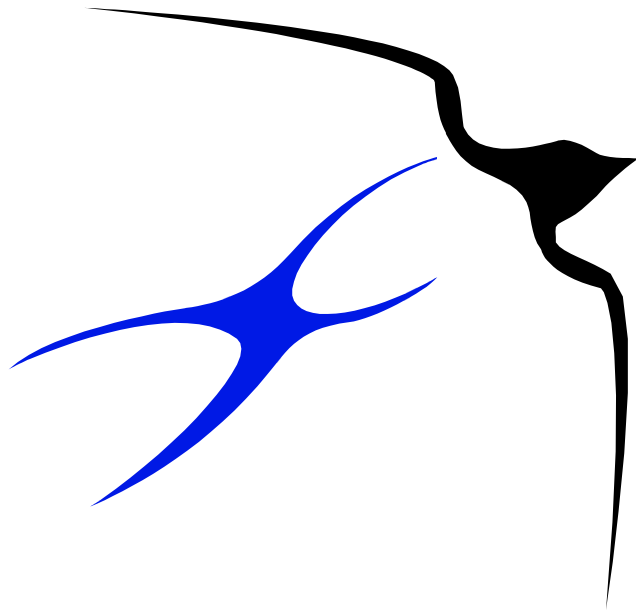


FIRST NATIONS POETRY CONTEST WINNERS 2012, 2013, 2014



VOLUME 2

A collection of our Aboriginal Poetry Contest Winning Poems for the years: 2012, 2013, 2014

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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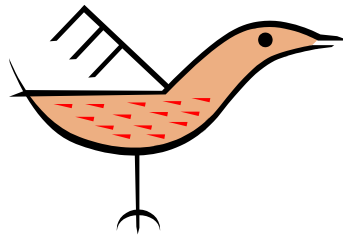
Winners from the Secondary Grades



Chapter One
2012

Primary Grades

(Kindergarten, Grade 1, 2, 3)



1st Place Winner for Primary Grades in 2012
Wrenn Yano, Grade 3
100 Mile Elementary School
Teacher: Mrs. Johnson & Penny Reid

The First Nations Respect

The First Nations Respect

The whale that swims in the deep blue sea
The fox that runs through the forest full of trees
The wolf that sits on the mountain and howls at
the moon
The fish in the lake and the beautiful loon.



2nd Place Winner for Primary Grades 2012 (No entries)

3rd Place Winner for Primary Grades 2012 (No entries)

4th Place Winner for Primary Grades 2012 (No entries)



2012

Intermediate Grades

(Grades 4,5,6)



1st Place Winner for Intermediate Grades 2012
Maria DiMarco, Grade 5
Sacred Heart Catholic School
Teacher: Mrs. Iachetta

The Spirits' Lullaby

Flash! Crackle!
Swoosh! Fly!
The Spirits are singing
A lullaby

Out of the earth,
Into the fire,
Out like a cloud,
The shadows rise higher

You see them just faintly,
But the night seems to whisper,
And your heart floods with joy
As the night air grows crisper

Just a small outline
In the fiery glow
Then suddenly, you hear
Sweet singing, so slow

Colors are swirling
On invisible fur
Amid the forest smells,
A fragrance like myrrh!

A powerful paw
Swoops you off the ground
As you feel the night's breeze,
You know you've finally found

The Spirits of the Fire
And in the bear's paws
You see glittering silver scales,
Mighty talons, sharp claws

A splash of golden sunlight,
The spirits fade away
You're placed back down on the forest floor
As nighttime turns to day →

**With a swirl of colors and songs,
The spirits return to the mire
You know you've heard a lullaby
From the Spirits of the Fire**

**Now when you look up at the sky,
You remember that glorious day
When the Spirits sang a lullaby
And took your breath away**



2nd Place Winner for Intermediate Grades 2012
Ocea Gunn, Grade 6
Horse Lake Elementary School
Teacher: Mrs. Kyra Hopson

Eagle

Strong, Brave

Free, Beautiful, Wild

Most Powerful and Amazing

Respected, Mighty, Honored

Intelligent, Wise

Great One



3rd Place Winner of Intermediate Grades 2012
Kassandra Harrison, Grade 6
150 Mile Elementary School
Teacher: Mrs. Grant

Dancing

A beautiful melody
Starts up a dance
The beat erupts
Thump thump

Dancers get their places
Breathing harder with every strike
They begin
Every step in rhythm with their tanned skin drum

Music embraces the audience
Jingling dresses go faster
Feathers wave crazier
Their songs move through the crowd
Like a snake curving its way through the forest
The music dies down
Dancers start to float away as if leaves floating along a stream

Breathing starts to slow
Drums beat slower but steady
With one last call from the tribe, it's over.



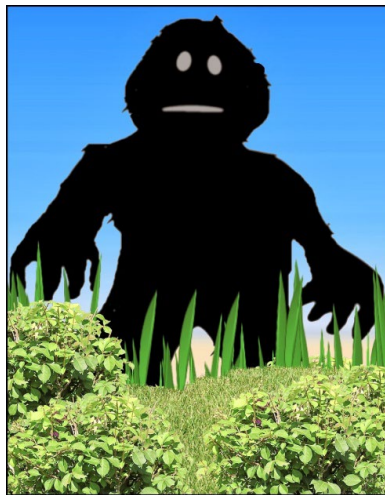
4th Place Winner of Intermediate Grades 2012
Tyrell Case, Grade 6
Tl'etinqox Elementary School
Teacher: Jacqui Ferguson

Legends

**There are legends about Sasquatches in Canada –
Granny says she saw one.**

**I believe the tales are true
Because I want to believe.
There is a legend in Anaham
About three dogs that turned into stone.
The dogs were trying
To save their masters.**

