

Aanind Enookiiyang

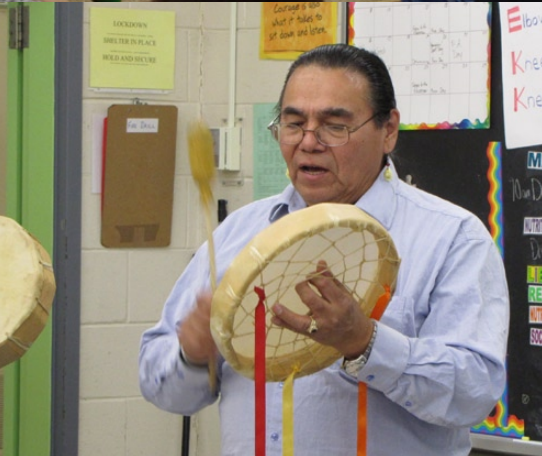
Some of the Things We Do — First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education in Rainbow Schools

Elders in Schools



Elders Winnie Pitawanakwat and Stan Peltier visited many schools throughout the Rainbow District School Board providing workshops, tipi and cultural teachings. They also offered drumming opportunities for students from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

Teacher Collette Nadeau says, "We had the pleasure of welcoming Elder Stanley Peltier to our school, R.L.Beattie, on February 25th. Students loved his beautiful teaching stick, were fascinated by his learning stone, and enjoyed singing along when he played his sacred drum. Our Early Learning Years students were fascinated by Mr. Peltier's regalia; in particular his headdress made of eagle feathers. Chi-miigwech for your visit, Mr. Peltier!"



Markstay Public School was working hard to foster parent engagement by responding to their request to have family events in the evening at the school. With the support of a Parents Reaching Out Grant entitled "Inclusion Means Everyone", Markstay Public School held an event where Elder Winnie Pitawanakwat worked on visual arts activities during the day with students and then parents joined their children in the evening for various family activities. The successful evening closed with the families taking part in a drumming circle with Elder Winnie.

Aboriginal Kindergarten Pilot Programs

This year, three schools worked with Aboriginal Oral Language Specialist, Sharla Peltier, Elders, families and communities to make their Kindergarten classrooms more reflective of Aboriginal history, culture and traditions. Pictured from left to right are Mary-Anne McGraw (Little Current teacher), Sharla Peltier, Brigitte Hollohan (Cyril Varney teacher), Gloria McGregor (Elder) and Tara Thall (Wembley teacher).



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Rainbow Schools
Reaching minds. Touching hearts.

Jeopardy Game Teaches Anishinaabe Art History

Crystal Migwans from the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation visited Roselynda Francis' NAC20 class at Sudbury Secondary School and students played an educational game to learn about First Nation Peoples Art History.

Crystal uses the "Anishinaabe Art History Youth Education Jeopardy" game to familiarize youth with historical Anishinaabe items, using artifact flash cards from an online research initiative. The game is geared to late elementary to high school aged students, and though she hasn't tried it out yet with younger groups, she thinks it would work with younger students as well. Crystal will be available to come to other Rainbow Schools to do two-hour sessions in October and November. Sessions are free, but she asks that teachers follow up by giving their students a short test on the material a couple of weeks later to help in her research. Any teachers or youth group leaders who may be interested, can contact Crystal at ashiikankwe@gmail.com, or call the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation at 705-377-4902.

Three Hundred Students Attend Confederation Secondary School's Aboriginal Day



About 300 students attended the Aboriginal Day presentation at Confederation Secondary School. The N'Swakamok Dance Troupe danced and support worker Tracy Re collet spoke about the origins of the dances and the regalia. The North Shore Ogitchidaa

singers spoke to the students about the drum and the songs.

As part of this event, and to support the transition of students from elementary to secondary, the Grade 7 and 8 students from C.R. Judd Public School were invited to the presentation. As part of their visit, students from the Aboriginal Youth Leadership Group showed the Grade 7 and 8 students around the school and highlighted various programs and activities available, including Native Studies and Ojibwe Language courses.

Voices of the Land Project Includes Art, Poetry in English, French and Ojibwe

The Voices of the Land project has been a wonderful way to engage Grade 1 students at Wembley Public School in art and poetry writing. Students used natural treasures from the outdoor environment to create works of art and poetry. Teacher Nancy Shelsted took this project a step further by engaging the Native Language teacher, Cotnee Kaboni.

With Cotnee's support, Nancy's students were able to translate their poems into Ojibwe. Students then had the opportunity to recite their poems and share their posters with their families at a presentation in their classroom. They also shared the posters with grandparents who were thrilled with their grandchildren's knowledge and pride in the Ojibwe language. The feedback from parents has been moving, as they admit to knowing little of the language themselves and expressed genuine pride in this project as a revival of their language.



Zaawaanoon waaskoneyin

Flowers are yellow

Giizsoong zhinaagidnoon

They look like suns

Kajigaateshinoon

They make shadows

Ziibiinhs biimskwaajoon

River goes around it

Gwaataani Nishin

That is GREAT!

