no longer let stereotypes take over what we think of people.

Power of Voice
By Guerlyne Mercier, Teacher Beaconsfield High School

What are you eating?
It looks like a bowl of rice and brown cockroach.
Every day I was asked what meal I had in my lunch box at elementary school

I was teased, bullied mercilessly for eating my Haitian food.
I wanted to be like everyone else.
I desired to be like THEM

Mom, could I have a sandwich or a hot dog in my lunchbox instead?
My dear, I can only afford leftover food from supper.

I begged everyday for a change of menu but to no avail,
Chicken, black or brown beans with rice was served
Occasionally I had a juice box with a legendary Joe Louis snack (Vachon)
My torment ended when my cousin joined the school.

Finally someone looked like me
But she did not sound like me.
She was my voice
Cousin Mur was fearless and always spoke her mind

In high school the biggest bully was Ben
A tall blond boy.
Girls were head over heels for him.
Not me!

He made fun of me everyday
My hair, my body, my clothes as well as my food.
I ignored it for years
Until that famous day in grade 9.
I found my voice.

Ben was poking me from behind with his ruler in math class.
I turned around and I did the unthinkable
I pushed his desk and Ben lost his balance on his chair
Boom!
He fell flat on his back.
The class clapped and laughed
Miss Brown, the math teacher, looked at me and smiled.
She carried on with the completion of her math problem on the board.

Confronting the bully head on was my saving grace
Suddenly I felt free to be me
Guerlyne,
The French Black Girl,
Lover of black beans chicken and rice
A believer, a baller
Joyful and well mannered

Yes, I matter!
You matter!
Get up! Stand up! Speak up!
Thank God Almighty, my voice will be heard.
I will no longer be silenced
Find your voice too.

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Guerlyne Mercier is a coach, wife, mother, and educator. She received many sports awards for playing and coaching basketball. In the summer of 2022 she participated in the [March of Remembrance and Hope](#) and was chosen because she did volunteer work in a Montreal prison. She has a Master's degree in University of Toronto. She has a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Concordia University. She has a certificate from the Canadian Arm Force for basic artillery training. Guerlyne has a wealth of knowledge earned from years serving on EDDI committees. She also received recognition from the City of Laurent for 25 years of serving her community.





Are we free?
by Brodie Shawanda



This represents social justice, because immigrants coming here are expected to usually know a completely new language. When arriving here when people usually only know the language of the country they came from. I think in a socially just society, all cities in Quebec should at least, like with this sign, translate it to English as it's a language that people around the world know. This could help immigrants or people from different cultures feel less isolated and more welcomed here.

By Alexa Skalkos

Addiction to Social Media

By Arthur Cloutier

I believe that to be an ally that fights systemic racism, we have to break all bad habits that have been normalized and are somewhat racist and wrong to say. The problem is that our society is addicted to social media, which is the main reason for systemic racism. All of these racist “jokes” come from the internet, and spread so fast that racism seems okay to so many who spend too much time online. This leads me to believe that cutting social media from our lives would help us grow as a united society. This is easy for those like me; who aren’t addicted to our phones. However, it is estimated that more than half the population of Canada is addicted to social media platforms. A better way to limit people from exposure to racism would be if there was a limit to social media usage. This is the ultimate solution, but the government or the app owners would never do this. To summarize, for me to be an ally against systemic racism, I could cut social media, but for the general population, this would be a lot more challenging.

Acknowledging Racism

By Tarak Sharma

In our everyday lives, systemic racism tends to quietly take over the way a lot of us behave or make choices, whether we realize it or not. This is why it is essential to understand how it works so that you don’t accidentally participate. To start, systemic racism tends to play many significant roles in decisions for things such as hiring, education, and even criminal justice, and it tends to have a heavy impact on marginalized communities. It tends to favor those who are part of the majority instead of those who are part of the minorities. However, there is a solution to this problem. To solve this complex inequality, we must first acknowledge that it exists. This issue will never be resolved without bringing it to light, and those with ignorance will always ignore it. So the only way that we can forge a society where justice is blind and where every individual is equal, free from systemic oppression, is if we all try and do better and try to accept that there is a lot of racism. Reach out to others and be open to their opinions and experiences to start, and then spread this information with others to have as much of an impact as possible. People must begin opening their eyes and looking for it because it isn't always apparent.