**Legends make Tl'etinqox people
Think back and remember,
Who we are**



SECONDARY GRADES

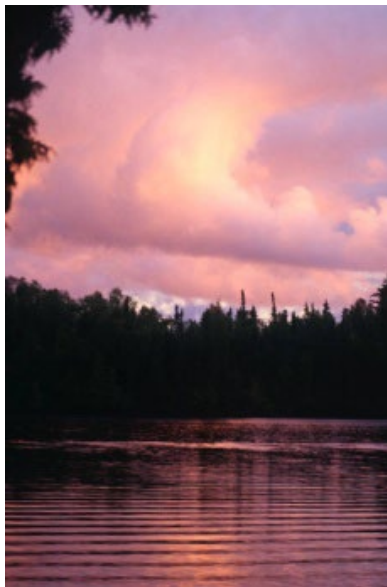
2012
(GRADES 7 TO 12)



1st Place Winner of Secondary Grades 2012
Jaclyn Sargent, Grade 7
Mountview Elementary School
Teacher: Mr. Lawrence

Indian Summer

As the day is hot,
We all come together
Pow-wow singing; music to your ears.
People dancing and drummers everywhere.
To hold your hand out, friendship gathers
The people come together as one nation.
Smiles on everyone's faces; rainbow colors all around
Family and friends do all together
Indian summer brings on nation
Different language, cultures, and religions.
For Indian summer is where;
We gather as one.



2nd Place Winner of Secondary Grades 2012
Trevor Chaffee, Grade 7
150 Mile Elementary School
Teacher: Mrs. Davis

The Hunt

As I sit by a big spruce tree
With my bow n' arrow
I pray to my creator to give me a moose,
My family is almost out of meat
I hear the thumping of deer hooves in the distance
But a moose that was bedded down near by
Jumps up, runs past me broadside
I have one shot,

Will I make it?

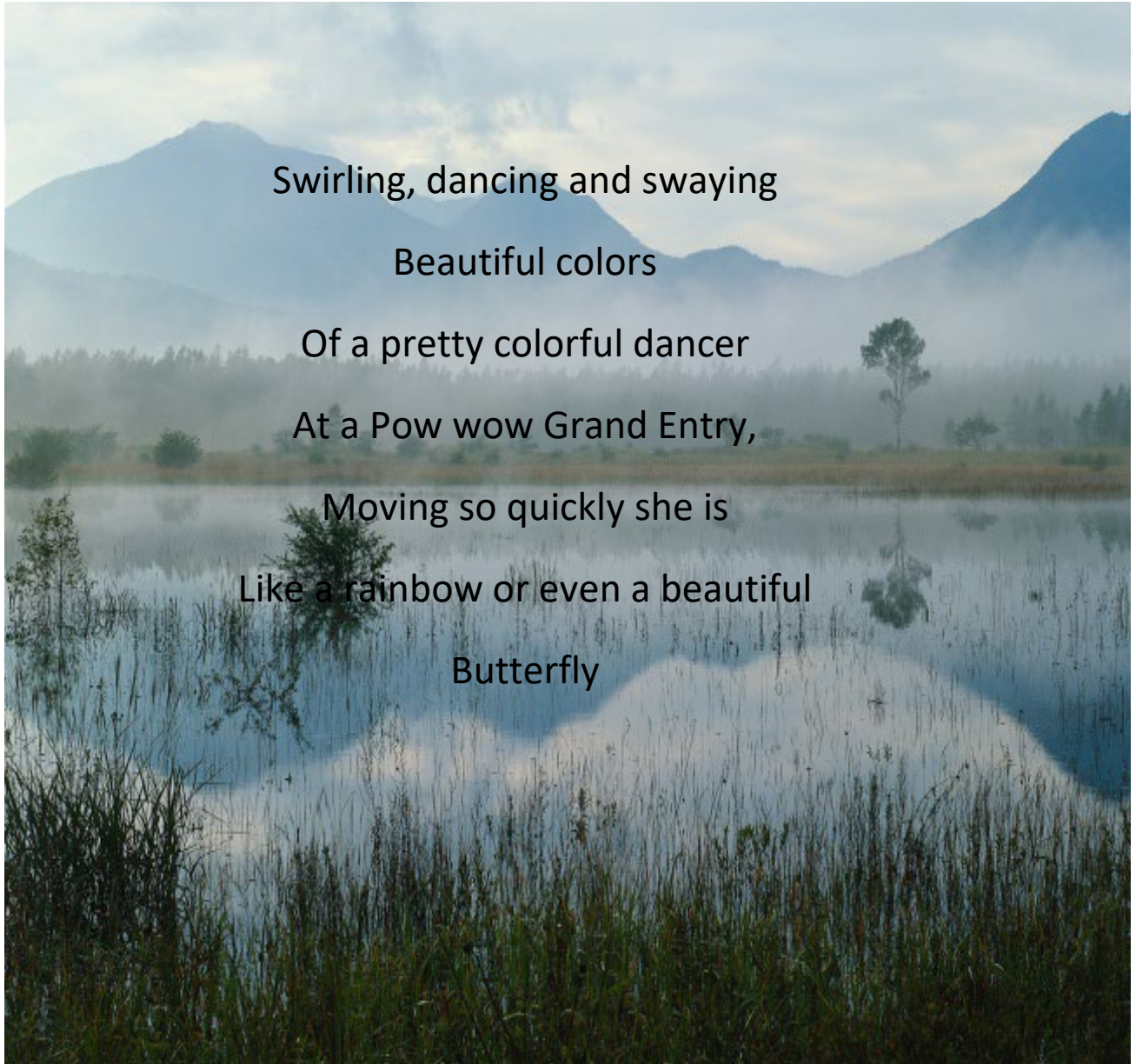


3rd Place Winner of Secondary Grades 2012
Tiara Ross, Grade 7
150 Mile Elementary School
Teacher: Mrs. Davis

