



SD67 Aboriginal Education Program Mid-Year Summary

August 2012 – January 2013

Prepared by: Anne Tenning (Vice Principal of Aboriginal Education)

ABED Updates

- **Staffing:** we would like to welcome two new ABED CEA's to our team: Sandra Hussey and Karen Frazie. Sandra works at Columbia Elementary, Wiltse Elementary and Uplands Elementary and Karen works at Naramata Elementary, Kaleden Elementary and Penticton Secondary. We would also like to welcome back to our program this year ABED CEA's Jolanda Poetsch (West Bench Elementary) and Fiona Anthony (Early Literacy Intervention support)
- **Program Consent:** the process for verifying parent/guardian consent for the ABED program and the filing of ABED documentation was standardized this year. A big thank you to all of the ABED staff, school clerical, and administrators for your work in ensuring that the necessary paperwork was completed before the end of September.
- **Aboriginal Education Planning Council:** this council oversees the ABED program and consists of representatives from the SD67, the Penticton Indian Band, local Aboriginal organizations and affiliate community groups. On January 17th, 2013, Janice Rose from JM Rose and Associates facilitated a meeting with the AEPC to help clarify the membership and responsibilities of the council. This was a valuable process and the newly defined group will now be referred to as the Aboriginal Education Council.
- **Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement:** SD67 is currently renegotiating a new 5-year AEEA. Focus groups are being conducted to allow for input from students, staff, parents, and community members. This consultation will help SD67 to develop new goals that will help Aboriginal students in our district to be as successful as possible.
- **"Coming Together" Aboriginal Partnerships Group:** this new group was formed in October, 2012 and will meet bi-monthly to provide a means of communication for integrated service delivery to support Aboriginal students and families within SD67. Representatives from MCFD, PIB, SD67, RCMP, Okanagan Nation Alliance, Oonakane Friendship Centre, and Children and Youth Mental Health are a part of this group.

Cultural Awareness Professional Development: for SD67 Staff

- **Syilx Indigenous Perspectives on Education:** on August 27th, 2012, approximately 40 teachers and administrators from Skaha Lake Middle School and Princess Margaret Secondary School participated in the "Syilx Indigenous Perspectives on Education" workshop at the En'owkin Centre and ECommunity Place. Presenters included Dr. Jeanette Armstrong, Richard Armstrong, Lauren Terbasket, Chad Eneas, Michael Bezener and Ellen Simmons.
- **BC Ministry of Education "Innovation through Collaborative Action Research Grant":** the ABED program was successful in attaining this Ministry grant to support the Land-Based Learning Project – a collaborative project between SD67 and the En'owkin Centre/ECommunity Place. Anne Tenning and Michael Bezener (from the En'owkin Centre) made a presentation to the Board of Trustees on Nov. 5th, 2012 about the LBLP.
- **Land-Based Learning Project:** the LBLP is a multi-year project that aims to have regular K-12 lessons taught at ECommunity Place as a means of meeting Prescribed Learning Outcomes in the context of the local environment and Syilx culture. Lesson plans are currently being co-created by SD67 teachers/staff and En'owkin Centre staff. An introduction to the project was held at the En'owkin Centre/ECommunity Place on October 22nd, 2012 for elementary teachers and on October 29th for middle and secondary school teachers. An in-depth lesson-planning session was held at the En'owkin Centre on February 1st, 2013. Lessons will be piloted at ECommunity Place this spring.



LBLP Presentation for Middle & Secondary Teachers
by Chad Eneas at ECommunity Place on Oct. 29th, 2012

