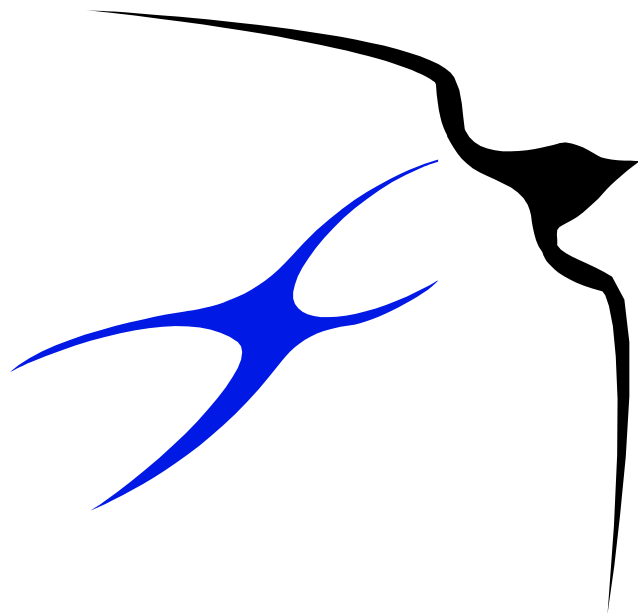


FIRST NATIONS POETRY CONTEST WINNERS 2009, 2010, 2011



Volume 1

A collection of our Aboriginal Poetry Contest Winning Poems for the years: 2009, 2010, 2011

The First Nations Education Department of School District No. 27 first started our Aboriginal Poetry Contest in 2009 in celebration of National Aboriginal Day. We proudly introduce our winners and share their poems.

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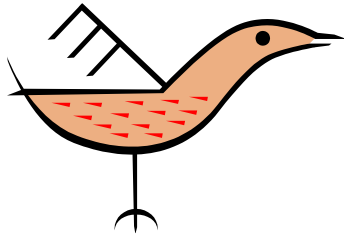
Winners from the Intermediate Grades

Winners from the Secondary Grades

Chapter One
2011

Primary Grades

(Kindergarten, Grade 1, 2, 3)



1st Place Winner for Primary Grades in 2011
Gurkaren Boyal
Grade 3
Ms. Barber's Class, Nesika Elementary School

POW WOW

Pow goes the drum!

Out go the jingle dancers

Wow goes the crowd!

When the dance was nearly over

Out came the grass dancers ----

Wow!



2nd Place Winner for Primary Grades 2011
Nikola Vigngevic
Age 7, Grade 1
Mrs. Stokes' Class, Cataline Elementary School

EAGLE

Eagle

Eat fish

Always flying

Gliding

Loves hunting

Eagle



3rd Place Winner for Primary Grades 2011
Keon Harry
Grade 2 Dog Creek Elementary/Jr. Secondary School
Teacher: Louise Harry

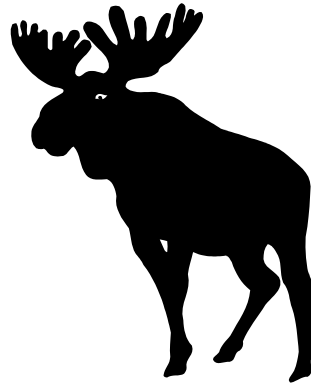
HUNTING

Tsi7 & Teniye

Swift Strong Animals

Hunt in meadows forever

Food



4th Place Winner for Primary Grades 2011
Tia Boston
Kindergarten, Dog Creek Elementary/Jr. Secondary School
Teacher: Louise Harry

SAGE

Smells good
Smoke brushing me
Makes me feel good
Green



2011

Intermediate Grades

(Grades 4,5,6)