FRESH SPRING

**I COME OUT OF MY TENT
STRAIGHTEN MY CLOTHING MADE OF HIDES
I FEEL THE AIR CLEANSING MY SKIN WITH FRESHNESS
I CAN TASTE THE STRONG
MORNING DEW
HAPPINESS COURSES THROUGH ME
WITH A MIX OF OTHER FEELINGS
GOOD FEELINGS
THESE FEELINGS MAKE ME PROUD TO BE FIRST NATIONS
BECAUSE I'M FREE ENOUGH
TO WITNESS THIS BEAUTIFUL MORNING
THIS FRESH SPRING MORNING**

4TH Place Winner Secondary Grades 2012
Kavelle Jeff, Grade 7
Mountview Elementary School
Teacher: Mr. Lawrence

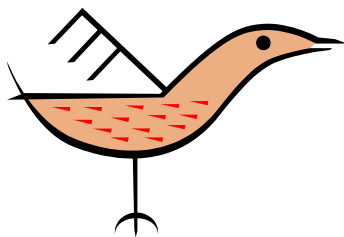


Swirling, dancing and swaying
Beautiful colors
Of a pretty colorful dancer
At a Pow wow Grand Entry,
Moving so quickly she is
Like a rainbow or even a beautiful
Butterfly

Chapter Two
2013

Primary Grades

(Kindergarten, Grade 1, 2, 3)



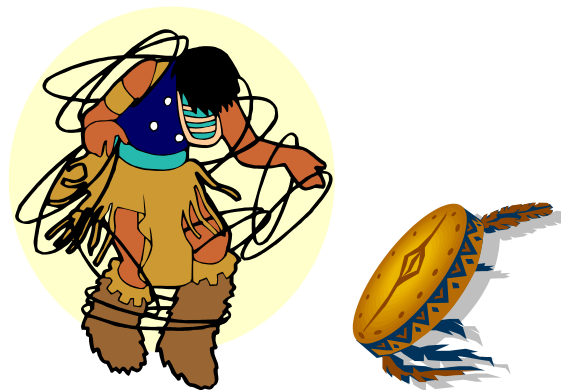
1ST Place Winner Primary Grades 2013
Roman Boston, Grade 2
Dog Creek Elementary/Jr. Secondary School
Teacher: Diana Kershaw

My Culture

My culture is drumming, beading, hunting, learning

Loving, fishing, farming, sharing, respecting.

**Are all important, but the most
Important is my family.**



2nd Place Winner Primary Grades 2013
Ethan Erickson, Grade 2
Wildwood Elementary School
Teacher: Ms. Fushtey

Canoe Glides



3RD Place Winner Primary Grades 2013

Curtis William, Grade 2

Yunesitin ?Esgul School

Teacher: Patricia Pruim

Culture (Acrostic Poem)

Chilcotin River fishing in the summer

Use my regalia for the Pow Wow

Like to hunt deer

Take drums and pop to Lahal

Under a tent we gather.

Ride a skidoo.

Eat Indian ice cream.



4TH Place Winner Primary Grades 2013
Chrissie Squinas, Grade 1
Nagwuntl'oo School
Teacher: Mrs. L.L. Classens

I LIKE SMOKE HOUSES

**I like smoke houses.
Dry meat smoke houses,
Moose meat smoke houses,
Meaty smelling smoke houses,
dark smoke houses,
new smoke houses,
any kind of smoke house,
I like smoke houses.**

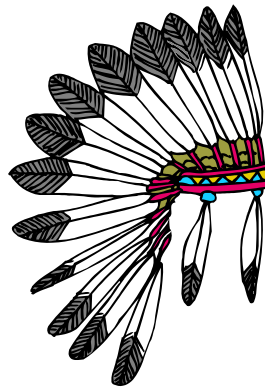
**Lots of meat smoke houses,
Brown smoke houses,
Kind of white smoke houses,
Slimy meat smoke houses,
Dirt smoke houses,
Fire, like camping, smoke houses,
Any kind of smoke house,
I like smoke houses.**



2013

Intermediate Grades

(Grades 4,5,6)



1ST Place Winner Intermediate Grades 2013

**Maria DiMarco, Grade 6
Sacred Heart Catholic School**

Teacher: Mr. Lee

THE SONG OF THE SPIRITS

Shining against
The Smoke black sky
Shadows appear
With a wanting cry
But the fire sparks
In the midnight sky

Slinking beasts
With silken paws
Soaring giants
With flashing claws
Still the fire sparks
In midnight's jaws

Saddening roars
Of the waterfall strike
Piercing your heart
With a bear-tooth spike
Still the fire rises
Willing to strike

The power of spirits
Flows through the night
Stalking the Fire
Dimming the light But still, still
The fire burns bright

Suddenly you feel strong
Like the tiger of Flame
Your shadow unfolds
Spirits call you by name
Fire is waiting
Waiting in shame

The shadows grow stronger
Colors unfold
Images of spirits
And legends untold
The fire is turning
Crystalline cold.....

The Bear, Eagle
Salmon unite!
The Eagle hovers
In golden flight
Fire wouldn't dare
Shed its light

The Bear stands on paws
Strong and free
The salmon splashes water
In melody
The Song of the Spirits
In harmony

Ruby morning light
Springs through
Flash! The spirits
Abandon you
Though their presence is somehow
Crispy new

You breath the crispy
Air in deep
Lie on the ashes
And fall asleep
Into my body
The song will seep

The Song of the Spirits
Is fresh to this day
The song that made me
Saddened and gay
The harmony that took
My breath away

2ND Place Winner Intermediate Grades 2013
Shay Hutchinson, Grade 5
Marie Sharpe Elementary School
Teacher: Zena Chelsea

Drumming

Drumming is sacred in my life.