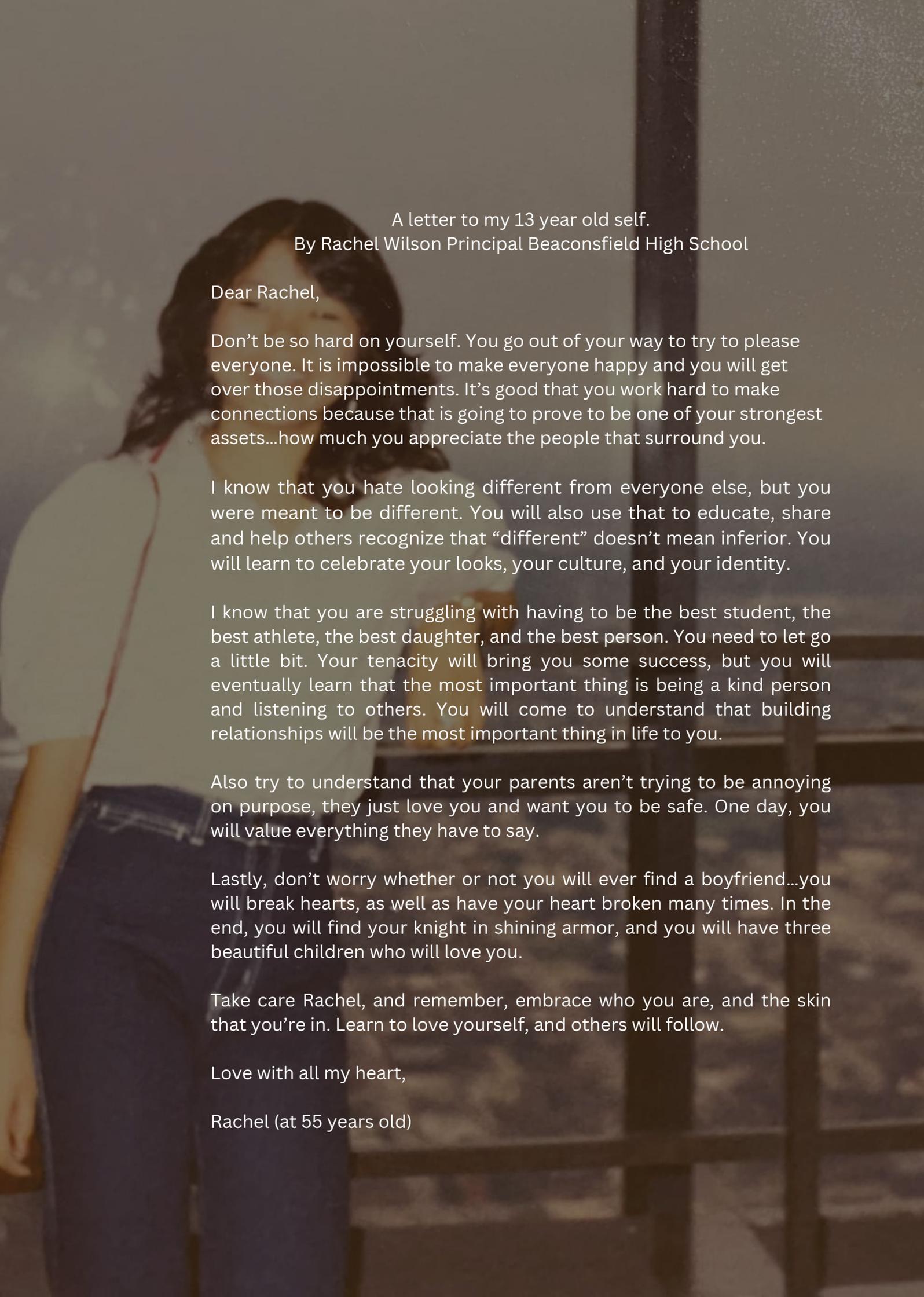
Fighting Racism In Society

by Liam Sullivan and Benjamin Chuprun

Everyone should try their best to be inclusive and not racist, but sometimes people with good intentions have biases that we don't know of. One example could be in choosing a sports team. Some races are stereotypically better at certain sports than others, and when choosing your team you might subconsciously take that into account and be racist in your selection. Systematic racism is racism where white superiority becomes part of a system. It could be in employment, education, social participation, and, as we saw in the Central Park Five film. For example, the system of justice run by mainly white people targeted four young boys of color and one Hispanic. They were innocent boys, but the justice system had systematic racism in it and blamed them for the crime. To be an ally and join others to fight systemic racism I can never be racist myself, treat everyone the same, and tell those who support systemic racism that what they are doing is wrong. I can also show support for any victims of systemic racism to put pressure on those who cause it to stop. We can all become anti-racist by treating everyone based on their personal actions and not how people look. Like the speaker in the assembly on racism said, we are all way more similar than we are different.

Found In Many Societies

Systematic racism can be found in many societies. Racism affects many people negatively and is something that has been fought against by many people in different ways. There have undoubtedly been many cases like the Central Park jogger case where people were prosecuted simply for their appearance and colour. Cases like the Central Park jogger case only happen when people, and possibly the media are set on believing something that is not true due to racism whether they know it or not. When most people think about what constitutes a racist act, we might think about clearly racist behaviour such as shouting slurs or uncalled-for violence against people of colour. Racism can however be much more subtle. Sometimes racism is not even noticeable to the person being racist even if they think of themselves as not being racist. There can be a subtle preference or dislike that people can have for a certain group of people. It can be very hard to catch these preferences or dislikes but little things also contribute to racism. Alongside attempting to prevent violence and hate, people should pay more attention to their thoughts and actions in an attempt to help the fight against racism.



A letter to my 13 year old self.
By Rachel Wilson Principal Beaconsfield High School

Dear Rachel,

Don't be so hard on yourself. You go out of your way to try to please everyone. It is impossible to make everyone happy and you will get over those disappointments. It's good that you work hard to make connections because that is going to prove to be one of your strongest assets...how much you appreciate the people that surround you.

I know that you hate looking different from everyone else, but you were meant to be different. You will also use that to educate, share and help others recognize that "different" doesn't mean inferior. You will learn to celebrate your looks, your culture, and your identity.

I know that you are struggling with having to be the best student, the best athlete, the best daughter, and the best person. You need to let go a little bit. Your tenacity will bring you some success, but you will eventually learn that the most important thing is being a kind person and listening to others. You will come to understand that building relationships will be the most important thing in life to you.

Also try to understand that your parents aren't trying to be annoying on purpose, they just love you and want you to be safe. One day, you will value everything they have to say.

Lastly, don't worry whether or not you will ever find a boyfriend...you will break hearts, as well as have your heart broken many times. In the end, you will find your knight in shining armor, and you will have three beautiful children who will love you.

Take care Rachel, and remember, embrace who you are, and the skin that you're in. Learn to love yourself, and others will follow.

Love with all my heart,

Rachel (at 55 years old)



“ I know that you hate looking different from everyone else, but you were meant to be different. You will also use that to educate, share and help others recognize that “different” doesn’t mean inferior. You will learn to celebrate your looks, your culture, and your identity” . Rachel Chua Wilson



Rachel Chua Wilson is an educator, high school administrator, wife, and mother to her three amazing children. Born in Manila, Philippines, Rachel immigrated to Montreal in 1972 and pursued her post-secondary studies at John Abbott College, McGill University (B. Ed., Certificate and Educational Technology) and Mount St. Vincent University (MEd Literacy). Rachel has always been a teacher at heart, having coached elementary, secondary, and inter-city basketball, taught students from K to 11th grade, served as a literacy lead teacher and fulfilled several administrative duties at John Rennie High School, Clearpoint Elementary IB world school, Lakeside Academy and Beaconsfield High School. She also served and worked with her colleagues as President of the Pearson Association of School Administrators. Rachel's favourite past times include chatting with friends, colleagues, and students, crafting, exercising, taking road trips, playing with her dog, and hanging out with her family. She will be retiring from her beloved career with Lester Pearson School Board at the end of the 2023-24 school year.

Removing Racial Biases

By Yiang Yao (Alan)

There are many hidden prejudices and discriminations in modern society, some of which are criticized, while others cannot be realized. These biases are deep-rooted and difficult to remove. These stereotypes are actually a kind of prejudice. Systemic racism is when such prejudices have secretly penetrated the entire society, but people are not clear enough to recognize their existence. If people in the juridical system have this type of bias, certain races of people will be more likely to be arrested innocently. If people in the education system have this type of bias, some children will not be able to study normally like others. Inequality is created because of it. In addition, when this phenomenon continues to develop and intensify, people will become accustomed to it, and racial discrimination will be seen everywhere. We should face up to this phenomenon and admit the existence of this problem. We should judge others by their abilities rather than by race. When others are unaware of their biases, we should inform and explain why those biases are wrong. It is important to let everyone realize this issue so that racism can be stopped. Once people stand out and explain the concepts to their families and friends, and we support people who are facing and solving this problem, we will have a better world for the new generations with equality.

