



First Nations Education Council February 2022 Highlighter

The First Nations Education Council, as a team, advocate for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students, youth, and staff to ensure their sense of belonging, physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual needs are met in a culturally appropriate manner.

Next FNEC Meeting
Mon. March 7, 2022

Reminder:
Due to Covid-19 all FNEC meetings will be virtual for the time being.

2021 First Nation Role Models
Kaden Craig & Seth Cahoose



Family Day 2022:

Monday, February 21, 2022, will be Family Day in BC. Please note that our office will be closed. We wish everyone a wonderful Family Day!



Pine Needle Baskets at Lake City Secondary School (WL Campus)



Ms. Alphonse's Grades 10 and 11 classes enjoyed constructing pine needle baskets. Top: Shania Plasway and Lakeira Jack work diligently. Left: Victoria Myers proudly shows her work. Right: Teacher Freda Alphonse is holding the basket constructed by Dancing Water Sandy as a model. The technique of creating crafts from pine needles is called coiling. It is one of the oldest forms of basket weaving in the world.

Enhancement Agreement Goals:

1. To increase First Nations Students' Sense of Belonging at School.
2. To Increase the quality of academic success for all First Nations students.
3. To increase the knowledge and understanding of local First Nations history, culture, governance, languages, and communities for all students.

Please see our Enhancement Agreement on the SD27 Website under Departments, Indigenous Education, First Nations Curriculum

Project Proposal Funding

Deadline for proposals (always 2 wks prior to FNEC meeting)

Proposal information can be found on the SD27 website under Programs, First Nations then under Target Funding Criteria.

Please ensure that your proposal is signed by the appropriate member of the First Nations Education Committee for your area as well as your Principal.

Schools are reminded to send in a final completion report and photos to First Nations Education Committee once their events have taken place. Digital photos are appreciated so they can be used on the website.

2021-2022 FNEC Meeting Schedule:

Monday, October 4, 2021

Monday, November 8, 2021

Monday, December 6, 2021

January: NO MEETING

Monday, February 7, 2022

Monday, March 7, 2022

Monday, April 4, 2022

Monday, May 2, 2022

Monday, June 6, 2022

Skyline Alternate Drum Project

Submitted by Dena Gysel, Senior Teacher



Skyline students learned about the importance of the drum in First Nations culture. Thank you to Bruce Baptiste and Sheena Grover from Denisiqi Services Society for teaching and sharing their knowledge of First Nations culture. A total of 30 drums were made by Skyline students. The staff and students at Skyline wish to thank FNEC for funding this project.

Pictured: On left Devlyn Inglis-Zutz, on right is Spencer Norris. Wolf drum created by Sage Boston and skull drum was created by Nate Lee. Great job everyone!

FIRST NATIONS ROLE MODEL UPDATE: 2022 Candidates attend Essay Writing Workshops at their home campuses



Thank you to English Teacher, Shannon Rerie for providing 3 separate Essay Writing Workshops to our 27 First Nations Role Model Candidates. Due to covid, these had to take place in 3 different locations. Candidates received lots of valuable handouts and information on creating a great essay to submit with their Form 2, the next step in the Role Model process. It was a pleasure to meet everyone! Good luck to all participants.

Standing strong in support of our First Nations brothers and sisters



School District 27 honors the lost children and Survivors of St. Joseph's Mission Residential School, their families, and communities.

Congratulations to Dog Creek Elementary/Jr. Secondary School

Congratulations to the school for receiving the 'Breakfast for Learning Grant' to purchase new kitchen equipment as well as food supplies.

Principal Steve Carpenter sends his thanks to Calvin Dubray as "he was the one who helped Dog Creek school through this process".

Reminder of Pink Shirt Day Wednesday, February 23, 2022

Lift Each Other Up and have greater acceptance, respect, and inclusion for everyone

From the staff at Indigenous Education Department SD27

*Grant Gustafson,
District Principal, Indigenous Education*

*Tracy Hubner,
Secretary, Indigenous Education*

Cross Cultural Exchange at Esk'etemc:



On October 22nd and 23rd and on November 26th and 27th, 2022, School District 27 staff had the opportunity to take part in a cross-cultural workshop presented by elders and knowledge keepers at Esk'etemc. The workshop was called, **“A first step in Esk'etemc Cultural Awareness”**.

Although held at different locations within the territory, the Friday morning sessions focused on intergenerational trauma and the implications it has for Indigenous people within the contemporary education system. Dave Belleau recounted his experiences from residential school, as well as the journey he took afterward on his way to healing himself and others who survived traumatic experiences in their youth. After Dave's presentation, participants made their way around the circle, introducing themselves and sharing their ethnicity and cultural backgrounds before having lunch together.

During the sessions on Friday afternoon, Freddie Johnson Sr. shared the protocols and the spiritual significance of the traditional sweat ceremony. Participants then had the opportunity to experience the sweat first-hand. Although it was an introductory sweat (around an hour in length as opposed to three hours), it gave the participants the chance to appreciate the ceremony's importance to the Secwepemc people.

On Saturday, Kukpi7 Fred Robbins led a land tour of historically significant landmarks, and the various sites allowed participants to understand the current land claims the Esk'etemc are pursuing. These areas contained unmarked graves, former pit house depressions, and an airport that was built without consultation. The journey ended with a smudge ceremony back at the Sxoxomic School.

Over the course of the two days, participants had the chance to feel a connection to the land, the learning, and the people they were learning with. The elders and knowledge keepers shared their expertise in a kind and caring way. It was a positive first step toward a vision Kukpi7 Fred Robbins has had for years, where School District 27 staff seek out the knowledge that is available on the traditional territories where our schools are located and which his community's youth attend. The other co-planners—Calvin Dubray, Esk'etemc Education Director, Ryan Hanley - CCTA Professional Development Representative, and Nara Riplinger- Columneetza teacher — were happy to have the opportunity to work with Kukpi7 Fred Robbins in taking this first step forward. We are looking forward to seeing the next group of educators for sharing, learning, and understanding. The hope is that with this shared learning, educators of School District 27 can transfer this back to the students as we pave a path for future generations of authentic Truth and Reconciliation.

There are plans to offer another workshop on the April 29th Professional Development Day. Please contact Ryan Hanley for details.

The Principles of Learning

(Found on SD27 Portal under Indigenous Education)

First Peoples Principles of Learning (FPPL) #1

Learning ultimately supports the well-being of the self, the family, the community, the land, the spirits, and the ancestors

First Peoples Principles of Learning (FPPL) #2

Learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential, and relational (focused on connectedness, on reciprocal relationships, and a sense of place

First Peoples Principles of Learning (FPPL) #3

Learning involves recognizing the consequences of one's actions

First Peoples Principles of Learning (FPPL) #4

Learning involves generational roles and responsibilities

First Peoples Principles of Learning (FPPL) #5

Learning recognizes the role of indigenous knowledge.

First Peoples Principles of Learning (FPPL) #6

Learning is embedded in memory, history, and story

First Peoples Principles of Learning (FPPL) #7

Learning involves patience and time.

First Peoples Principles of Learning (FPPL) #8

Learning requires exploration of one's identify

First Peoples Principles of Learning (FPPL) #9

Learning involves recognizing that some knowledge is sacred and only shared with permission and/or in certain situations.