I love the beating of the drum, which makes me want to dance.

I love the beating of the drum that represents the heart beat of Mother Nature.

I love the beating of the drum, which brings our prayers to the creator.

I love the beating of the drum that brings the spirit of the bears and wolves all around.

I love the beating of the drum, which brings our ancestors together as one.

Drumming is sacred in my life that brings respect and pride.



3RD Place Winner Intermediate Grades 2013
Danielle Robbins, Grade 6
Mountview Elementary School
Teacher: Zena Chelsea

Jingle Dress

**Jingle dress dolls,
Jingle dress shawls,
Jingle dress drums,
Jingle dress drums go ta dum de dumb rum,
People clap,
People smile,
People are enchanted for awhile.**



4th Place Winner Intermediate Grades 2013
Jenessa Billyboy, Grade 6
Sacred Heart Catholic School
Teacher: Mr. Lee

Dreams

Dreams smell like a cloud of laughter

Dreams look like things you've

Always wanted to do

Dreams taste

Like your favorite cake on your birthday

Dreams sound like kids

Having fun dreams feel like when

You're tired

You slowly go to sleep

I catch my dreams

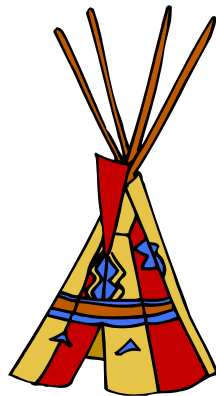
with a dream catcher.



SECONDARY GRADES

2013

(GRADES 7 TO 12)



1ST Place Winner Secondary Grades 2013
Tony Florence, Grade 9
Eliza Archie Memorial School
Teacher: Jen Clark (Socials 9)

Grandfather knows

Respect the water, and you'll never be thirsty

Respect the animals, and you'll never be hungry

Respect the sun, and there will always be light

Respect the moon, so you can see at night

Respect the air, and you'll always be able to breath

Respect mother earth, so you" always have a place to live

Respect the land, and you'll have a place to grow food

Respect your father, he will show you how to hunt

Respect your mother, she will help you grow

Respect your grandfather, because he knows

Respect yourself, so that you can live

RESPECT

2nd Place Winner Secondary Grades 2013
Faith Rosette, Grade 7
Dog Creek Elementary/Jr. Secondary School
Teacher: Jane Hancock

The Midnight Gallop

*The horses run through the cold windy night,
And the wind blows through their manes.
They streak through a meadow of chill moon light
And their hard hooves thunder like trains.*

*I hear their hooves on the frosty grass
And their silky backs I see
Their rippling shadows fly quickly past
And I know in my heart they're free*