Racism Still Exists

By Cristiano De Melo

Falling way far back into history, there have been several types of racism that could be spotted throughout society, and even now there is still quite a bit of racism, less? Yes. More subtle? Also yes. Which is exactly the problem, that there is still racism around. The reason why you might hear so many presentations or read so many pieces of literature about racism is because we need to spread the information so that we can, one, locate and identify racism in any form, and two, then we can prevent it from ever happening again. The reason why we still haven't gotten rid of racism completely is because racism is kind of like glitter, one day the idea of opening the glitter container comes up, then the glitter is spread all over, in your clothes, hair, skin, places it shouldn't, and then you decided, "This is bad, I should take a shower." and then even after the shower you still find more glitter, this is because it was poured into the "society" of your body and some parts still hold on to it. However, there is a way we can clear the world of racism, if everyone as a whole comes together to locate and identify racism, then remove it. Just like the glitter on your body, although it might be a strange idea, you should find others who are able to see fully around you, and help you remove all the glitter from your body's "society".

The Problem with Hate

by Anonymous

Racism is very prominent in the world we live in today, even if we don't really notice it if it's not happening to us on a daily basis. I cannot say much on what it is to experience it as I am a Caucasian individual but I have seen it happen to others at times in obvious and gruesome ways in the media. For example, there were numerous cases of hate crimes when COVID-19 was at an all-time high people who were of Asian descent just because they were a part of that minority of people and they just existed. Many people in the public were sad but not really devastated by this except the other people of the same background. They now had to live in fear of being hurt by these hate crimes. However, I bet you if it was Caucasian people it would be such a tragedy when it should be seen that way for everyone from every background. I think that to try and help people be more inclusive people should treat everyone equally. Like, actually try to do it and not just say they will and do one tiny thing to get a small gold sticker. We need to truly learn that what we're doing is very harmful to people of other cultures and backgrounds.

The Fight Never Ends

by Matthew Bell

Unconscious biases are like hidden influences that affect how we see and treat others without us even realizing it. These biases develop from the things we're exposed to, like stereotypes and cultural beliefs. Systematic racism is a big problem in our society where unfair treatment and disadvantages are built into our laws, institutions, and daily practices, especially harming people of color. To help fight against this, we first need to recognize our own biases and work to change them. Being an ally means standing up for those facing discrimination, listening to their experiences, and supporting them. But being an anti-racist goes further. It means actively opposing racism in all its forms. This involves not only speaking out against it but also taking steps to change the systems that allow it to exist. We can start by creating inclusive spaces, educating ourselves and others about racism, and advocating for fairer policies. It's a journey that requires continuous effort and learning, but by working together, we can make our communities more equal and just for everyone. Recognizing our own biases and understanding how they impact our actions is a crucial first step. We can challenge these biases by actively seeking out diverse perspectives and experiences, questioning our assumptions, and being open to learning from others. Additionally, we can support initiatives and organizations that promote diversity and inclusion, and actively work to create more equitable opportunities for all individuals. By continually educating ourselves, engaging in difficult conversations, and taking meaningful action, we can work towards building a more just and equitable society for future generations.

The Fight isn't over

By Anonymous

We might think that the fight against racism is over and that we all have equality but the reality is that there still is racism in our society. It might be less noticeable and less common as it was but it is still there. No matter how much society thinks that we have changed we can never change completely, but I feel that we can still try to change completely and that we can still try to take the prejudice out of our lives. But like anything perfection is impossible so we have to stop being satisfied with the results we have gotten already and we should try to start striving for perfection even if it is impossible to achieve.

Understanding the Problem

By Abigail Wurst

Understanding how systematic racism is present both subtly and overtly within society is crucial for distinguishing its extensive effects on many in many areas of life and allowing true equality in our justice system. At its core, systematic racism is not just about individual acts of prejudice, but about structures and institutions that perpetuate inequality and disadvantage certain racial groups. Subtle actions of racism can be undetected, often disguised as innocent remarks, biases, or microaggressions that accumulate and grow over time, creating a hostile environment for marginalized communities. These seemingly small actions contribute to a larger system of oppression, reinforcing stereotypes limiting opportunities for advancement and overall not allowing any movement towards true equality. Moreover, more apparent and obvious expressions of racism, such as discriminatory policies or hate crimes, can gather public attention and outrage, but that is often just the tip of the iceberg. Below the surface, deeply rooted systems of injustice persist. Systems of injustice that disadvantage people of color in education, employment, housing, healthcare, and the criminal justice system. By understanding how systematic racism operates on both subtle and overt levels, individuals can better recognize its presence in their own lives and work towards challenging and dismantling it. It requires acknowledging privilege, advocating for policy reform, and actively promoting inclusivity and equity in all aspects of society. Only through this understanding and collective action of many can we hope to create a more just and equal world, where every individual has the opportunity to thrive regardless of their race or ethnicity.



Secret Unkown Biases

By Angelina LeBlanc and Nicolas Janidlo

Whether we recognize it or not, everyone has unknown biases. These are automatic social stereotypes about certain groups of people that individuals form outside their own conscious awareness, and it refers to attitudes, assumptions, or beliefs that influence our thinking without our conscious awareness. Everyone holds these unconscious beliefs about various social and identity groups, and these biases stem from one's tendency to organize social worlds by categorizing. For example, these can include unknown biases based on gender, racial, age, weight, beauty, and stereotyping. We can begin to overcome these unknown biases by increasing our self-awareness. Furthermore, systemic racism, which is also known as institutional racism, describes how white supremacy seeps into an institution's procedures and regulations, creating a system that benefits white people and disadvantages BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color), particularly in the areas of employment, education, justice, and social involvement. Some examples include residential segregation, accumulating wealth, unfair loans and other barriers to homeownership, deprived education, biased policing and sentencing of people of color, and voter suppression policies. In order to be an ally and fight against systemic racism, we must acknowledge that racism lives within our society and reflect on the ways that it has impacted our perspectives on society, and we should gather in groups and have conversations, regardless of our intersectional identities as this can bring us together. Lastly, in order to become anti-racist, we must work together to build up a world where everyone's equal no matter their race, religion, and color of their skin, and we must stand up for everyone's rights.

Culture

Within our culture, we tend to put people into categories so we don't have to remember as much. We often like to think that if you are from the same place you act the same way and that leads to some stereotypes being formed. We all know of some stereotypes that are not okay and that's often what we think about when it comes to systematic racism, races. It isn't all about races, systematic racism is treating anyone unfairly without you even knowing them at all. You make an assumption just by looking at them. That's what needs to stop. We can all join together in getting rid of this by just stopping making assumptions about people and just seeing who people are and how people act. It would get rid of all of our problems when it comes to racism and especially systematic racism. We can all become anti-racists by just treating everyone the same and stop assuming who people are by how they look and it doesn't mean just the race. The way people dress and how people look can make us think differently of them, but that doesn't mean you are right.