1st Place Winner for Intermediate Grades 2011

**Maria DiMarco
Sacred Heart Catholic Church School
Teacher: Miss Oystruck**

SPIRITS, SPIRITS

**Spirits, spirits
Fly, fly
Fire, fire
Sky, sky**

**The eagle's wings
The salmon's tail,
The bear's big paws
The lonely wolf's wail.**

**Shiny feathers
Silky paws,
Beautiful talons
Big sharp claws.**

**Spirits of the fire
Spirits of the sky,
Sing to me
As I lie.**

**The spirits are shadows
Never to be seen,
But I hear them
When I dream.**

**Their lonely cries
Pierce me like a sword,
They make me think again
They lead me onward.**

**So spirits, spirits
Help me through,
I see you in the wind
Your heart so true.**

2nd Place Winner for Intermediate Grades 2011
Haley Archambault
Grade 6, Mountview Elementary School
Teacher: Cindy Neufeld

My Stream

**Nestled in the mountains
Lies my favorite stream,
Hear the fish swimming,
Hear the cougar scream
The sun has set
But I'm not afraid
I look in the water and see eggs,
That fish have laid
Glance at the moon
Hear the lonely wolf's howl
Venture on home because a cougar's on the prowl.**



3rd Place Winner of Intermediate Grades 2011
Chance Ward
Grade 6 Wildwood Elementary School
Teacher: Reanne Sacchetti

Voice

**We need a voice
To be heard
Or else we can't say a word.**

**We need a voice
To be free
Like the wind blowing in a tree.**

**We need a voice
To be strong
But people still look at us wrong.**



4th Place Winner of Intermediate Grades 2011

**Alexandra Weiand
Grade 6, Mountview Elementary School
Teacher: Cindy Neufeld**

THE BEAT OF THE DRUM

**I learned how to hunt in a meadow so green
And as I think back it seems like a dream
I remember the dance to the beat of the drum
As I think back to when I was still young
I remember when I stepped on my horse for the buffalo hunt
I thrust my spear into the chest of the beast as it let out its
final grunt
My mother and brother rushed to my side
My father could see I was glowing with pride
But those days are no more
And I remember the dance to the beat of the drum
I ate all the food to the very last crumb
Now I'll rest for the night, my body is numb and I dream of the
dance to the beat of the drum**



SECONDARY GRADES

2011
(GRADES 7 TO 12)



1st Place Winner of Secondary Grades 2011
Julie Palmantier
Grade 12, Columneetza Secondary School

BEAUTIFUL BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Mountains stand strong, tall enough to touch the clouds
Each holding a story, silent without a sound
Ever green forests, house villages of all kinds
Providing shelter, food, and land for all time
Rivers bend valleys and create a perfect settlement
Communities using each of God's given elements
What is taken from the land, is always given back
The relationship between animal and human are equal to the
power of its mass
Trades made, not for money, but for what is needed
For shelter, food, material, and regalia's to be beaded
Respect for other cultures, and for our own
Respect for nature, and its grounding stone
Celebration of dance, and feasts, gather nations from afar
Teachings, well being, and good health, spoken in the stars
I am a daughter to this land, and a sister to my brothers
We are as equals to nature, and to each other
We eat from the same garden, and drink from the same water
We die on the same land, and pray to the same father
We are First Nations**

2nd Place Winner of Secondary Grades 2011

Alex Elliott

Grade 7, 150 Mile Elementary School

Teacher: Mrs. Davis

THE HAZE

THE FOG ON THE MOUNTAIN
THE TENSION IN THE AIR
THE DRUMS GREW LOUDER
THE BLOOD SHED ITS SHARE
THE GRASSES GREW
AS THE SILENCE WAS DROPPING
CROPS OF MEMORIES WERE PICKED
FROM THE TIMES OF FORGOTTEN
FOG ON THE MOUNTAIN
TENSION IN THE AIR
IS ALL THAT IS LEFT FROM THE PEOPLE
THAT USED TO BE THERE



3RD Place Winner Secondary Grades 2011
Tori Rochefort
Grade 7 Mountview Elementary School
Teacher: Mr. Lawrence

LONELY WOLF CRY

Old Elders call on our ancestors,

With beats from the drum.

Boom, Boom, Boom,

I dance around the fire one last time.

My hearts thumping,

My mind is racing.

