Educate and celebrate in your Elementary classroom
For more information, go to *www.dayofpink.org*.

Primary classrooms:

- Brainstorm a list of toys for boys and girls using a Venn diagram or have children cut out picture of toys from magazines. Discuss the colours displayed to sell toys in stores (i.e., the doll aisle vs. trucks and cars). Work to debunk the stereotype that pink is a gender specific colour.

- Chart a list of girl's colours and boy's colours or favourite colours. Teach students that anyone can like or wear any colour and that it is not gender specific.

- If you are a male teacher, be a role model and wear pink to school (not just on February 23).

- Read the story *We Share Everything* by Robert Munch to your class. Discuss the teacher's negative reaction to the boy wearing pink. Ask students if her reaction was acceptable or not. Work to debunk the stereotype that pink is a girl's colour.

- Make "Think Pink!" posters or signs and work with students to design slogans or images to prevent homophobic bullying on them. Show antiracism posters as models for ideas. Draw analogies between racism, sexism, ableism, homophobia, and other forms of oppression with students.

- Discuss the harm of homophobic bullying with primary students. Use the BCTF's "That's so Gay!" poster with your class. Ask students if they have heard the expression on the poster before and ask them if this phrase is hurtful or friendly. Talk with students about the real meaning of the word gay (i.e., two men who love one another and live together like a family). Explain what homophobia is—when others are mean to gay or lesbian people by making fun of them. Teach about acceptance of all families.

- Read books about same-gender families in your classroom. For a list of age-appropriate books, log onto *www.pride.net* and click on the resources icon on the home page.

Intermediate classrooms

- Discuss the true origins for the Day of Pink. It is not a generic day to stop bullying. It resulted because the student was perceived to be gay when he wore pink and was called homophobic names by a few students. A large group of students then rallied together and wore pink to school the next day as a way of showing their support for the victim and standing up against homophobic bullying in their school. This action quickly spread across the country.

- Draw analogies between racism, sexism, ableism, homophobia, and other forms of oppression in discussions with students. Have students write paragraphs on what homophobia looks and sounds like in their schools and communities. Teach about the harm of the phrase "That's so gay!" and explain that anyone can be the target of homophobia—sometimes just because of the colours of clothes you wear.

- Discuss what feeling or emotions come up for people when they see pink. What associations do students make with pink? Where do these come from and why?

- Create a "Sea of Pink" in your classroom—have students write and illustrate stories about life in a world of pink where homophobia doesn't exist.

- Have students create "Pink Panther" cartoons or storyboards in which the Pink Panther challenges foes who use homophobic slurs.

- Read books which positively portray lesbian and gay characters in your classroom. For an age appropriate list, log onto *www.pride.net* and click on the resources icon on the home page.

- Have students develop Think Pink awards to recognize their peers who challenge homophobic bullying when they encounter it.