How Systemic Racism Functions

By Yasmina Chamsine and Darcy Millroy

A lot of people don't really understand what systematic racism is or how it works and that's because it's something that's already there, built in, not something you get after a while. Everyone has their own thoughts and personal beliefs but with that comes biases that some people don't even realize we have. For example, with the Central Park Five case, most people were very quick to blame those five young men simply based on appearance. There was no evidence or ties that led them to believe that these men have committed this crime yet still so many people blame them for everything that happened. People wanted to believe that it was them because it fit the image that was in their head. That those five dangerous, black boys beat up this poor innocent white woman, once again following the stereotype that the world has instilled. These are the kinds of biases that people have and aren't even aware of. It's so natural, so normal, like part of the system and that's why it happens undetected. In my personal opinion, the only real way to fight systemic racism is by never judging or accusing anyone without cold hard evidence and treating everyone the same. Treating everyone the same in the sense that you believe that everyone has the same equal chance of doing either good or bad in their life, no matter their appearance or background. Let's learn from our past mistakes and become a better, more understanding world that treats everyone equally, no matter their race, religion or genre.

Recognize

It is important to understand systematic racism because it helps people recognize the biases that lead to discrimination and inequality in our society. By understanding how systematic racism works, people can work towards creating a more fair and balanced society where everyone has equal rights and equal opportunities. Systematic racism usually happens in a society without the population even realizing it's happening. Reasons why this happens is people are of a different race, cultural background and personal encounters. This happens a lot during education, employment and healthcare. During education, some teachers punish and treat students more harshly depending on their race as well as not giving them proper resources. For employment, people of color would get lower pay than white people for similar jobs. In healthcare, in hospitals as well as clinics, people of colour and different ethnicity would have worse quality of care and would take longer to be treated. This is how systematic racism was shown in our society.

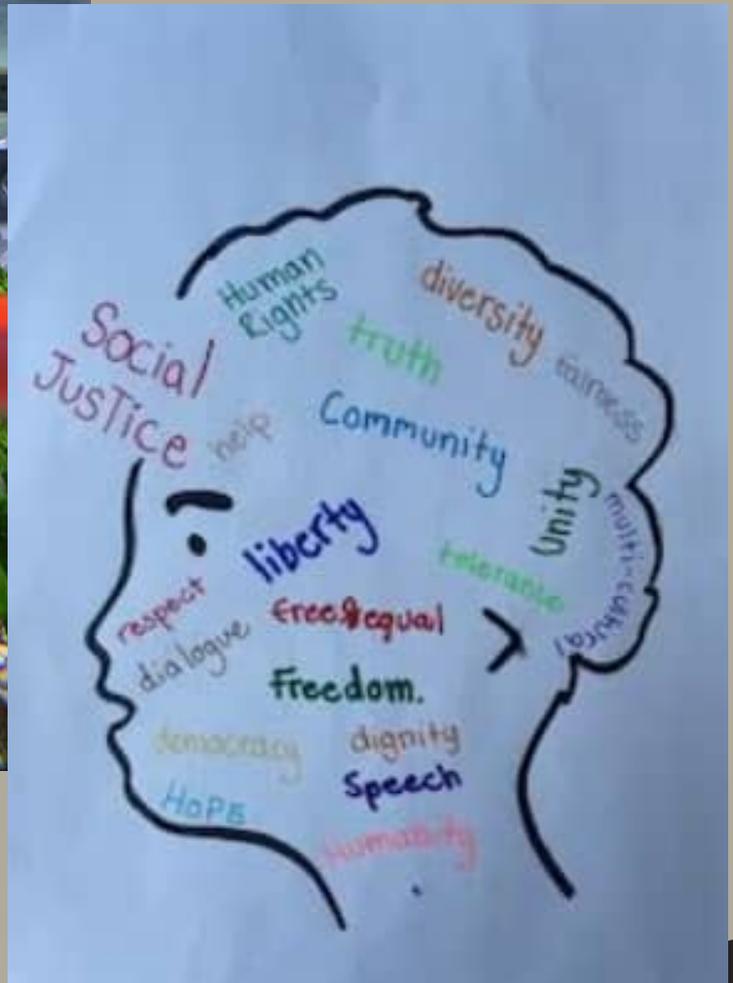
The Spreading of Racism in Society

By Samantha El-Awadie and Juliette Pipon

It is important to understand why systematic racism spreads through society so we learn how to not make the same mistakes that have been done. Some people will make assumptions about one another just based on their ethnicity or skin color. This can lead to prejudices being formed. Systematic racism to me is when people of specific ethnicities will get treated differently in an organization or a system because of how they identify themselves. Some people or certain groups will be in favor of a certain ethnic group and will treat others differently. I've read an article about Joyce Echaquan, a First Nations woman who got mistreated and not given proper medical help all because she was Inuit. In the end she passed away and a video got leaked of how the people working at the hospital treated her all because they didn't see her as alike as them. Many assumptions were made of her, which led to them not believing that she was truly sick. They assumed she was on drugs and called her crazy claiming that she was faking it all. When the news got released everyone was shook. If we finally just all see each other as one and stop picking out everyone's differences, whether it is race, skin color, ethnic background we could come as a whole and end racism. But for this to happen we have to stop focussing on differences and focus on our similarities.

It Isn't Just A Singular Thing

Understanding how racism is built into society in both obvious and not-so-obvious ways is really important. We witness racism more than we think. You might think racism is just about the words said from one person to someone else, but it's more of the action that shows the greater effect. Racism isn't just about verbal segregation, it's also the physical segregation we see in the real world. When we come to terms with the fact that racism isn't just about individual actions but also about how our systems work, we can start to see the unfairness that certain groups face, especially people of color. This understanding helps people in charge of laws create fairer policies that address these inequalities. It also means that each of us can take responsibility for our own actions and challenge discrimination when we see it. Knowing the history behind systemic racism helps us understand why things are the way they are today. Being aware of different cultures and being respectful towards them is part of this too. Economic differences caused by racism show us why it's crucial to fix these problems with specific actions. Racism affects people's mental health, so it's important to fix inequalities in things like healthcare and education where racism is so sugarcoated because we normalize little things in our day to day life that are overtly racist. Taking the step to realize racism is very real and present in our society is a step closer to stopping it.