A cool breeze whips my face,

As I listen to the lonely wolf cry.



4TH Place Winner Secondary Grades 2011
Chelsea Cant
Grade 9 Distance Education
Teacher: Jennifer Clark

Spring for the Inuits

Kissed the winter farewell
With the warm lips of Spring

Inuit people merging, from the depths of igloos
Now hidden under tents

Watch, the icy winters,
Transform to a painting of beauty

Plants now dot the barren lands
Reaching up to the pulsating sun

Birds cry out in triumph
As their migration has come to a rest

Caribou graze the tundra
Hoofs stamping out songs of Spring!

The ocean shakes and rumbles
As whales corrupt the calm waves

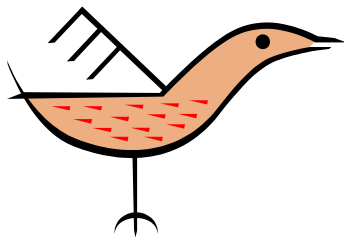
Our hearts sing in joy,
As we welcome Spring.



Chapter Two
2010

Primary Grades

(Kindergarten, Grade 1, 2, 3)



1ST Place Winner Primary Grades 2010
Brooke Horvat
Grade 3, Nesika Elementary School
Teacher: Mrs. Moe

JINGLE DANCERS

Seven year old girls

Dancing

With colorful regalia

Floating through the air

The sound of their bells

Tinkle, tinkle, tinkle



2nd Place Winner Primary Grades 2010
Samantha Carriere
Grade 3 Nesika Elementary School
Teacher: Mrs. Moe

THUNDER BIRD

The might thunderbird

He is strong

Under the sky he hunts

Never afraid

Dangerous to people who do not believe in him

Everyday looking over others

Ready for a challenge

Being a good thunderbird

In the mountains

Roving in the sky

Does good for others



3RD Place Winner Primary Grades 2010
Lincoln Sigsworth
Grade 3 Nesika Elementary School
Teacher: Mrs. Moe

FEAST

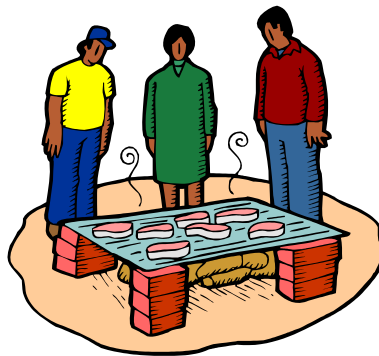
First,

Elders are served.

Ancient ways and

Special days

To celebrate with our families



4TH Place Winner Primary Grades 2010
Amelia Ives
Grade 3 Nesika Elementary School
Teacher: Ms. Barber

THE BEAR DANCE

A dance for children

Choose a partner

Disrespectful to refuse

Hands together

Bend your knees

Feet beside each others

When I dance the Bear Dance I feel loving, joyful and cheerful

The Bear Dance is connected to the man who married the grizzly Bear woman.



2010

Intermediate Grades

(Grades 4,5,6)



1ST Place Winner Intermediate Grades 2010

Brett Hare

Grade 6 Mountview Elementary School

Teacher: Mr. Lawrence

That Wonderful Night

I am in the wild where I belong

Underneath the stars

I won't be here for long

It was one of those nights

When everyone danced

With the great drums booming

The woman who had four legs

Danced all night long

She gave us all our joy

And feeling for life

Oh that wonderful night



2ND Place Winner Intermediate Grades 2010

Hailey Setah

Grade 4 Chilcotin Classroom

Yunesit'in ?Esgul School

Teacher: Celestine Brigham

A TREE TO PLAY

**A tree to Play
And play all day
A tree so LOW,
A tree so HIGH,
A tree so BIG,
A tree to CLIMB,
A tree to SWING,
A tree to PLAY ON,
A tree to PLAY,
A tree to FUN,
A tree to HIDE,
A tree to have very FUN**



3RD Place Winner Intermediate Grades 2010
Colton Thomas
Grade 6 Mountview Elementary School
Teacher: Mr. Lawrence