8, 408 Wembley Drive, Sudbury, Ontario, P2B 1P2, 2014



leaves niibiishan feuilles

red mskwaande rouge

green zhaawshkwaande verte

yellow zaawaande jaune

orange ezawmingaande orange

brown kiiwaande brune

we welcome the season of Fall

8, 408 Wembley Drive, Sudbury, Ontario, P2B 1P2, 2014

This past May, Nancy also invited the facilitator of the Voices project to teach other teachers the process of engaging students in this kind of work. Nancy hosted a weekend event in M'Chigeeng First Nation where teachers from Rainbow District School Board and other Boards from around the region, as well as teachers from First Nation community schools, took part in this wonderful learning opportunity.

Aboriginal Youth at Lasalle Secure Funding to Reduce the Impact of Poverty

The Aboriginal Youth Group at Lasalle Secondary School has made it their mission to reduce poverty in their school community. Lasalle received \$2,000 in funding from Child Enfance to run a lunch program for students. As well, the Aboriginal youth leaders at the school received a Speak Up Grant of \$1,000 to support students at Lasalle by providing financial assistance for fees and equipment expenses for sports team participation. Last year, the Youth Leadership Group built community gardens to provide fresh produce for the school community.

Moose Skinning at Whitefish Lake First Nation



On October 20th, the students in the Ravens program had the opportunity to participate in the traditional event, moose skinning, on Whitefish Lake First Nation. Thanks to M.N.R. Conservation officer, Peter Koskela for making arrangements with Chief Steven Miller. The students were hesitant at first about the idea of skinning a moose, but soon overcame any anxieties

they may have had. Chief Miller talked about the traditional uses of all the parts of the moose, followed by an explanation from Peter Koskela about the skinning process. The students were genuinely excited and eager to assist with all parts of the skinning process. They did a wonderful job and were very proud when it was completed. The M.N.R. representative said he was very impressed with the students and their accomplishments.

The students in the Ravens program at Lively arranged a feast within the school. The students cooked moose roasts with another class who learned about traditional First Nation's foods. The class also learned to make moccasins/mittens, so it was nice to see where the leather came from.

Aboriginal Role Models Speak to Students at Rainbow Schools

Two high profile Aboriginal Canadians, athlete Waneek Horn-Miller (top) and author Joseph Boyden, visited Rainbow Schools on Thursday, May 12, 2011 while in Sudbury to take part in the Ontario Healthy Schools Coalition Forum. Athlete Waneek Horn-Miller met with students at Lansdowne Public School and Author Joseph Boyden met with students at Lively District Secondary School. The focus of their presentations to students was on resiliency shared through their personal life stories.



Students Win Awards at the E-Spirit National Aboriginal Youth Business Plan Competition

A team of students from Espanola High School won the environmental awareness special achievement award at the 2011 E-Spirit National Aboriginal Youth Business Plan Competition in Moncton, N.B. in May. Students Holly Bennett and Autumn Owl, who were coached by Arnelda Bennett, captured top honours for their business project called E-Recycling Corporation.

Native Perspectives at Cyril Varney Public School's Kindergarten Open House

A local Elder and the Principal of First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education participated in the Open House for Junior and Senior Kindergarten at Cyril Varney Public School on February 1, 2011. Children were introduced to First Nations culture, including hand drums and beaded crafts.



Eleven Students Graduate from N'Swakamok Native Alternative School



The Alternative program recently celebrated its 21st graduation ceremony where 11 students were honoured and celebrated for achieving their high school diploma. As well, many students received numerous awards for their accomplishments throughout the year.

The N'Swakamok program offers students flexible school hours, one on one or small group learning, tutoring, Aboriginal learning tools, as well as a strong support system within the Friendship Centre and supportive partnerships within the local Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community. Most important to the program is the kind, caring and nurturing environment that all staff strive to provide to ensure students are able to learn in a safe, comfortable environment. It is because of the hard work and dedication to student success by the teaching and non-teaching staff in the school that students are successful.

First Aboriginal Dance Class Offered at Sudbury Secondary School



A new dance initiative resulted in the introduction of a North American Aboriginal Dance credit course at Sudbury Secondary School. Carol Mageau, with the support of Tracy Recollet, Aboriginal Support Worker at the

school, taught this new dance class that focused specifically on different dance styles of the First Nation people. Tracy is an accomplished dancer and was instrumental in helping to introduce the practical dance elements of the course and in providing workshop leaders and Elders to assist in the creation and the implementation of the dance curriculum. Karen Pheasant, a well-known and respected dance artist and author of *Promise to the Nokomis from Wikwemikong*, offered a series of teachings and classes on Aboriginal Dance to the students.