**EMBRACING TRUTH:
The Imperative of Inclusive Education in
Unveiling Black History**

By: Margaret Morgan

IN this newsletter, we will steer clear of social and literary misnomers associated with Africans brought to Western shores through the transatlantic slave trade, instead using the term "Black" to identify people of African descent who were treated as commodities. The focus will be on the importance of creating a modern education system that embraces inclusivity and accuracy in teaching Black History to the next generation. Understanding our history is crucial for our future development, as it forms the foundation of our values and shapes our society.

By acknowledging past mistakes and injustices, we can learn valuable lessons and work towards a more just and equitable future. It is essential to confront the uncomfortable truths of our history, including the role of Black people in building the Western world under conditions of grave inequities and inhumane abusive conditions. Reparation and restitution for these injustices can only come about through a collective acknowledgment and acceptance of the truth, which can be facilitated by an education system that teaches the reality of Black History openly and inclusively. By embracing this approach, we honor the legacy of trailblazers like Carter Godwin Woodson, the father of Black History, and pave the way for a more equitable and just society.

Institutions of learning serve as pillars of society, entrusted with the responsibility of shaping young minds and instilling values that will guide future generations. However, when historical narratives are distorted or omitted, these institutions fail in their duty to provide a comprehensive understanding of the past. By neglecting to teach the realities of Black History, we continue ignorance and perpetuate systemic injustices. This omission not only does a disservice to Black individuals by erasing their contributions and experiences but also denies all students the opportunity to learn from the mistakes of the past and work towards a more equitable future.

Moreover, the impact of an inclusive education extends beyond the classroom, shaping societal attitudes and fostering empathy and understanding among diverse communities. When students are exposed to a truthful and inclusive portrayal of history, they develop a deeper appreciation for the complexities of the human experience and are better equipped to confront prejudice and discrimination in all its forms. By embracing the truths of Black History, we challenge existing power structures and pave the way for a more just and inclusive society. This transformation begins with education, as it provides the foundation upon which future generations will build a more equitable world.



Margaret Morgan was born in Kingston, Jamaica. She attended the Ardenne High school and later The University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona. She graduated with Honors in Psychology and Sociology and a master's in social policy.

In her undergraduate years, Margaret was selected by the Dean of Social Sciences as a motivational speaker and mentor to the 1st & 2nd year students in the Faculty of Medicine at UWI. In addition to that, she was also appointed grief counsellor for the Faculty of Social Science. Among her many accolades, Margaret, served as Vice President for the Psychology Association, President for the Sociology Association, and treasurer for Graduate Students Association. She was a Teaching Assistant on the Campus where she taught sociology, social psychology, and research methods at the undergraduate level.

Ms. Morgan served as a Justice of the Peace (JP) in the island of Jamaica and was later appointed a Lay Magistrate, where she tried misdemeanor cases in the Petty Court in Kingston, Jamaica. In her capacity as a JP, she also worked closely with the Jamaica Constabulary Force.

Ms. Morgan immigrated to Canada in 2002. She obtained a diploma in Human Relations and Family Life Education at McGill University and a master's degree in Aging and Health at Queen's University, Ontario. Her educational journey continues as she is currently being trained as a mental health coach.

A Human Relations agent and Family Life Educator, an administrator and a trained specialist in Alzheimer's Disease Awareness and Stress Management for Caregivers, she conducts workshops in Stress Management for Caregivers of persons living with Alzheimer's and other illnesses. She gives information sessions on dementia and in particular Alzheimer's disease, and sexuality among other things.

Ms. Morgan is an avid believer in academic studies and is oftentimes seen at Walmart, supermarkets, shopping centers and churches encouraging the youth to go to school or to excel in their academic pursuits. Over the years, she has diligently pushed "at risk children" to get a profession. Due to her encouragement some of these young adults have returned to the classroom and have graduated or are engaging in vocational interests.

Ms. Margaret Morgan is the mother of three children but a counselor to many. A proud grandmother, a terrific event planner and a delightful cook of Jamaican cuisine.