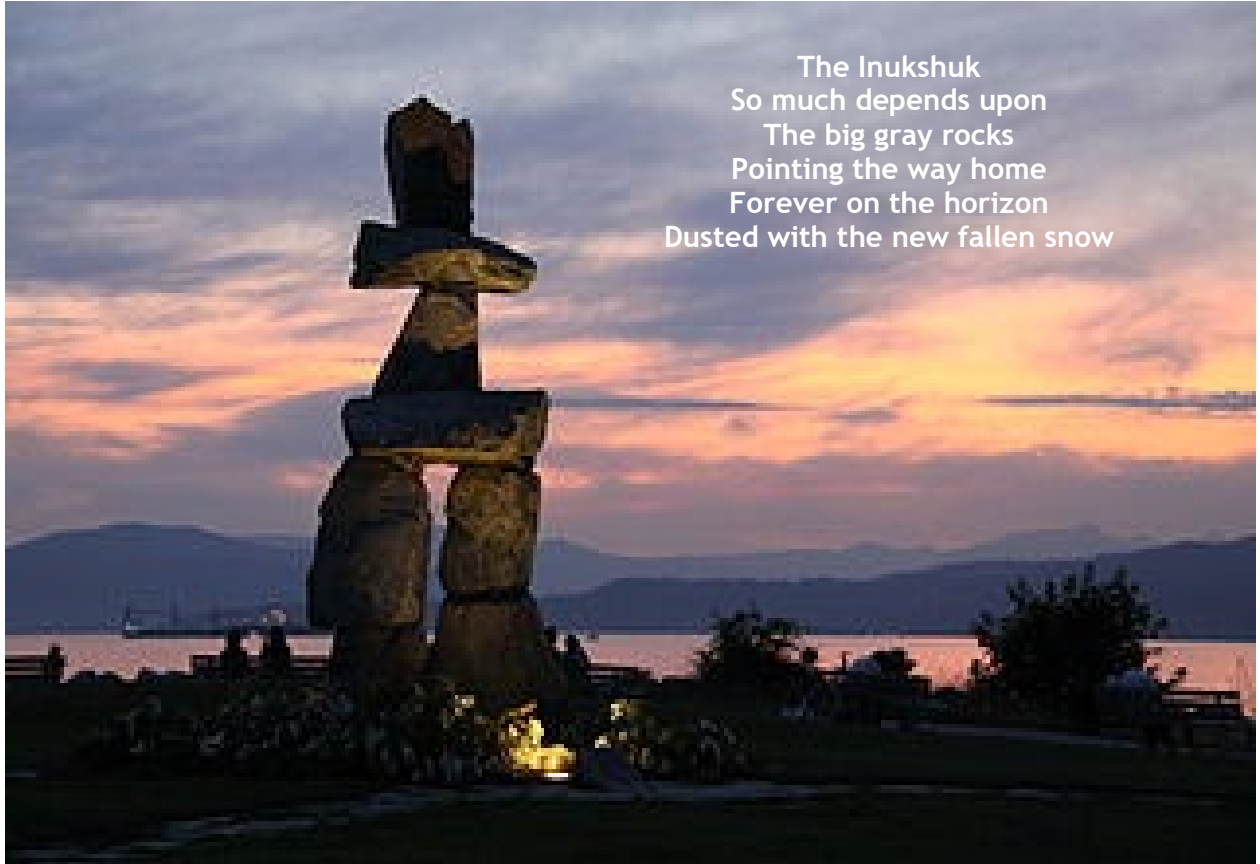
3rd Place Winner Secondary Grades 2013

Nick Farkas, Grade 9

Horsefly Elementary/Jr. School

Teacher: Mr. Kowalski

“Inspired by the poems of William Carlos Williams”



The Inukshuk
So much depends upon
The big gray rocks
Pointing the way home
Forever on the horizon
Dusted with the new fallen snow

4th Place Winner Secondary Grades 2013
Brooke Call, Grade 7
150 Mile Elementary School
Teacher: Mrs. Grant

The Wolves Calling

A figure watches in the distance
Hidden in the shadows of the gloomy woods
All that are visible are his rare blue eyes
As the sun reflection hits them,
They glisten with extraordinary brilliance
Making him seem less dangerous than he really is

His ruff is as gray as the morning fog
His legs and muzzle being darker than the rest of him
His eyes are what make him look sad
We stare, and stare, and stare
His ears start to twitch
I don't hear it at first
But then, as if carried on the wind
I hear the voices of his fellow wolves

Stealing a glance at me
He sprints to the edge of the forest
Looking back quickly
Before he enters the woods
His eyes look sad, yet eager
Then he continues on his way

That night as I lie in bed
I hear the wolves began to sing
The chorus ringing out in a high pitched tune
The verses being lower
In joined my wolf
His voice being light
Calling me out to him

Continued

As I find my way to the deck
I see him again, this time closer than ever before
I descent down the stairs
And wait for him to run off, but he doesn't
I slowly make my way to him, trying my best not to scare him
Soon I'm within an arm's length away
His smell is strong
Like pine needles, cold rain, and earthly perfume
His fur is coarse on top
Yet delicately soft underneath

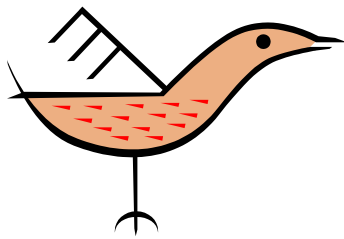
Suddenly, in the darkness of the forest
I see two of his other fellow wolves
The slick black one, obviously the leader
Lets out a small whimper
Letting my wolf know it is time to go
My wolf looks at me
Then nuzzles his head in my hand
Letting me know that he is sorry he has to leave
He then runs off to join the ones he belongs with
making me wish to be one of them.



Chapter Three
2014

Primary Grades

(Kindergarten, Grade 1, 2, 3)



1st Place Winner Primary Grades 2014
Christine Harry, Kindergarten
Dog Creek Elementary/Jr. Secondary School
Ria Tromp

LITTLE BLUEBIRD

**MOUNTAIN BLUE BIRD
FLY UP THE MOUNTAIN
FLY AWAY
THE BEAR IS TRYING TO CATCH YOU
LITTLE BLUE BIRD**



2ND Place Winner Primary Grades 2014
Aiden Fulton, Grade 2
Cataline Elementary School
Mrs. Neufeld's class

"Good night mom" I said as she was about to turn off the light. "But mom.... If I was a thunderbird and chased you on and on, would you still love me? Yes I would. I'd hope the sun would bring you down and I'd call eagle, bear, wolf, owl and raven. I'd ask eagle to use his good luck power and strength, wolf to provide you with everything you need, owl to work night shift and last but not least raven to cleverly make a cure.

But Mom, what if I was a salmon that flopped down the stream without you, would you still love me? Yes I would. I'd get a net and fish you out of the stream.

But Mom, what if I was a kingfisher and I swooped down into the lake and splashed you with water with my talons would you still love me? Yes I would. I'd get an umbrella to block the water then be extreme mom and get a jet pack to fly up with you.

But Mom, what if I was a wolf that hunted his whole life and was hunting you? Would you still love me? Yes I would. I'd call BC Wildlife Federation and they would find a live trap and catch you.

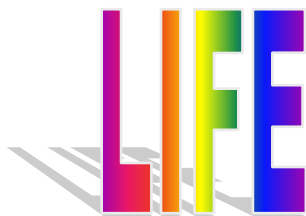
"Ohh Aiden I will always love you"

"So will I Mom and what if I was...."

"Let's not start this again..." and she turned out the light.



3RD Place Winner Primary Grades 2014
Ronald Wilson, Grade 2
Horsefly Elementary/Jr. Secondary School
Teacher: Mrs. Erikson

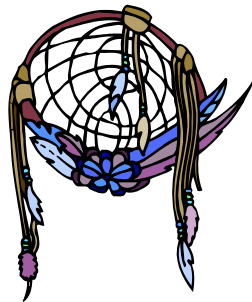


Around the fire
Stamping feet
Beating drums
Riding horses
Shooting buffalo
Is the way of life



4TH Place Winner Primary Grades 2014

There was no winning entry received



2014

Intermediate Grades

(Grades 4,5,6)