Anishinaabemowin at Manitoulin Secondary School

Shanae Wilkins, Grade 12, and Brett Abotossaway, Grade 11, proudly display their accomplishments in Stewart Roy's Anishinaabemowin class. Students created their own pair of beaded moccasins as well as a six-chapter storybook written in the Ojibwe language, including an audio component. Shanae said her pair of moccasins are for her mom who intends not to wear them, but to proudly display them in their souvenir case. Brett says his moccasins are for himself and he intends to wear them.



Sharla Peltier Awarded for Her Contributions to the Field of Speech and Language

The Canadian Association of Speech and Language Pathologists and Audiologists recognized Sharla Peltier, Aboriginal Oral Language Specialist and Speech and Language Pathologist with the Board, on April 30th. The Awards banquet was held at the Fairmont Hotel in Montreal where the Association honoured Sharla and other professionals who have made outstanding contributions to their field of practice either through direct clinical and community service or through research, and for long-standing service. Sharla was recognized for her service over the past 25 years as a registered speech and language pathologist. She was also recognized as a contributor to a forthcoming special issue of the Association's scientific journal,

the Canadian Journal of Speech and Language Pathology and Audiology. Sharla's husband Stan Peltier and son Vincent Peltier as well as her research partners from across Canada, including Dr. Jessica Ball and Dr. May Bernhardt, joined her at the awards evening.



Native School Councils in Secondary Schools

Manitoulin Secondary School's Three Fires Confederacy promotes Aboriginal heritage and culture within the school.

Established in 1997 by Chop Waindubence, now the Aboriginal Support Worker at Manitoulin Secondary School, the students who are involved with the Three Fires Confederacy are role models for their school as well as their own communities, and are recognized for their involvement with the other students. This year, they met weekly to plan for upcoming fundraisers and events. They also discuss Aboriginal issues that arise and plan and organize for the school's yearly Pow Wow. New members are always welcome.

The Espanola Native Council promotes Aboriginal heritage and culture within the school. This group was formed in October 2010 and is going strong. At weekly meetings, they discuss Aboriginal issues and were working on the Pow-Wow held on June 21 (National Aboriginal Day). This day acknowledged the Anishnabek of both Sagamok and Whitefish River. Each one of the students was recognized as a role model in their individual communities and their school. They assist and support other programs within the school, when requested.

Young Filmmakers: Aboriginal Youth in Rainbow Schools Take Action Against Poverty

Students from the Aboriginal Youth Leadership Group produced public service announcements to highlight the issue of poverty in Greater Sudbury, Espanola and Manitoulin as part of an intensive four-day workshop that culminated on Monday, November 1st, 2010.

Presented by Redcloud Studios Inc., the workshop was designed to engage youth in dialogue and use video to address issues affecting youth and the community. Students created, wrote and produced eight public service announcements. In the process, they strengthened their communication and leadership skills. Some students have been inspired to pursue a career in the film industry. The public service announcements will be shared by youth within their own communities and classrooms as a tool to engage other youth and start a dialogue about actions that can be taken to reduce poverty and its effects.





Aboriginal Culture & Traditions: Learning & Celebrating at Lansdowne Public School

On Friday, May 20th students and staff gathered together to learn and celebrate the culture and traditions of Aboriginal people. Students from Grade 4 to 8 participated in some workshops where they learned about important cultural values of the Aboriginal people in our area. It was an opportunity for Aboriginal students to share and learn their cultural teachings with their peers and to demonstrate a pride in who they are. The workshop presentations had a message and understanding for all students: a time of sharing, learning and working together to make positive relationships in our community.

Forty-Four Rainbow Graduates Recognized at the Aboriginal Secondary School Awards Banquet



For the eighth year, Aboriginal students from Rainbow District School Board have been recognized for their accomplishments during the school year at the Aboriginal Secondary School Awards Banquet. This year, 255 First Nation, Métis and Inuit students received acknowledgement in various categories such as academics, attendance excellence, community services,

artistic, cultural recognition, athletics and extra curricular involvement. There were also 44 graduates who were recognized during the banquet. Many family members, as well as Rainbow staff and trustees, attended the banquet, a celebration of student achievement.

Canoe Trip a New Experience for Female Students at Sudbury Secondary School

Students from the Ravens program at Sudbury Secondary School had the opportunity to take part in two canoe trips this year. None of the three females in the program had been in a canoe before and, within a short period of time, they all looked very comfortable in the canoe and with portaging. The year-end culminating trip took place from June 6 to 8.

Ojibwe Language Students Receive Bursaries for Language Skills

Two Grade 10 students at Sudbury Secondary School and one Grade 9 student from Espanola High School received Anishinaabewmowin (Ojibwe) ATEG Language Scholarships for promoting and preserving the Ojibwe language. Kaitlin Gegwetch (top) was the recipient of the Dorothy Pitawanakwat Bursary, Katrina Webkamigad received the Victor Simon Kesigo Memorial Scholarship and Mitchell Toulouse received the Dominic Eshkogan Memorial award. The awards were presented at the ATEG Language Conference banquet held on Friday, March 25th, 2011 in Sault Ste Marie, Michigan.