Photo by Akira Queens Medel

Education is a Weapon Against Racism

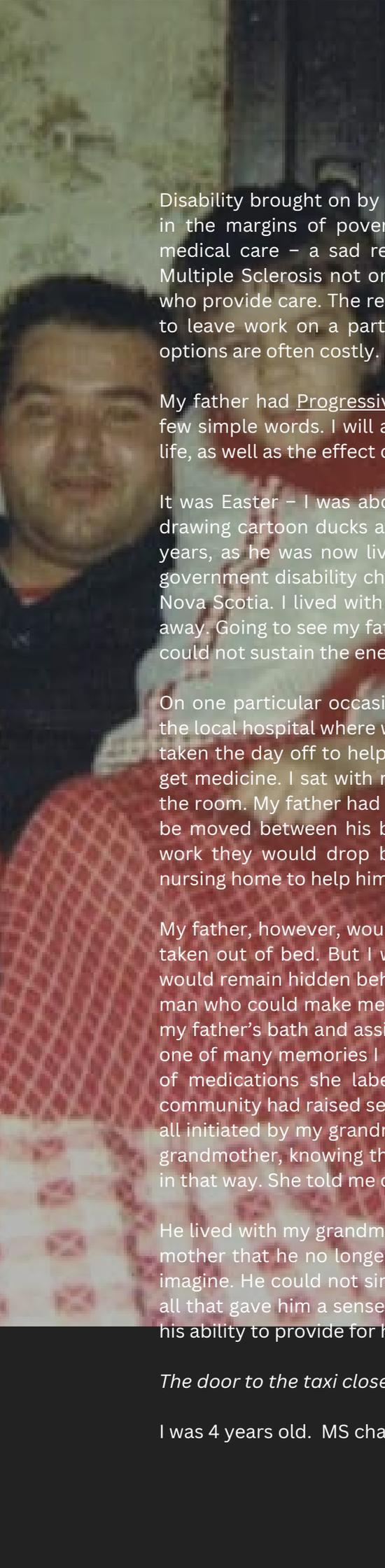
By: Akira Queens Medel

In a world striving for progress and equality, the need for anti-racism has never been more crucial. As we navigate the complexities of our diverse society, it becomes imperative for each one of us, regardless of our background, to actively engage in dismantling the core of racism. To be anti-racist is not just a label but a commitment to help grow a more inclusive and compassionate world. Firstly, let's grasp what racism is and how it operates. Racism is a systemic issue deeply ingrained in societal structures, perpetuating biases and discrimination based on race. Acknowledging this reality is the initial step towards combating it. Understanding that racism goes beyond individual acts and is rooted in historical and institutional structures allows us to approach the issue with more perspective. Education is a powerful tool for change. Arm yourself with knowledge about different cultures, histories, and experiences. Read books, watch documentaries, and engage in conversations with people from diverse backgrounds. By expanding our understanding, we can break down stereotypes, challenge misconceptions, and contribute to a better dialogue on race. Building an anti-racist community starts with fostering inclusivity in our daily lives. Be conscious of language, avoiding stereotypes or offensive remarks. Embrace diversity in friendships, organizations, and activities. Encourage open conversations about race, creating an environment where everyone feels heard and respected. Silence perpetuates racism. To be anti-racist means actively challenging discriminatory practices and speaking up against injustice. If you witness or experience racism, don't hesitate to address it. Encourage your peers to do the same. By collectively rejecting discriminatory behavior, we create a culture that prioritizes equality and justice. Stay informed about ongoing anti-racist movements and support them in any way you can. Attend peaceful protests, sign petitions, or engage in online discussions. Social media can be a powerful tool for spreading awareness. By actively participating in these movements, you contribute to a collective effort against racism. Becoming anti-racist is a continuous journey that requires commitment, education, and active participation. By understanding the complexities of racism, educating ourselves, promoting inclusivity, speaking up against injustice, and supporting anti-racist movements, we can all contribute to building a more equitable and compassionate world. Remember, change begins with each one of us, and as we embrace anti-racism, we pave the way for a brighter and more inclusive future for all.

The Complexity of Racism

By Daphne Bergeron

Understanding how racism works is super important if we want things to be fair for everyone. Racism isn't just about people being mean to each other, it is also built into our society's "rules" and how things work. Sometimes it can be easy to spot, like when someone of a minority community is targeted with hateful acts or unfair laws. But other times it can be more hidden, like when people don't even realize they're treating someone unfairly because of their race. These little things can sometimes add up and make life harder for certain groups of people like in school, work, or other public places. When we can thoroughly understand how racism works in these complex ways, we can begin to fix things in our society. When we call out unfairness wherever we see it, whether big or small, we can make sure everyone gets treated equally and receives their fair share at having a good life.



Hope within Disability by Melinda Cochrane

Disability brought on by Multiple Sclerosis can have devastating effects, leaving a person in the margins of poverty and in some cases without the financial access to proper medical care – a sad reality of any illness that leads to long-term health issues. But Multiple Sclerosis not only affects the person, but the families as well, especially those who provide care. The reality is, many family members who become caregivers are forced to leave work on a part-time basis. Or, where an extended family unit does not exist, options are often costly. But the cost is far greater than statistics could ever paint.

My father had Progressive Multiple Sclerosis, and his suffering cannot be described in a few simple words. I will attempt to paint an accurate picture of a person with MS – daily life, as well as the effect on the family.

It was Easter – I was about 8 years old and I sat in my father's room in a nursing home drawing cartoon ducks and eggs. On the wall were several pictures I'd sent him over the years, as he was now living in Hants County, Nova Scotia, Canada. He received a small government disability cheque every month and was cared for by his aging mother, also in Nova Scotia. I lived with my sister and mother in Newfoundland, about an 18 hour drive away. Going to see my father entailed spending more time with family than with him, as he could not sustain the energy needed to get through the whole day's visit.

On one particular occasion, I remember seeing a huge machine inside a glass window at the local hospital where we took my father for some form of treatment. My uncle, who had taken the day off to help my grandmother, told me he was going to be placed inside it to get medicine. I sat with my uncle and observed carefully as they wheeled my father into the room. My father had two brothers and their help was not uncommon, as he needed to be moved between his bed and his chair on a constant basis. On lunch breaks or after work they would drop by my grandmother's home when my father was there, or the nursing home to help him get out of bed. They were both a constant in his life.

My father, however, would insist we leave the room when being fed or when he was being taken out of bed. But I wanted to see him, I wanted to know all parts of my father and would remain hidden behind a door to watch. I began to feel tremendous admiration for a man who could make me laugh, despite his pain. I can still recall my grandmother running my father's bath and assisting him to the washroom where she cleaned him. This was only one of many memories I have of them together. Alongside his bed were numerous bottles of medications she labeled for him to take daily. Years later, I heard that the local community had raised several thousands of dollars in the hopes of finding a cure for him – all initiated by my grandmother, I am to assume. As a mother now, my heart aches for my grandmother, knowing the pain she must've gone through at having to see her son suffer in that way. She told me once in her quiet way... "he loves you, don't forget that".

He lived with my grandmother because upon hearing about his disease, my father told my mother that he no longer felt like a man. Disability took more from him than anyone can imagine. He could not simply sit in a chair and watch his wife provide. He was stripped of all that gave him a sense of manhood – in those days, a man was defined by his work and his ability to provide for his family. In his mind, a decision had to be made.

The door to the taxi closed, he took one look back and with his head down, he left.

I was 4 years old. MS changed our lives in an instant.

By the age of 30 he had already lost his ability to use the washroom alone, to eat alone, to walk, and to write. His vocal cords were also affected and I never heard him speak clearly to me. But his eyes always told me how he felt. Sadly, we often take these abilities for granted, but I knew early in life that they are our greatest gifts.

To close, I leave you with the last moment I had with my father. I was about 9 years old and I went into his room to say goodbye before heading back home to my mother in Newfoundland. He was tired and could barely move, and I leaned in and gave him a kiss goodbye. I walked out of the room and out to the car and was about to get in when my uncle told me to look up at the window (my father's room faced the driveway). Through the small window, I saw my father. He had managed to pull himself up to wave goodbye and he was smiling – a smile that I hold dear to this day as a reminder that our lives are truly gifts.

You see, although he was not a constant in my life, his illness taught me that our true meaning in life is the lasting effect we leave on others. What did he leave me with? His legacy – the belief that I could do anything, that I too could pull myself up to any window to see the future as he did. And what he saw that day was his child, who would one day grow up to not only share her story, but his as well – a story he was unable to tell.

Although my father lost his battle with MS at the age of 36, I hold his memory close and am grateful for hope – the hope that I found within his disability. I use that same hope in my classroom daily to encourage my students to never give up and to always use their voice.

I am also hoping that by sharing his story, everyone will understand the importance of inclusivity. Accessibility is inclusiveness.

published at [lifeasahumanmagazine](#)

Melinda Cochrane is an educator, mother of a beautiful daughter, poet, and fiction author. She received a certificate for leadership from the local CO-OP foundation in Newfoundland. She also received the Mary Belle Campbell Scholarship for poetry and teaching from the North Carolina Writers' Network. Her first YA novel, *Desperate Freedom*, was nominated for best book of the year in 2013 by the Quebec Writers' Federation. She was the 2012 winner of [Malahat Review's Twitter Monostich Contest](#) and has been shortlisted for the Fermoy International Poetry Contest in Ireland. She is a certified voice of Les Brown training. In Montreal, she spoke at [Dawson College's Anti-Violence Conference in 2011](#) and at the Bronfman Jewish Education Centre in 2018.