1ST Place Winner Intermediate Grades 2014

Selina Farkas

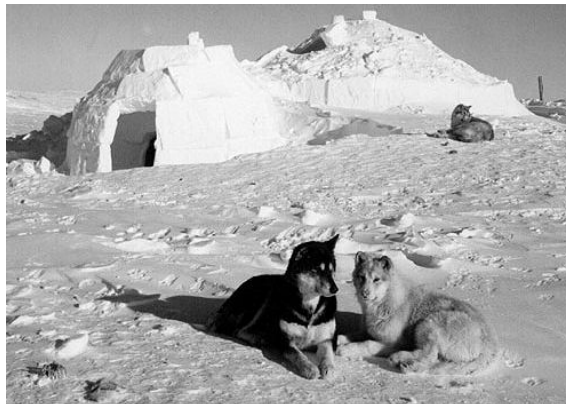
Grade 6 Horsefly School

Mrs. Farkas' Class

INSTINCT

My feet crunch softly in the snow
I stop, my nose twitches
I listen and hear the shouts of the hunting party
My first instinct is to run
I trust my instinct
I run across the snow-covered plain
I tell my herd to run
We move in a blur of brown
We are Safe
Together
We are Caribou

My feet crunch softly in the snow
I stop, my eyes drift to a brown shape
I listen and hear the sounds of a caribou
My first instinct is to hunt
I trust my instinct
I run across the snow-covered plain
I tell my family to hunt
We move in a blur of fur and animal skin
We are safe
Together
We are Inuit



2nd Place Winner Intermediate Grades 2014
Kira Wehlen
Grade 5, Sacred Heart Catholic School
Teacher: A. MacNeil

TOTEM POLE

**THE TOTEM POLES ARE CARVED
STANDING SO TALL AND MIGHTY
THE SPIRITS WITHIN PROTECT US
THE ELEGANT EAGLE
THE PROTECTIVE WOLF
THE EVER WATCHFUL BEAR
ALL THERE TO PROTECT US
THE TOTEM POLE EVER SO MIGHTY**



3rd Place Winner Intermediate Grades 2014
Wrenn Yano
Grade 5, 100 Mile Elementary School
Teacher: Penny Reid

Proud

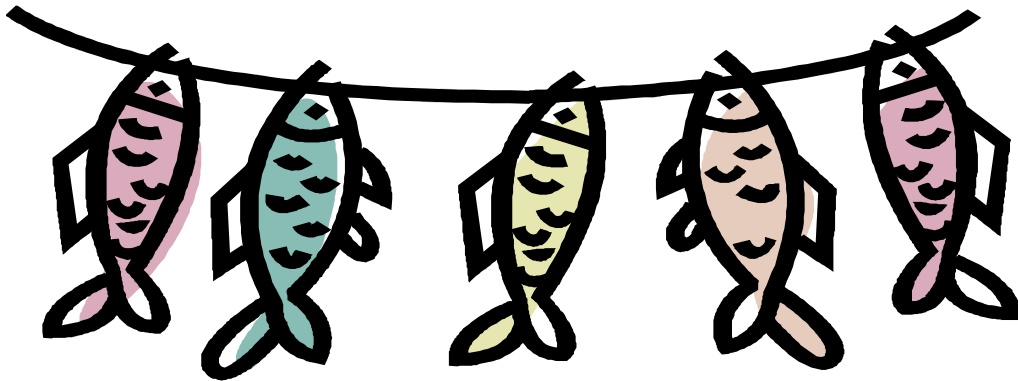
Like the crow we soar high
Like the fox we pass swiftly by
Like the bear we sing loud
Like my people I am proud



4th Place Winner Intermediate Grades 2014
Alana Witte, Grade 4
150 Mile Elementary School
Teacher: Mrs. Wintjes

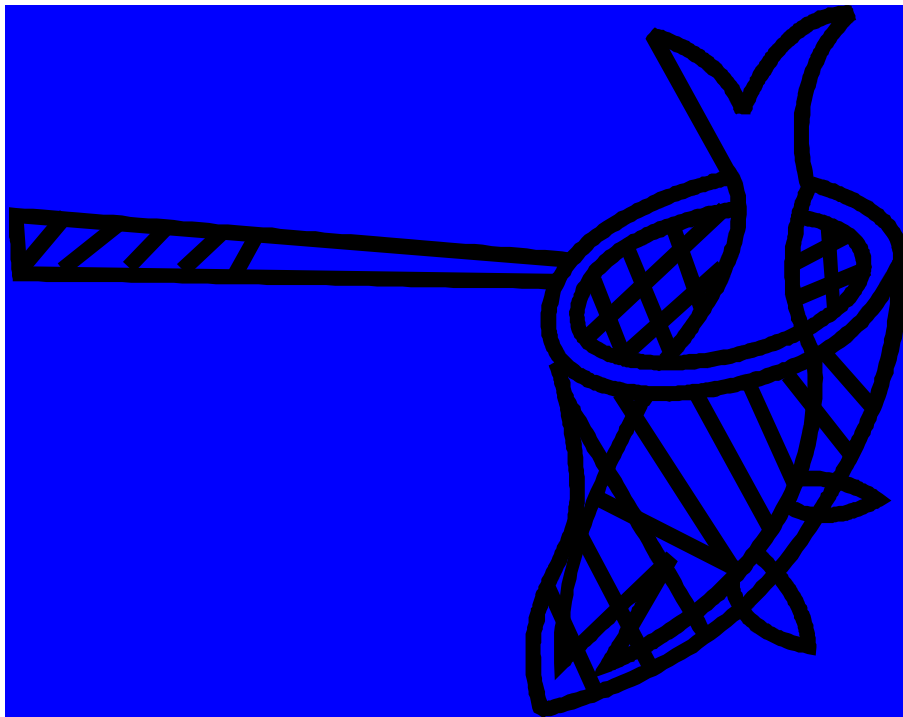
If I lived among the Haida

**If I lived among the Haida
I would hunt the seal and deer,
I'd paddle my canoe, and pick berries for next year.
I could hunt with bow and arrow,
I'd carve 2 totem pole,
I could sleep nights in the longhouse and burn eulachon oil
I'd build a tumpline for my basket,
Use babice to make a mask,
Weave blankets out of birch bart, and use bucksin for my pants.
I'd get to hunt the whale,
Dance and sing so very loud,
If I lived among the Haida,
I would be so very proud.**



