



I-Think 

Year-In Review

2023-2024



Table of Contents



03 - A message from the Executive Director

04 - Who We Are

06 - Our Impact

08 - Challenge Kits

14 - RJS Scholarship at the University of Toronto

16 - Student Voice

17 - Our Champions and Supporters

A year of remarkable possibilities

The 2023-2024 school year was full of new experiences and incredible moments of collaboration and creative thinking within classrooms. We are honoured to have gotten to join so many young people and educators on an incredible year of real-world problem solving.

In 2023-2024 we piloted two new Challenge Kits, worked to strengthen of our community of supporters, and grow our impact and reach. We are thrilled to be introducing new real-world problem solving opportunities in the fall and increase our French program offering.

At I-Think, we believe in the remarkable possibilities of young people to create a better world, that's why we're dedicated to unlocking classrooms to become a place where students challenge the real world with confidence and optimism.

We are incredibly excited for the 2024-2025 school year, and can't wait to see what we unlock!

- Josie Fung, Executive Director



Hello!

We're I-Think!

I-Think is an education charity with a mission to transform classrooms into vibrant hubs of confidence and optimism.

Our approach is simple yet powerful: we equip students with the problem-solving skills they need to thrive in a complex world. Why? Because we believe that every young person deserves the tools to navigate life with resilience and purpose.



Action is the antidote to anxiety

Studies show rising hopelessness and anxiety among youth, who often feel powerless to shape their world. Real-world problem solving engages students in deep thinking, developing agency, voice and confidence to share their thinking on the challenges that matter to them. When we give students real, meaningful opportunities to imagine the future, we are preparing them with confidence.

Empower young people

Young people are our future, offering fresh perspectives and creativity to tackle complex challenges. By empowering them, we invest in a brighter future for all. They challenge the status quo, pushing us to create better systems for their communities and beyond.



How We Unlock Remarkable Possibilities

Watch this short video to learn more about the work we do by following the journey of our friend, Naima.

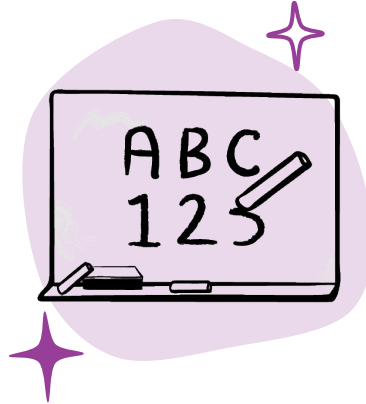


365 Days of Impact

At I-Think, we work with school boards and educators as they enable us to empower more students to become confident, hopeful, and creative problem solvers ready to tackle real-world challenges and help make our world a better place.



6,500 +
students



220+
teachers



600+
leaders

CHALLENGE KITS

Remembrance Day

Where Tradition Meets Impact

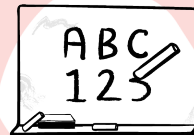
In Fall 2022, with the support of Veterans Affairs Canada, we piloted the Remembrance Challenge Kits across 6 schools in Ontario.

This pilot was the result of a research and development period which focused on redesigning Remembrance Day with intention, and offering numerous entry points for both students and educators to connect an anti-oppression stance with action.

This year was our third time running our Remembrance Day Challenge Kit and we have seen remarkable new traditions take root in classrooms. As students find new ways to find connections and meaning into Remembrance Day, our own depth of understanding grows as well.

Students' thinking, insights, and recommendations have been, and will continue to inform their school's intentional design and practice of Remembrance Day current and future traditions.