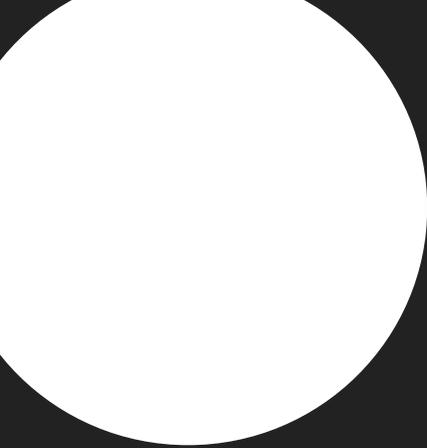
Judgement is Still Racism

By Cayla Bacani Mammarella and Emily Philipp

Back then we used to have newspapers at our doorsteps and that's how we found out about news. We would also listen to the news on the radio or by watching it on TV. Now barely anyone listens to the news or pays attention unless it's about their favorite celebrity. We don't care to look anymore at what's going on in our world. Systematic racism is different for everyone. Some people judge others and say it, others judge and make a face. People say that we Canadians don't express it unlike the Americans, who made sure the people know they don't like them. Some people judge in silence and others judge in words. But that doesn't matter because racism is racism. A way we can show our support is by calling people out when they are acting racist because some people don't know that they are being racist and need to be called out on it. You could join protests fight with them for their rights, and support them on your social media, but the best way to help is not to judge. Don't make faces, or any comment, even if you think it might not be racist. I believe that there will always be people that judge. We are human therefore we aren't perfect. Even if we don't make a face or make a comment out loud and judge someone, we will always be thinking of a comment but let it pass and think of something else. Everyone believes different things making it hard for us to change so easily. So I don't know how we can all become anti-racists, but at the same time, I don't think there will ever be a time where we won't be judging people for how different they may look.

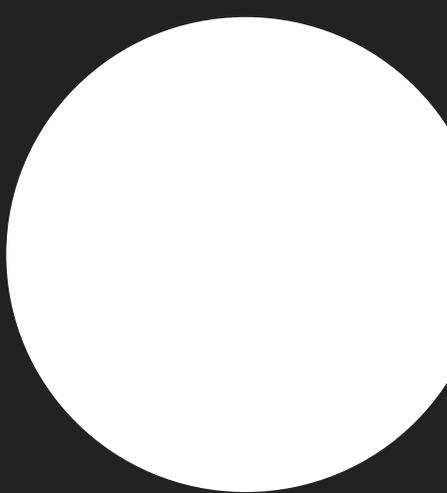
Policies Don't Equate to Equality

Racism is not just hate graffiti, racial slurs and verbal or physical attacks. Some racism is like the quiet shy person who never speaks up and goes unnoticed. Systemic racism is a silent threat and a danger to us all. To the people who are being discriminated against, systemic racism brings them down, in a way that not many people know about. It's the policies that are supposed to bring equality but don't. Systemic racism has allowed European settlers to take the land of the indigenous because they thought their culture was better. It keeps people of colour down by giving them "opportunities" but they don't benefit from them. These changes benefit the people making the rules. They give more power to the dominant cultures while oppressing the cultures that need uplifting. Systemic racism has to be like a race that is close to the finish line. We aren't there yet, we need to keep pushing through until its time is up.



Systematic Racism by Khush Tailor

Systematic racism is a form of racism that is deeply embedded in society to segregate people of color, a few examples are in laws, written or unwritten policies, and entrenched practices and beliefs that produce, condone, and spread unfair treatment and oppression of people of color. I believe it is important to learn about systematic racism because the roots of systematics go so deep that sometimes you might not even realize its existence but it's there and I believe the education of it will bring it to light so we can eliminate it from society. It is a complicated subject and it is going to be never fully understood if it is never explained. And understanding is the first step to removing it from society but that day is still far away but it's coming. Thanks to the teachers teaching the next generation about these problems.



Being Anti-Racist

By Luca Ramlall Lemieux

Systematic Racism is the way in which racial discrimination is shown throughout all the political structures of our society and how some racial groups are treated more unequally than others. Many never even have a thought about this and that is why it should be brought to the attention of everyone. Individuals often possess prejudices, which could be uncalled for and are made by societal standards, cultural backgrounds, and personal encounters. These prejudices, either hidden or overt, can sway our interpretations, choices, and actions without our awareness. These can be shown through many ways, such as biases related to race, gender, age, and beyond. Identifying and owning up to these biases forms the paramount initial move in tackling them. It is important to know that if we want to become an ally to fight against systemic racism we must first listen to those not being treated as equals. Once we have gained this knowledge, we can find various ways to let them be heard with the privilege we have, like for example a news article. This is a very simple way that can be effective because many people watch the news which will in all help the entire world out. Becoming anti-racist is not only about being opposed to racism but also about self reflection that involves and a thorough examination of your thoughts and biases. This is really important because there are many who if we want to become anti-racist people would need to change a lot about their opinions. When we commit to growth as an individual we will be much happier with ourselves and it will even help when everyone wants to come together and fight against systemic racism. Anti-racism shouldn't even be a thing people try to achieve, it should be already part of you by default.