SECONDARY GRADES

2014
(GRADES 7 TO 9)



1st Place Winner Secondary Grades (7-9) 2014
Amber Kalelest, Grade 9
Rosie Seymour School
Teacher: Mr. Jelks

Being Me

I then walk down the school hallways
I see people giving me glares
I don't really care
Because if that's how they want to act
Then let it be
I love being myself
I love the way I am
Being Native
It's the best thing that's ever happened
I can be who I want to be
They can live their life the way they want
Cause I'm not stopping them
I'll live my life the way I want
I want to stick to my culture
Because there's a lot to know about and do
Going;
Hunting,
Fishing,
Pow wowing it on.



2ND Place Winner Intermediate Grades (7-9) 2014
Dalton Johnny, Grade 8
Lake City Secondary School (Columneetza Campus)
Teacher: Ms. Brown, Modified Humanities

When I Drum

When I drum nothing else matters
I feel relief from stress
It vanishes from my body.
If feels great when I drum.
I'm with my friends
It's fun because I'm learning about my culture.



3rd Place Winner Secondary Grades (7-9) 2014
Quannah Stump, Grade 7
Dog Creek Elementary/Jr. Secondary School
Teacher: Jane Hancock

SPRING IN XGAT'TEM

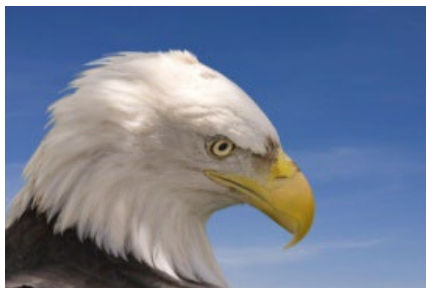
Sounds of birds singing
Purple blossoms on the cactus
Raindrops on the new leaves
I like to see the beautiful things Spring
makes
Now I can't wait until the new day
comes
Grass is growing across the hills



4TH Place Winner Secondary Grades (7-9) 2014
Chamath Wijesekera, Grade 7
Lake City Secondary School (Columnnetza Campus)
Teacher: Mrs. Grant

BALD EAGLE

As we go through the forest
There it was
A Bald Eagle,
Brown bodied bird with silvery head
Talons as hard as steel, eyes as white as a pearl
Ever watching us carefully, through the day
As we walk by a river
The bird was stalking us, every stealthily
Swooping down from the skies to hook some fish
We watch as it dives down and flies back up
We watch as it eats the fish, every fulfilling its great appetite
Majestic, bold and flying free over the horizon,
Back to the great blue
Guardian of the heavens
An example of freedom



SECONDARY GRADES

2014 (Grades 10-12)

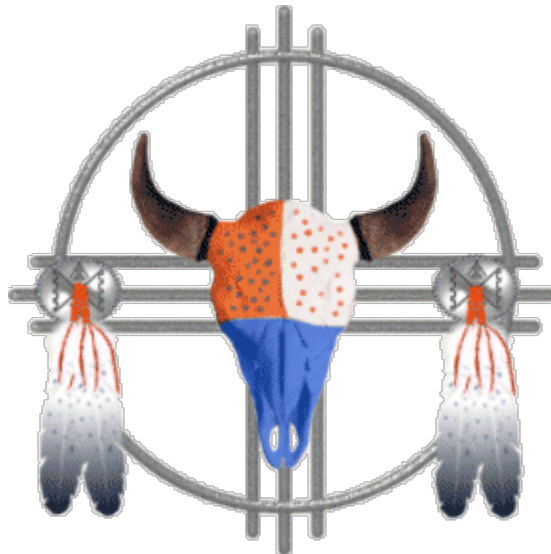


1ST Place Winner Secondary Grades (10-12) 2014
Kara Paré, Grade 12
Lake City Secondary School (Williams Lake Campus)
Teacher: Melinda MacKinnon