Impact Numbers



8
schools



19
classrooms



800+
students

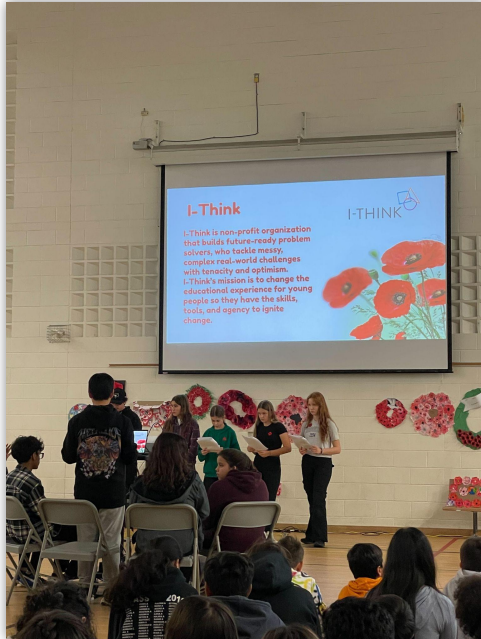


13
educators and
school leaders



REFLECTIONS

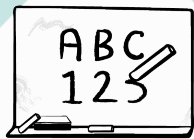
Remembrance Day



"The kids realized that they can impact how we do Remembrance Day. It used to be a day that came and went. Now it's something that they have agency on in their school and community. It was no longer Armistice Day with a new name (Remembrance Day). It was an exploration of what it means to remember and the responsibilities that come with that."

– **Nicholas Morchain, Teacher**
Halton DSB

Impact Numbers



25
schools



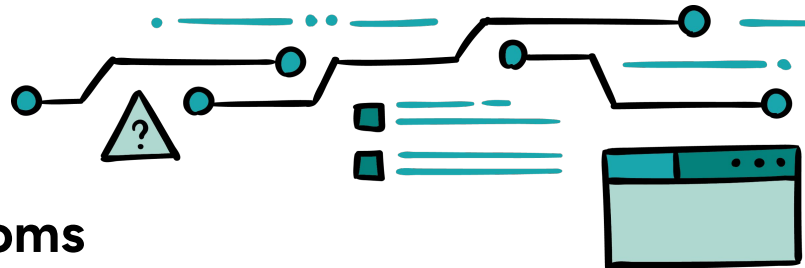
57
classrooms



2,000+
students

CHALLENGE KITS

AI In Classrooms



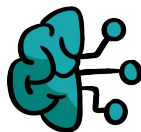
We launched a new challenge kit during the 2023-2024 school year. Through discussions with educators and seeing the landscape of where technology and education intersect in Canada we knew students needed to have their voices heard for the ongoing conversations around AI and education.

We presented students with the question:

How might we help (school name) use AI to enrich and augment the lives and possibilities for every student at our school?

This shifted the thinking into deeper exploration, challenging the idea that AI is inherently bad or good.

The student thinking and discussions with educators and community members that came from this Challenge Kit was remarkable and we look forward to offering this kit during the 2024-2025 school year and revising it to even further improve the experience and thus the thinking and impact.



REFLECTIONS

AI Challenge



"AI helping students who struggle is a whole world of possibilities unlocked. When students understand things they get so much more from their learning because they are actually learning things. This helps them succeed, feel confident in their work and even help mental health."

– Student

"Problem-solving skills are crucial in daily life, and reimagine offers new opportunities and experiences through conflict resolution enabling individuals to train their abilities and access hidden solutions in daily."

– Student, Peel DSB

CHALLENGE KITS

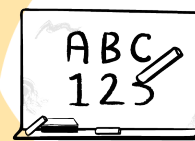
(Re)Building Community

Over the last 4 years, schools have been challenged in building connection among school community members in ways that support their well-being. Students say they feel disconnected, face challenges in building relationships and connecting with peers in productive ways. Building community is essential for transformational learning, yet we're continuing to see and feel the impact of 3 years of disruption from the pandemic.

This year we ran our (Re)Building Community Challenge Kit during our 100 Classroom Challenge, this Challenge Kit was all about (re)building community in schools, at the heart of this Kit is **how to address and increase well-being within classrooms and schools.**

Schools need to design around a new reality, **well-being and community building shifted and changed during the pandemic**, and direction is needed from young people on what well-being and community means to them and what they need for it to be present and felt within their schools.

