*To provide the best interactive experience possible, we have chosen a new starting date.*

**Our official program start date is**

**Saturday December 17, 2022, 10:00 – 1:00 pm**

**Viola Desmond Public School**

**39 Formosa Avenue,**

**Ajax, ON.,**

**This is an amazing opportunity for students and families to attend the opening session together!**

**We are so excited to share our second annual program supporting DDSB’s Black students (Kindergarten – Grades 8) in fostering cultural connections within their community.**

**Where can families learn more about this program?**

***Please join us for our Information and Orientation session -***

*What will happen on Saturday December 17, 2022?*

Introduction to the Afrocentric Heritage Program

Meet and Greet with Program Leaders

Interactive pre-Kwanza session

Live Storytelling

Light refreshments

Door prizes

**We look forward to seeing you on Saturday December 17, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm!**

*About the program:* Durham Black Educators’ Network (DBEN) in partnership with the DDSB and ETFO Durham is offering a Saturday enrichment program focused on Afrocentric programming, the Arts, Outdoor Education, community, and leadership building through interactive sessions, and welcoming special guests to share their voices. Our goal is to support Black students in understanding that Black identity is at the center of learning and their Blackness is important to their overall engagement, well-being and success.

**What you can expect from the “And Still We Rise: Afrocentric Heritage Program”?**

 Participants will have the opportunity to engage in culturally connected activities. They will be able to affirm their identities through hands-on experiential learning tasks. Topics covered include: my Black identity, Kwanzaa, STEM, community building and Black History. The program will invite speakers from the community to share their knowledge and lived experiences in real-life contexts, and through the exploration and recognition of diverse Black perspectives. **The program will run from December 17, 2022 to June 17, 2023, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm**. The cost for registration is **$50** per child for the year and lunch will be provided. Program fees to be paid on the first day of the program.

**Registration will close on Saturday December 3, 2022**

To register, participants should use the link provided here: <https://forms.gle/36gc1rMZXXGeGPcd9>

**Information about payment**

•            **Send e-transfer of $50 (fifty dollars) for registration fee to:**durhamblackeducators@gmail.com

•            Parents/ Caregivers should put in the message line: For Afrocentric Heritage Program and Student’s Name: If more than one student, list all 2 names. For example, Student 1: name

Student 2: name

•            **Deadline for payment - Saturday, December 3rd**

For more information about And Still We Rise: DBEN Afrocentric Heritage Program, please contact:  *Michel Jackson-Stewart (*michel.jacksonstewart@ddsb.ca*) -  DBEN Heritage Program Lead*

**Registration closes on December 3, 2022.**