Reverse

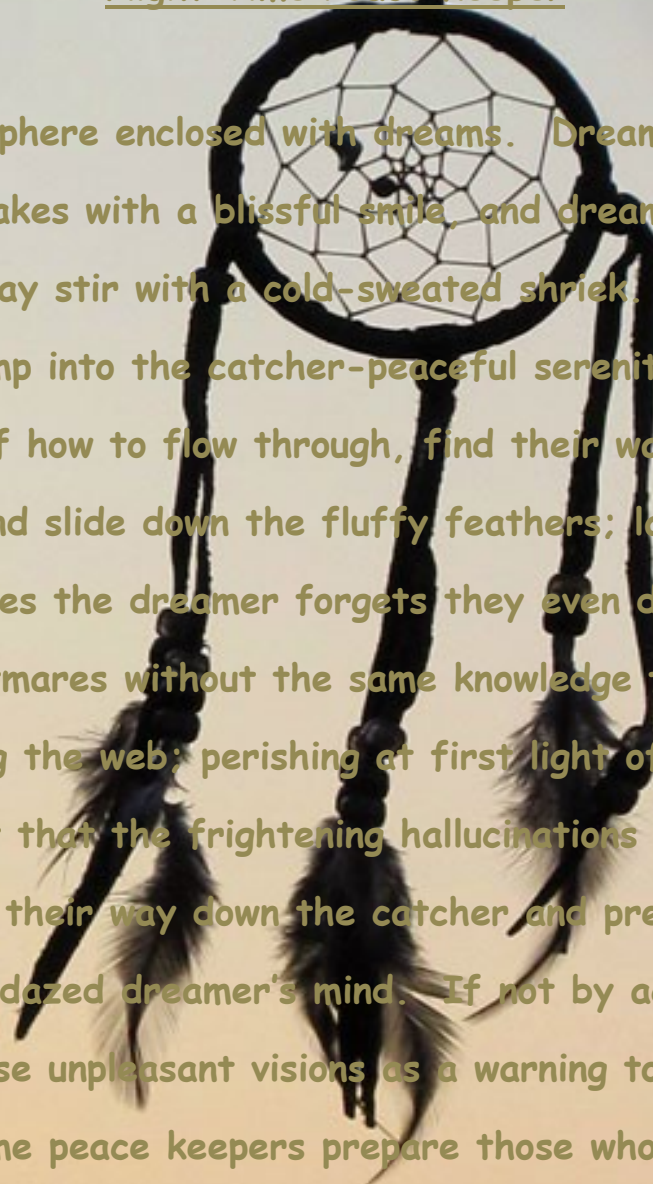
There is a loss in tradition
There will be no chance that
The past will be remembered
The young forget and dishonor
Never will
Liquor, drugs, and violence
Be more present in families than
Native language, love and culture
You will see
Broken homes and
Opportunity-less children and
Cheques consumed by liquor
You will not see
Strong hunters and
Fair, brave women and
The legendary spirits of the land
The next generation holds the key to
Keeping the ways of tradition locked away
There will be a stop of
Native pride.

Now read the poem in reverse to see what is really in the hearts of the First Nations.



2nd Place Winner Secondary Grades (10-12) 2014
Sam Delacherois, Grade 11
Lake City Secondary School (Williams Lake Campus)
Teacher: Melinda MacKinnon

Night Time Peace Keeper



Sunless atmosphere enclosed with dreams. Dreams so delightful that one awakes with a blissful smile, and dreams so horrible that one may stir with a cold-sweated shriek. The sleepy visions thump into the catcher-peaceful serenities with the expertise of how to flow through, find their way among the stringy hide and slide down the fluffy feathers; landing so gently that many times the dreamer forgets they even dreamt at all - shivering nightmares without the same knowledge find themselves tangled among the web; perishing at first light of the new day. Belief suggest that the frightening hallucinations may discover a way to sneak their way down the catcher and present virus like visuals in the dazed dreamer's mind. If not by accident, spirits may use these unpleasant visions as a warning to the sleeper. The night time peace keepers prepare those who believe in its magic for reality away from dreams.

3rd Place Winner Secondary Grades (10-12) 2014
Andrew Davey, Grade 12
Lake City Secondary School (Williams Lake Campus)
Teacher: Melinda MacKinnon

The Great Totem Pole

Come together, bring gifts, bring
food.

Eat, dance, sing.

Heave-ho! Heave-ho!

Raise the pole with your own power
and the power of your friends.

The faces stand straight and proud.

Holding them all, a bear stands
smiling, proud to be the base.

The frog on his head, proud to be
above.

Wings spread and beak forward the
eagle sits atop them all, proudest of
all.

Time is not friend to the three, rot
and age prove stronger.

They barely last a lifetime, on the
great totem pole.



4th Place Winner Secondary Grades (10-12) 2014
Alex Petrin, Grade 12
Lake City Secondary School (Williams Lake Campus)
Teacher: Melinda MacKinnon

Wolves

**Strong, proud
Lineages of old,
Pack, safety
Creatures so bold,
Wolves cry at night
To remind us of who we are,
Stamina, loyalty
Forests to take cover,
Family, love
Always there for one another.**



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

2012

TEACHER	SCHOOL
Mrs. Johnson	100 Mile Elementary School
Miss Iachetta	Sacred Heart Catholic School
Mrs. Kyra Hopson	Horse Lake Elementary School
Mrs. Grant	150 Mile Elementary School
Jacqui Ferguson	Tl'etingox Elementary School
Mr. Lawrence	Mountview Elementary School
Mrs. Davis	150 Mile Elementary School

2013

TEACHER	SCHOOL
Diana Kershaw	Dog Creek Elementary/Jr. Secondary School
Ms. Fushtey	Wildwood Elementary School
Patricia Pruim	Yunesit'in ?Esgul School
L.L. Classens	Nagwuntl'oo School
Mr. Lee	Sacred Heart Catholic School
Zena Chelsea	Marie Sharpe Elementary School
Jen Clark & Adrian Archie	For Eliza Archie Memorial School
Jan Hancock	Dog Creek Elementary/Jr. Secondary School
Mr. Kowalski	Horsefly Elementary/Jr. Secondary School
Mrs. Grant	150 Mile Elementary School

2014

TEACHER	SCHOOL
Ria Tromp	Dog Creek Elementary/Jr. Secondary School
Mrs. Neufeld	Cataline Elementary School
Mrs. Erickson	Horsefly Elementary/Jr. Secondary School
Mrs. Farkas	Horsefly Elementary/Jr. Secondary School
A. MacNeil	Sacred Heart Catholic School
Penny Reid	100 Mile Elementary School
Mrs. Wintjes	150 Mile Elementary School
Mr. Jelks	Rosie Seymour Elementary School
Ms. Brown	Lake City Secondary (Columneetza campus)
Jane Hancock	Dog Creek Elementary/Jr. Secondary School
Mrs. Grant	Lake City Secondary (Columneetza campus)
Melinda MacKinnon (4 winners for gr.10-12)	Lake City Secondary (Williams Lake campus)

Compiled by School District No. 27 First Nations Education Department