INUIT MAN

**The winter chill is in the air
The Inuit man doesn't care**

**Dresses warm and off he goes
To do the things he only knows**

**Bow and arrow at this side
To use to get animal hide**

**Hunting, fishing is his life,
To feed his children and his wife**

**Dancing and music is what he loves
Like the northern lights above**

**Looking at the stars around the fire
Telling stories until we tire**

**Night comes it's time for bed
It's time for him to rest his head**



4th Place Winner Intermediate Grades 2010
Parker Engel
Grade 4 Nesika Elementary School
Teacher: Ms. Barber

RESPECT

**An Elder comes into our class and
talks about respect.**

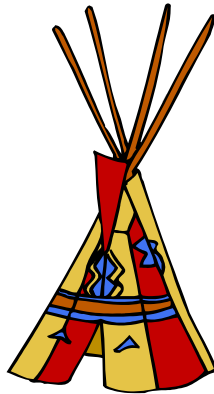
**She says not to talk to people in a
mean way but to talk to people the
way you want to be talked to.**



SECONDARY GRADES

2010

(GRADES 7 TO 12)



1ST Place Winner Secondary Grades 2010
Kevin Sokolan
Grade 7 Mountview Elementary School
Teacher: Mr. Lawrence

STORIES

**STORIES WERE HEARD,
STORIES WERE TOLD**

**TOLD BY THE YOUNG,
AND SAID BY THE OLD.**

**STORIES ARE LEGEND,
MEANT TO BE SAID.**

**TOLD TO THE YOUNG,
RIGHT BEFORE BED.**

**THE SHUSWAP CULTURE,
TELLS STORIES A LOT.**

**THEY ARE MEANT TO KEEP SECRET,
AND NOT SOLD OR BOUGHT.**

**STORIES ARE STORIES,
THEY AREN'T ALWAYS TRUE.**

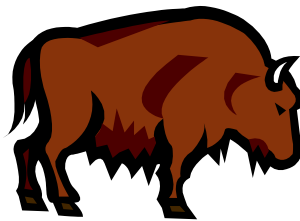
**BUT THEY WILL LIVE ON,
FROM ME TO YOU.**



2nd Place Winner Secondary Grades 2010
Keith Smith
Grade 7 Mountview Elementary School
Teacher: Mr. Lawrence

THE SHAMED BUFFALO

**Flat as the prairies,
Ran as fast as he could,
Through all the nests,
Ashamed, he should,
Thump, thump, thump
Nanabozho came along,
Furious as the devil,
He hit him on the shoulders,
Dong, dong, dong
Know the animal has a hump
Forever as long**



3rd Place Winner Secondary Grades 2010
Tylor Montgomery
Grade 7 Mountview Elementary School
Teacher: Mr. Lawrence

FIRST NATION TRADITIONS

Sacred symbols of the First Nation

Air is the symbol of birth of life.

Earth is the symbol of life and food.

Fire is the symbol of warmth.

Four sacred plants used to heal.

Cedar has the power of physical healing.

Sage has the power of spiritual healing.

Tobacco has the power of mental healing.

Sweet grass has the power of emotional healing



4th Place Winner Secondary Grades 2010
Tegan Wherley
Grade 7 Mountview Elementary School
Teacher: Mr. Lawrence

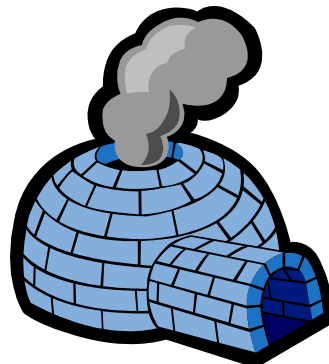
POLAR PEOPLE

**In the cold frozen north,
With the seal and the polar bear.
Where the Inuit live,
Color dancing in the frozen air.**

**The people of eternal day,
The people of eternal night.
Six months of each,
Six of darkness, six of light.**

**Travelling in umiaq,
And sleds pulled by dogs.
Living in igloos,
Not houses made of logs.**

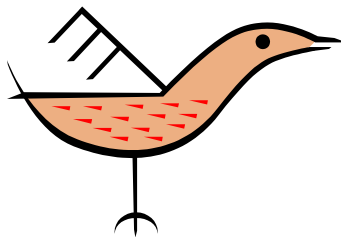
**But their lives have changed.
Technology came,
Health care, computers and such.
The Inuit will never be the same.**