Impact Numbers



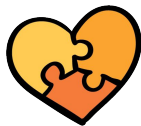
17
schools



46
classrooms



1,300+
students



REFLECTIONS

(Re)Building Community



"While working on this project we learned how to collaborate with each other and the importance of working together to build a community. It helps to understand each other and work together to gain more ideas and develop plans."

– Student, Toronto DSB

"The reason we think that inclusivity is important is because if not everyone is included then community isn't working, so a working community needs everyone to be included to be functional."

– Student, Toronto DSB

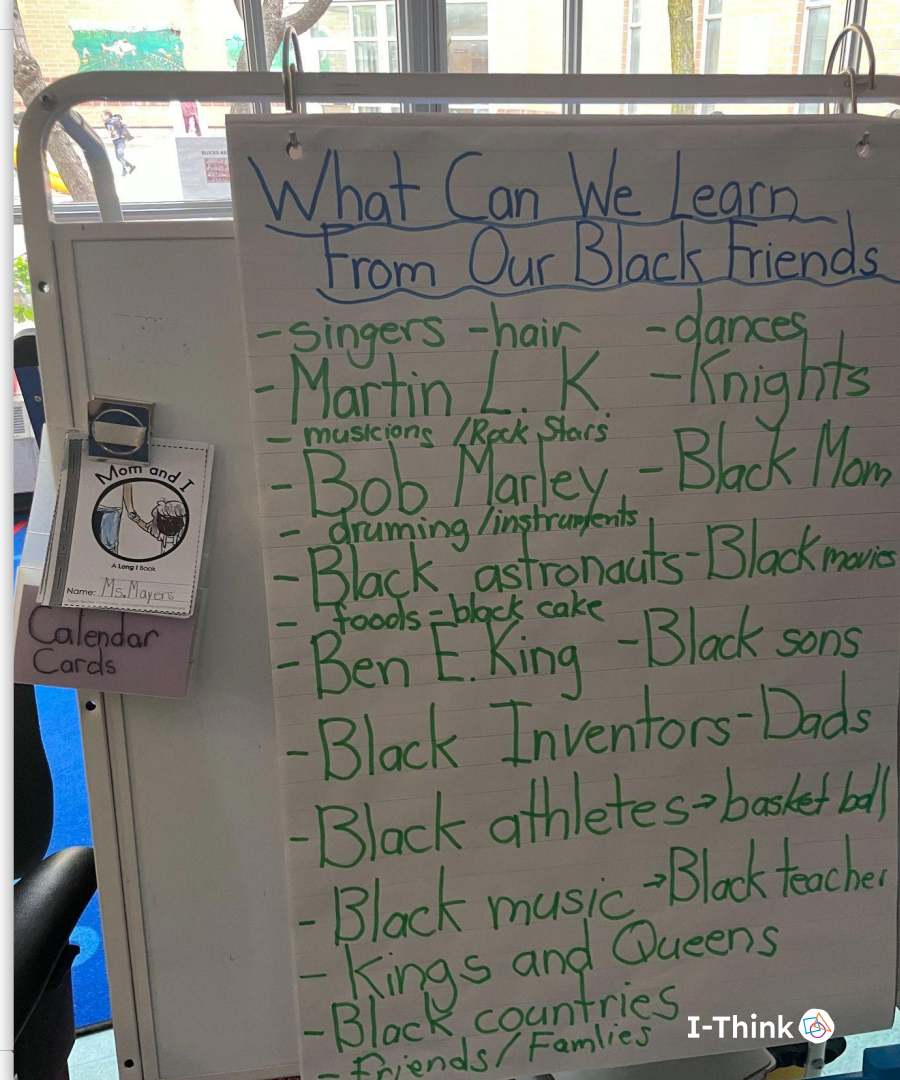


AfroFuturism CHALLENGE KIT

In 2023 one of our team members presented a new Challenge Kit idea that would allow students to **(re)design Black History Month and beyond for their schools.**

We embarked on a journey of researching and testing out the foundation of the discussion and possible Challenge Kit experience. We were able to test our thinking with 3 classrooms at Lord Dufferin Junior and Senior Public School (Toronto DSB) with the gracious support of their educators and the remarkable enthusiasm of their students.

