



The Bark

Spring 2018

Upcoming Events

[UN Observances](#)

February 28 - [Pink Shirt Day](#)

March 1 - [Zero Discrimination Day](#)

March 3 - [World Wildlife Day](#)

March 8 - [International Women's Day](#)

March 21 - [International Day for the Elimination of Racial discrimination](#)

March 22 - [World Water Day](#)

March 25 - [International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade](#)

- April 6 - [Public Interest Alberta Annual Conference](#)

- April 6 - [International Day of Sport for Development and Peace](#)

April 7 - [World Health Day](#)

April 12-13 - [ATA Diversity, Equity and Human Rights Conference](#)

April 22 - [International Mother Earth Day](#)

- April 23 - [World Book and Copyright Day](#)

April 28 - [National Day of Mourning](#)

- May 3 - [World Press Freedom Day](#)

May 7 - [National Child and Youth Mental Health Day](#)

May 8-9 - [Remember lives lost in WW II](#)

May 13 - [World Fair Trade Day](#) (second Saturday of May)

May 15 - [International Day of Families](#)

Making All Cultures Visible at St. Theresa School

Caterina Rylance & Ciara Smith

In November 2017, St. Theresa Middle School, part of Elk Island Catholic School district, was one of thirteen recipients of the Aspen Foundation's Social Justice Learning Grants. As a result of this grant, the school received \$800 to help support the development of a multicultural center.

The grant application was the result of a team of teachers who identified an increasing need to improve cultural education to promote empathy and compassion for students who have recently immigrated to Canada. The school recognized that it can be really tough for students and their families to move to a new place. Many of these individuals are rapidly introduced to a new language, culture, community, and environment. In previous years, the school has provided academic support for English Language Learners but the staff felt as though more could be done to support students and their families. As a result, the team came up with two solutions: set up a Cultural Centre and host a Community Support Night.

The Cultural Center was designed to be a place where students' cultures would be celebrated, embraced, and practiced. With the support of school administration, the school counsellor and facilitator, EICS Central Learning Services, and the Aspen Foundation, Caterina Rylance was able to set up the Cultural Centre and reveal it to students on January 8, 2018. By posting multilingual signage and flags from around the world, as well as purchasing bilingual books and multicultural artifacts, the Cultural Center has become a space that many students see as a safe haven, where they can practice their own culture without pressures of assimilation.

In addition to supporting students, the school identified a need to provide more support for families who have recently immigrated. In January of 2018, the Cultural Centre expanded to provide resources and information about community supports available for newcomers. In order for this aspect to come to life, St. Theresa Middle School hosted a Community Support Night on January 29, 2018. The event brought together ten community organizations, who support newcomers to Canada, to provide information to members of the Elk Island Catholic Schools community about supports available.

St. Theresa Middle School is so grateful for the help of the Aspen Foundation. The impact that the Cultural Centre will continue to have on students and families within our community will be long lasting.



Aspen Foundation for Labour Education



The Cultural Centre at St. Theresa Middle School, supported in part by an Aspen Foundation Social Justice Learning Grant.

Have you ever used an [Aspen Foundation Teaching Unit](#) in your classroom? We want to hear from you! We have free units that explore globalization, medicare, Alberta's history and much more! Contact Gary, our Executive Director at afle@telus.net.



The Aspen Foundation at the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Lodge 146

Aspen Foundation Feedback and Participation

We value your comments, please send them to us. If you would like to write an article regarding social justice work in the classroom, please contact Laura at aspenfoundation@gmail.com.



We believe that it is important that schools teach about building new, fairer, kinder, and more just workplaces and communities. Friends like you make our work possible.

Your support is key to offering Social Justice and Labour Education in schools

Aspen Foundation is a registered charity and provides **income tax receipts** to individual donors.

[Click here to support our work!](#)

Resources and Links

Resource: [Imagining a Better Future: An Introduction to Teaching and Learning about Settler Colonialism in Canada](#)
Video: [Neighbours](#)
Resource: [Respectful Schools Online Toolkit](#)
Article: [Tackling Race and Justice in the Classroom](#)
Video: [Balablock](#)
Article: [Teaching and Learning While Black](#)
Project: [#BetterCup from two Grade 6 students in Calgary](#)

*Always review resources before using them in class.

Visit us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) for more resources

The Aspen Foundation for Labour Education

◆ Contact us at aspenfoundation@gmail.com or Gary Hansen afle@telus.net ◆ www.afle.ca