Chapter Three
2009

Primary Grades

(Kindergarten, Grade 1, 2, 3)



1st Place Winner Primary Grades 2009
Ocea Gunn
Grade 3 Horse Lake Elementary School
Teacher: Mrs. Stenerson

DREAM CATCHERS

String, beads, feathers,
Dream catchers look like a
Spider web, people believe they
Can catch your bad dreams and let
Your good dreams flow through,
People hang them in their Hair
There are many sizes of Dream catchers
Some people use them for just hanging
Around their house



2ND Place Winner Primary Grades 2009
Nick Leslie
Grade 3 Horse Lake Elementary School
Teacher: Mrs. Stenerson

DOUBLE BALL

Double ball is fun

On Native land

Under the sun

Ball scoring

Love the game it is so fun

Excellent time

Balls are weird

And they are strapped together

Little balls

Leather strapped

3RD Place Winner Primary Grades 2009
Georgia Kolb
Grade 3 Horse Lake Elementary School
Teacher: Mrs. Stenerson

DREAM CATCHERS

DDOUBLE

RAVEN

EARTH

ANIMALS

METIS

CCOYOTE

ANIMAL SPIRITS

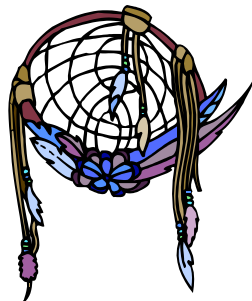
TTRADITIONS

CCATCHES DREAMS

HHORSES

EEAGLE

RRABBIT



4TH Place Winner Primary Grades 2009
Alexander Buurmeester
Grade 3 Horse Lake Elementary School
Teacher: Mrs. Stenerson

BANNOCK

Bannock is very good

And it is bread

Native food

Never bad

Oven cooked

Can't compare

King of all breads



2009

Intermediate Grades

(Grades 4,5,6)



1ST Place Winner Intermediate Grades 2009

Terry Isnardy

Grade 6 Wildwood Elementary School

Teacher: Geraldine Bob

We Will Be Proud

We will be proud of our culture

We will be proud of our land

We will be proud of our family

We will be proud of our nature

We will be proud of our animals

We will be proud of our spirit

We will be proud of our past

We will be proud of our future



2nd Place Winner Intermediate Grades 2009
Shania Cook
Grade 5 Naghtaneqed Elementary/Jr. Secondary School
Teacher: Lorna Myers

Spring

**Spring is coming,
Birds are humming,
Flowers are blooming,
And Winter is ending.
Horses are running,
Rabbits are jumping,
And ice on Connie Lake,
And Chilco Lake is melting,
From the blue sky,
And shiny warm sun.**



3rd Place Winner Intermediate Grades

Leah Harry

Grade 4 Sxoxomic School

Teacher: Russell Sharock

I went to a Pow Wow

**I went to a pow wow.
I saw a lot of dance moves.
A lot of robbins swing around.
And a lot of colours swing around.
And were ever I went I saw a lot of tents.
And I can smell food were ever I went.
I flow into the drums and sing ever I won't.
I can see a lot of stores going on.
And people going in and out of the Pow Wow
grounds.
And when it is hot I go swimming at the
lake.
And in daylight I go eat breakfast.
And watch people dance.**