Acknowledging

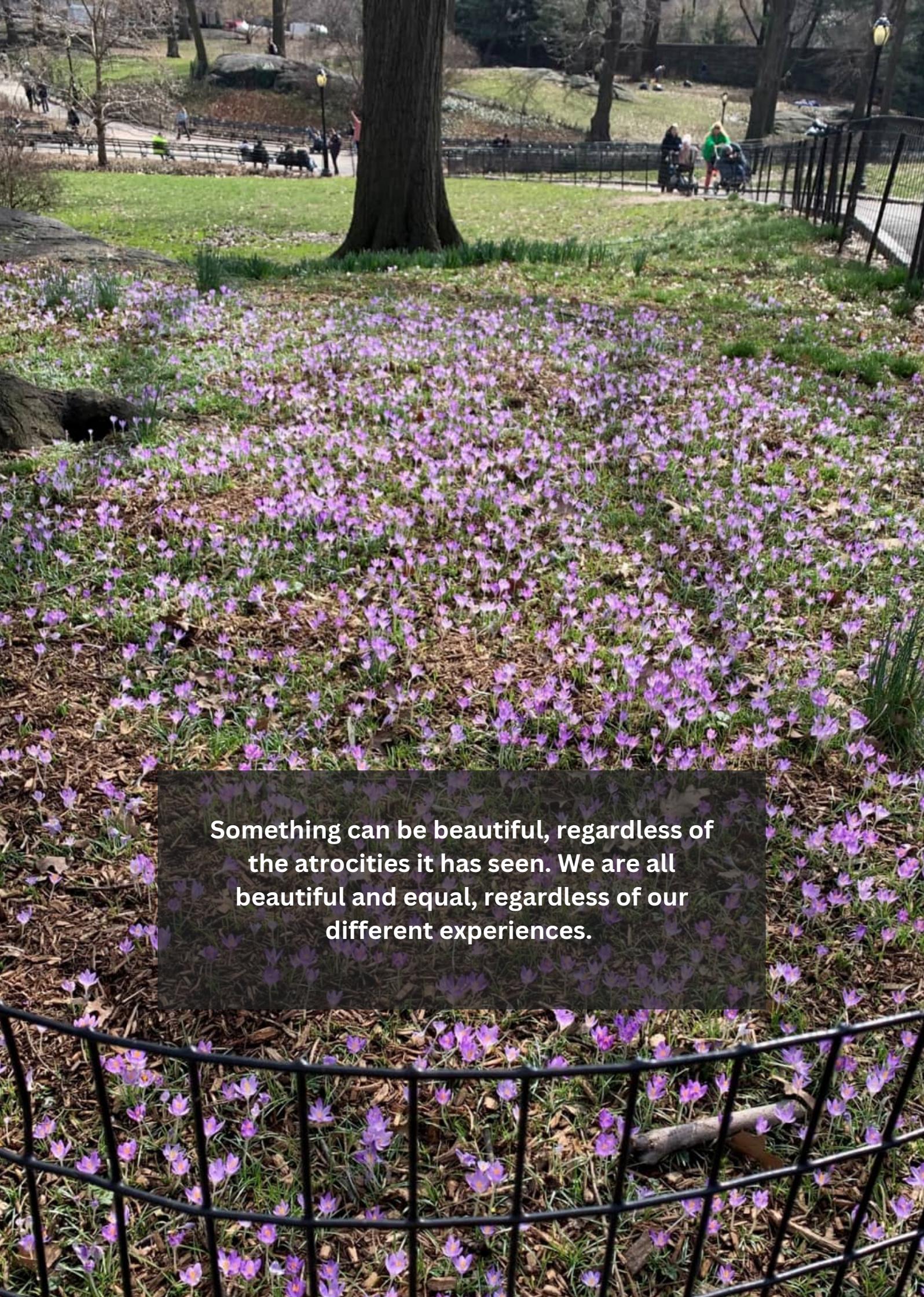
by Lucas Cochin

It is important to understand how systematic racism permeates society in both subtle and overt ways is crucial for several reasons. The first reason is, it allows us to recognize and destroy discriminatory ways and practices that involve inequality and injustice. By acknowledging these practices, people and groups can work towards creating an equal system for all no matter color. Those who were not affected by systematic racism may not understand the fear and connect to those who have been affected by systematic racism. When acknowledging systematic racism we as a community can work together to create solutions for this problem. The ultimate goal for understanding systematic racism should be to change how the system operates so that certain groups of people are not targeted and sought after. As a human being no matter color we should try and do better as communities to avoid this racism that's happening all around us.

A False Mindset

By Brayden Jones

Systemic racism is like a trait that can be passed on by one to another, a false mindset put to action into day to day life. But I also believe that most systemic racism comes from a force of underlying factors that do not really have to do with discrimination. People need to realize that most systemic racism is not people deliberately trying to put down non-white people, but that many of the reasons for systemic racism existing, is because of existing factors that were brought into Canada way before now. When it comes to specific biases in the government I don't believe there is much. One example is when studies come up talking about how a non-white race is supposedly more likely to end up in jail or more likely to be homeless. This is due to the main minority races, by the time their ancestors reached Canada, they weren't able to establish a prosperous life so that their future generations are mostly well off. Which is why you'll see more black and indigenous people homeless than white-people. When it comes to wanting to help diminish the impact of systemic racism, you should just make sure to carefully educate yourself about these small factors that are foundational to the governmental system, how there's not that much real hate in the world by strong government powers but that sadly it just so happens to be that most of the people who founded the country and its governments were white. When it comes to trying to be an anti racist. There's not much to say, just to make sure you're comfortable in your own skin no matter the tone and to just stay level headed and not judge on anything but personality.



Something can be beautiful, regardless of the atrocities it has seen. We are all beautiful and equal, regardless of our different experiences.

**ECHOES OF EMPOWERMENT: VOICES IN HIGH SCHOOL
BY ROBB JUTRAS, SENIOR ENGLISH TEACHER**

IN THE TAPESTRY OF OUR SCHOOL'S STORY,
EACH VOICE WEAVES A THREAD, VIBRANT AND BOLD,
A SYMPHONY OF NARRATIVES, OF STRUGGLES AND GLORY,
IN THE QUEST FOR JUSTICE, A TALE YET UNTOLD.

AS TEACHERS, OUR VOICES HOLD POTENT SWAY,
GUIDING THE MINDS OF THE YOUNG AND THE KEEN,
IN THE CLASSROOM'S EMBRACE, WE PAVE THE WAY,
FOR DREAMS TO FLOURISH, FOR IDEALS TO CONVENE.

WITH WORDS AS OUR BRUSH, WE PAINT A VISION FAIR,
OF EQUALITY, OF EMPATHY, OF RIGHTS HELD DEAR,
THROUGH STORIES AND LESSONS, WE KINDLE THE FLARE,
OF ACTIVISM, OF CHANGE, DRAWING NEAR.

IN THE ECHO OF OUR LECTURES, IN THE HUSH OF DEBATE,
WE NURTURE THE SEEDS OF AWARENESS AND CARE,
EMPOWERING VOICES THAT DARE TO ARTICULATE,
THE INJUSTICES FACED, THE BURDENS TO BEAR.

WITH EMPATHY AS OUR COMPASS, AND COURAGE AS OUR GUIDE,
WE CHAMPION DIVERSITY, WE CHALLENGE THE NORM,
BUILDING BRIDGES OF UNDERSTANDING FAR AND WIDE,
IN THE TAPESTRY OF JUSTICE, EACH VOICE FINDS ITS FORM.

SO LET US RAISE OUR VOICES, CLEAR AND STRONG,
FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, WITHIN OUR EMBRACE,
FOR IN THE CHORUS OF UNITY, WE BELONG,
TO A COMMUNITY TRANSFORMED, BY LOVE AND GRACE.



Robb Jutras is a senior English teacher at Beaconsfield High School. He was deeply inspired to pursue a career as an English teacher by his mentors and acclaimed authors, Sae Hoon Stan Chung and Barry McKinnon. Having grown up in Ontario and British Columbia, he now calls Montreal home, relishing in reading, occasional writing, and embarking on adventures with his wife and two lovely children.

