

Day of PiNK

Celebrate Diversity

February 24, 2016

PiNK Shirt Day

The original **Pink Shirt Day** was organized by David Shepherd and Travis Price of Berwick, Nova Scotia, who in 2007 bought and distributed 50 pink shirts after male Grade 9 student, Charles McNeill, was bullied for wearing a pink shirt during the first day of school.

April 13, 2016

International DAY of PiNK

International Day of Pink is a day against **homophobic, transphobic, and all forms of bullying**. Celebrate diversity by **wearing pink** and **challenge stereotypes** with special activities on that day.

Be creative!

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DAY of PiNK—Secondary actions

Ideas for teaching about homophobia and transphobia

Video

Borrow the very thought-provoking *Straightlaced—How Gender's Got Us All Tied Up* from the BCTF. This is an excellent video to springboard into conversations about how all people, including straights, are affected by homophobia/transphobia. <http://groundspark.org/>.

To borrow videos from the BCTF Information Services Department, email video@bctf.ca, or call Lesley Harrington at 604-871-2241, toll-free 1-800-663-9163.

Watch the series of YouTube clips called "That's so gay" which depict various scenarios where that phrase is challenged, some using humour. Have students brainstorm things that they could do or say when they hear this phrase. Search under "That's so Emma and Julia" and/or search under "That's so gay—Wanda Sykes." (www.youtube.com)

Literature

Do a novel study (list of novels at www.pridenet.ca/staff-resources) where homophobia/transphobia is a central issue. Ask students to rewrite parts of the novel to creatively consider the ramifications of these forms of oppression.

Start a short-story project where students create a story line with a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning (LGBTQ) character. Avoid stereotyping and encourage students to creatively engage on issues around homophobia/transphobia.

Present works from authors who are LGBTQ. One might be BC writer Ivan E. Coyote who wrote compelling short stories in the book titled, *The Slow Fix*. Coyote tackles homophobia and transphobia head on in some of these humorous stories.

Science/History

Have a discussion on the search for the "gay gene." Inquire if science is always neutral or is scientific research affected by culture (e.g., Why isn't there interest in finding the "straight" gene?).

Highlight the accomplishments of famous scientists and historical figures who were LGBTQ (e.g., Alan Turing. In his story, how did homophobia affect his life?).

Show the film *Love is All You Need* to your class. Discuss how heterophobia affected the central character's life during this time period. For lists of famous or historical LGBTQ people, see bilerico.com/2011/08/the_top_20_most_important_lgbt_figures_in_history.php or huffingtonpost.ca/2013/06/28/pride-2013_n_3516530.html.

Math

Look at statistics about homophobic/transphobic bullying in Canadian schools (Source: www.egale.ca). Compare to statistics on hate crimes committed in Canada from the Stats Canada website (www.statcan.gc.ca, search for hate crimes). Who are the main targets? LGBTQ victims have elevated levels of violent crimes against them. Discuss what these statistics tell us about tolerance levels across Canada.

Drama/Fine Arts

Perform a play that addresses homophobia or/and transphobia (e.g., *The Laramie Project*).

Start a video competition where students create short clips for your school's TV monitors to address homophobia and transphobia. Check out www.outinschools.com for film ideas. (Out in Schools brings queer films to local secondary schools to facilitate discussion with youth on bullying, homophobia, and stereotypes and gives youth a safe space to explore these issues.) Invite different classes to come see the video you've created during recess/lunch.

Design multi-media exhibits/installations which incorporate the colour pink as a symbol of pride for LGBTQ students and their allies. Teach students

about the pink triangles and black triangles which are reclaimed symbols of pride. They were originally used in WW2 concentration camps to identify gay men and lesbians.

Social Studies or Social Justice 12

Do a project connecting the "isms" such as racism, sexism, heterosexism, etc. Research the ways marginalized peoples have successfully challenged systemic oppression in various nations, resulting in expanded human rights codes (e.g., compare and contrast the civil rights movement in America in the 1960s to AIDS activism in the 1980s).

Create a map of homophobia/transphobia or a "freedometer" where various countries are colour-coded by their degree of protection for LGBTQ people. Discuss what you can do locally and globally to reduce homophobia and transphobia around the world.

Planning 10

Use the Sociometry of Oppression lesson plan (in the lesson plans list at www.bctf.ca/SocialJustice.aspx?id=6106) and have students take on different identities and walk in the shoes of another person. Discuss the harms of homophobia/transphobia for ALL students during the debriefing of this lesson with your students.

Invite Gab Youth Services to come into your classroom to do a PrideSpeak presentation. PrideSpeaks are an interactive free workshop for youth by youth dealing with sexual orientation, gender identity, and combating discrimination. For details, go to www.qmunity.ca.

BCTF resources to support LGBTQ students

1. For lesson plans and classroom resources, go to www.bctf.ca/SocialJustice.aspx?id=6106
2. Free BCTF workshops (3–5 hours each):
 - (a) **Breaking the Silence: Understanding and Acting on LGBTQ Issues in Schools**
This action-oriented workshop will allow you to examine how negative myths and stereotypes about LGBTQ people impact all students, learn how to link oppressions when you teach, and develop effective strategies to make your school safer. Find out how homophobia negatively impacts all students in your classroom and how you can educate your students to be change makers.
 - (b) **From Silence to Action: How to be an Ally on LGBTQ Issues**
This workshop focuses on how to be an ally for LGBTQ students and support them to create an LGBTQ-positive climate in the school. There will be an opportunity to develop age-appropriate strategies and activities on how to integrate LGBTQ issues into the curriculum from K–12.
 - (c) **Creating a Gender-Inclusive School Culture**
This workshop will help develop an understanding of the risks facing trans* students, as well as the protective factors, gain increased familiarity with terminology used by the trans* communities and increased awareness of gender identity and gender expression. Best practices for supporting a student through gender transition within the school system will be covered. Although the focus is on trans* students, gender inclusive schools help all students to feel safe at school.
3. For classroom posters and resources to start Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) clubs, contact Susan Ruzic by phone at 604-871-1850 or toll-free 1-800-663-9163, local 1850, or email sruzic@bctf.ca.

See also Pride Education Network's website at www.pridenet.ca