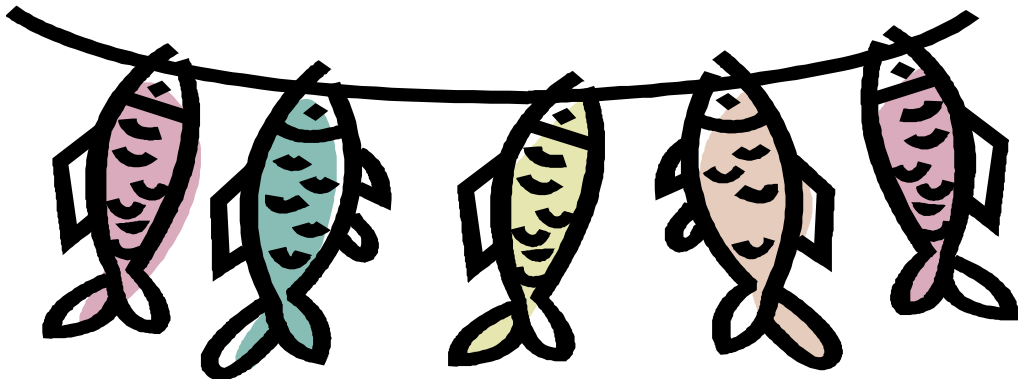


4th Place Winner Intermediate Grades 2009
Ses Jack
Grade 5 Sxoxomic School
Teacher: Russell Sharock

FISHING

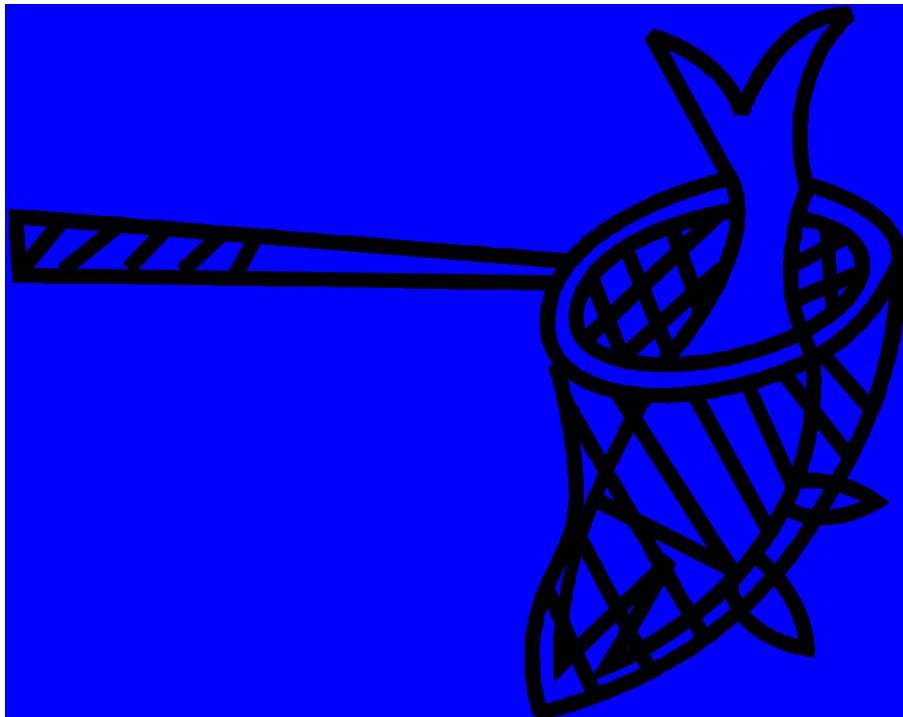
Getting to the Lake
Getting our nets ready to go fishing

Running down the creek
We finally caught the fish we were fishing
for.