We are excited to be offering our AfroFuturism Challenge Kit during the 2024-2025 school year. Students will get to learn about many areas of African heritage, connect with community, and explore art through AfroFuturism.



RJS SCHOLARSHIP

Celebrating tenacious, optimistic and confident problem solvers

This scholarship was established by Roger and Sue Short, Roger Martin and Jennifer Riel. Each year we award the RJS Scholarship in Integrative Thinking to a student who has become a better thinker and problem solver because of their experiences with Integrative Thinking.

The scholarship provides \$4,000 for each year of a student's undergraduate program at the University of Toronto. Previous scholarship recipients have pursued diverse programs, including political science, art history, biology, biomedical physics and business.

This year we received so many amazing applications that we couldn't choose just one recipient. For this year's scholarship we chose both Meron Bayu and Kawla Mohamed, with the generous addition of the Martin-Skafté Scholarship.



Meron Bayu



Kawla Mohamed



Our Celebration of Thinking held annually in the spring is an opportunity for parents, teachers, and students to imagine remarkable possibilities together.

At I-Think, it is our responsibility and honour to create opportunities for remarkable possibilities. This is why 2024's theme was **We Are Many Remarkable Possibilities**, because we are, students are, classrooms are, and you are. Students not only deserve opportunities to be remarkable but that the world is a better place when this happens.

I-Think students, educators, and partners are worthy of celebrating everyday and we look forward to celebrating the 2024-2025 school year soon.



Student Voices At I-Think

This year we were honoured to have Gigi Adetunji join us to present a keynote at our annual Celebration of Thinking.

Gigi has begun her second year at the University of Ottawa, where she is studying business and using lessons she learned from her Grade 12 I-Think experience.

"Reassure yourself that it's okay if you don't have the correct answer. You're not a superhuman and can't possibly have every answer ready in your brain. Suppose you need someone to talk to about it, whether a friend, teacher or trusted adult, you should ask if you could have their support."

- Gigi Adetunji



**Partners and donors who have helped us
unlock remarkable possibilities!**

Thank
you!



2023-2024 Board of Directors



Roger Martin
Chair



Nathaniel Lipkus
Director



Elizabeth (Liz) A. O'Neil Meurehg
Director



Dominic Randolph
Director



Joseph Wong
Director

Leadership Advisors and Coaches

Our Leadership Advisors and Coaches lead Leadership professional learning programs and coaching sessions.

Their classroom and school leadership experience brings unique insights, a depth of knowledge and a treasure trove of stories to ignite possibilities in educator and leadership practices.



Mike Gallagher



Manon Gardner



Audrey Hensen



Jane Phillips Long



Kelly Rizzo

We need you...

Your help and support is needed to bring these experiences to students across Canada. I-Think makes possible what is hard to do. Our education system is stretch and without your support, educators would not be able to bring I-Think into their classrooms.

We need your support to build new and deeply engaging Challenge Kits like:



AfroFuturism Challenge Kit

Explore African heritage, challenge misconceptions, and imagine vibrant Black futures and ask, *"How might we make African Heritage Month and beyond meaningful to our school community?"*



Climate Action Challenge Kit

How do we grow our work so that every school has access to our programs and resources in Canada? I-Think Challenge Kits unlock the future skills that students need to be our leaders and problem solvers.



Sponsor a classroom

This year, over 2,000 students had a chance to learn like this. How do we make this possible for every classroom?

Let's Connect!

Support I-Think

1. Connect us to your school or school board to see how Challenge Kits can make a difference.
2. Join us for learning whether in an educator program or by inviting us to your Parent Council
3. Sponsor a classroom!