SECONDARY GRADES

2009
(GRADES 7 TO 12)



1st Place Winner Secondary Grades 2009
Naomi Setah
Grade 8 Naghtaneqed Elementary/Jr. Secondary School
Teacher: Lorna Myers

POW WOW DANCING

**You will be dancing around
In the Pow Wow circle
Hear the Native Drum beat**

**It is our nature
To hear the drum beat
Also in our culture
It is very NEAT!**

**We have a wonderful time
You cannot drink
It is a crime
Better think**

**It is all done!!!!
It was very FUN!!!!**



2ND Place Winner Intermediate Grades 2009
Damen Shephard
Grade 7 Sacred Heart Catholic Church School
Teacher: Norma MacDonald

Native ancestry

A long time ago Natives weren't treated
with respect,
It was something inspect.
They demanded their rights,
So they wouldn't be another of the sights.
They didn't whine or cry,
The government wanted the end to be denied.
They dodged what the government decided to
throw,
They just didn't let go.
Most of America thought that they were
infected,
But they were to be respected.
Those with their purpose helped,
The the government, in fear whelped.
That is how Natives gained their rights,
They all soared like kites.



3rd Place Winner Secondary Grades 2009
Kaleena Tamis
Grade 8 Naghtaneqed Elementary/Jr. Secondary School
Teacher: Lorna Myers

WHO I AM

*I was raised in the Chilcotin culture
But I am a Cree Native
I saw my ancestry in a picture
You can tell I am related*

*I am mostly white and a little Cree
I love myself and who I am
I researched my family tree
I was born and raised on Chilcotin land*

*I am proud for what I stand for
I have blonde hair and my skin is white
The knowledge of my language is poor
Dreaming of my culture while the moon shines bright*

*This is who I am and where I'm from
I am who I am till the end and when it's done*



4TH Place Winner Secondary Grades 2009
Lane Setah
Grade 8 Naghtaneqed Elementary/Jr. Secondary School
Teacher: Lorna Myers

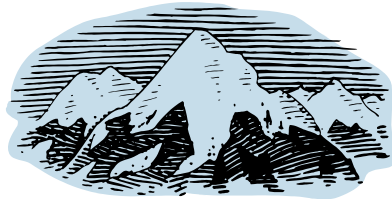
CHILCOTIN POEM

**CHILCOTIN IS OUR NAME
IT IS OUR CULTURE
WE RISE TO THE FAME
WE WORK ON IT LIKE A VULTURE**

**WE NEVER MAKE A FUSS
WE ALWAYS SPEAK OUR LANGUAGE IN CLASS
OUR ELDERS SPEAK IT TO US
WE ALWAYS SPEAK IT FAST**

**IF WE DON'T KNOW HOW WE NEVER SAY IT
WE ALWAYS SPEAK IT NICELY
WE ALWAYS MAKE IT FIT WE SPEAK IT CALMLY**

**WE SPEAK IT IN CHILCOTIN
AND WE HAVE REALLY HUGE MOUNTAINS**



**THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING TEACHERS WHO
ENCOURAGED THEIR STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN
OUR POETRY CONTEST**

2011

TEACHER	SCHOOL
Cindy Neufeld	Mountview Elementary School
Jen Clark	Distance Education, Grow, S.D.27
Lacey Dawn Bruce	Cataline Elementary & Nesika Elementary
Louise Harry	Dog Creek Elementary School
Miss Oystrick	Sacred Heart School
Mr. Brian Davidson	Distance Education, Grow, S.D. 27
Mr. Iachetta	Sacred Heart School
Mr. Lawrence	Mountview Elementary School
Mrs. Davis	150 Mile Elementary School
Ms. Barber	Nesika Elementary School
Ms. D. Wilde	Columneetza Secondary School
Ms. Gust	Lac La Hache Elementary School
No teacher named	Williams Lake Secondary School
Reanne Sachetti	Wildwood Elementary School

2010

TEACHER	SCHOOL
Mrs. Moe	Nesika Elementary School
Ms. Barber	Nesika Elementary School
Mr. Lawrence	Mountview Elementary School
Celestine Brigham	Stone Band School (Yunesit'in ?Esgul)

2009

TEACHER	SCHOOL
Mrs. Stenerson	Horse Lake Elementary School
Geraldine Bob	Wildwood Elementary School
Lorna Myers	Naghtaneqed Elementary School
Russell Sharock	Sxoxomic School
Norma MacDonald	Sacred Heart Catholic Church School

Compiled by School District No. 27 First Nations Education Department