ABED Staff Professional Development

- **ASIST Workshop:** on September 24th and 25th, 2012 Donna MacDonald and Dan VanOs participated in “Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training” workshop at the OoKnakane Friendship Centre (OFC).
- **FASD Workshop:** On October 12th, 2012, Donna MacDonald participated in a workshop at OFC on working with adults who have FASD.
- **Stress-free Teaching Workshop:** on October 24th, the ABED staff participated in a one-hour session facilitated by Babeeta Chharbra on techniques to use in the workplace and with students to help reduce stress.
- **ONA Wellness Workshop:** On October 24th and 25th, Anne Tenning and Don MacIntyre attended the Okanagan Nation Alliance Wellness Workshop at the Ramada Conference Centre in Penticton. Several students from PMSS also attended.
- **Theytus Books Presentation:** on October 26th, the ABED CEA’s attended a presentation at Theytus Books (located in the En’owkin Centre) to find out about the resources and publications that are available there. Participants selected resources to purchase for use in their schools.
- **Fostering Resiliency with Indigenous Children and Families Workshop:** Anne Tenning and Donna MacDonald participated in this workshop at the ONA Office in Westbank on November 8th, 2012. The workshop was facilitated by Monique Gray Smith from Little Drum Consulting.
- **Working with Maltreated Children and their Families Workshop:** On November 19th, 2012, the ABED CEA’s plus Donna MacDonald and Anne Tenning attended this workshop at Okanagan University College that was facilitated by Elina Falck.
- **FNESC 18th Annual Conference on Aboriginal Education:** Donna MacDonald, Anne Tenning, and Don MacIntyre attended the FNESC conference in Vancouver on November 23rd and 24th, 2012. Dave Brunelle from Skaha Lake Middle School and Allen Beckingham from West Bench Elementary also attended.
- **Authentic First Peoples Resources Presentation:** On November 30th, 2012, all ABED CEA’s, Donna MacDonald, Anne Tenning, plus several teacher-librarians (Kelly Caruso, Norma-Jean Berg, Lynn Aubin, Paula Baker, Naryn Searcy, and Cyndie Salting) from SD67 attended this presentation at the En’owkin Centre facilitated by Karmen Brillon from FNESC. The presentation included an overview of the new K-3 and K-7 FNESC authentic First Peoples resource guides. Sarah Dickie also presented on resources that are available at Theytus Books.
- **Girl Power Facilitator Training:** on December 18th and 19th, all ABED CEA’s, Tanya Hall, Donna MacDonald, Anne Tenning, and Andrea DeVito (Vice Principal from Summerland Middle School) participated in this hands-on workshop facilitated by Sherry Bezanson and Nicole Werstuik of ‘West Coast Empowerment Training’ to learn how to facilitate Girls Groups within our schools.
- **Jupiter Grades:** on January 30th, 2013, the ABED team participated in an introductory Jupiter Grades workshop facilitated by Dustin Hyde at Skaha Lake Middle School on how to use this program for electronic documentation of the services and support that is provided to students in the ABED program. We are contemplating a shift to electronic documentation to replace the paper-based system next school year.



FNESC: <http://www.fnesc.ca/curriculum>

- K-3 and K-7 Authentic First Peoples Resource Guides
- English First Peoples 10, 11, 12
- Math 8 and 9 First Peoples



West Coast Empowerment Training:

<http://wcet.ca/>

- Girl Power and 2BBoys Training

Cultural Awareness Program: Students

- **Aboriginal Awareness 7 Exploratory:** Aboriginal Awareness 7 is a new exploratory at Skaha Lake Middle School this year. It is being taught by Tanya Hall. Every grade 7 student at SLMS will take this exploratory with the goal of raising the students' understanding of Aboriginal peoples' culture and history.
- **PIB Grandma Program:** Thank you to the Penticton Indian Band for once again offering the Grandma Program this year. We are happy to welcome back Grandma Vera, Grandma Grace and Grandma Margaret. The students and staff from West Bench Elementary, Skaha Lake Middle School, Princess Margaret Secondary and Penticton Secondary appreciate the calming energy and support that the grandmas bring to the schools.
- **West Bench Tutorial:** 11 Aboriginal students in grades 3-5 from West Bench Elementary participate in this tutorial after school every Wednesday facilitated by Jolanda Poetsch and Anne Tenning. The tutorial includes exercise, a nutritious snack, reading to the students, and time for cultural activities, homework completion, or literacy/numeracy practice.
- **'R Native Voice:** 'R Native Voice is a 12 week program facilitated by the Okanagan Nation Alliance to help youth learn about their culture and history while also assisting them to develop self-empowerment skills. This program was given Board Authority in the fall; students from SD67 who complete the program will now receive four credits towards their graduation. 'R Native Voice will be commencing in Penticton this spring.
- **Remembrance Day Presentations:** we would like to recognize the following Aboriginal students who did presentations at Remembrance Day assemblies about the contributions of Aboriginal soldiers: Rylend Sauter from KVR and Kaitlyn Turley from MNP.
- **Girl Power Groups:** as a result of the Girl Power Facilitator training in December, several Girl Power groups have already started at: Carmi Elementary (facilitated by Fiona Anthony and Ava Allison), Parkway Elementary (facilitated by Lorraine Johnson and Sandra Hussey), West Bench Elementary (facilitated by Jolanda Poetsch and Ava Allison), KVR Middle School (facilitated by Lisa Stephens and Viv Lieskovsky), Summerland Middle School (facilitated by Carmen Baker and Andrea DeVito), and McNicoll Park Middle School (facilitated by Lisa Stephens and Robyn Richter). Additional groups will be starting soon. Many of the groups are open to both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal girls.
- **Class-Wide Presentations:** a new goal in the ABED program is to offer class-wide cultural awareness presentations rather than pull-out presentations just for Aboriginal students. These presentations are aimed to be inclusive and to raise the understanding of Aboriginal people and culture for all students. Many ABED CEA's have been instrumental in planning and leading these activities (Lana Lamb, Lisa Stephens, Sandra Hussey, Ava Allison, Jolanda Poetsch and Fiona Anthony; several other ABED CEA's also have presentations in the works). Some of the presentations have included: book readings of literature by Aboriginal authors, viewing of the *Raven Tales* dvd's, art activities (drawing, painting, sculpting, beadwork, etc), and traditional foods presentations. A diverse range of Aboriginal content has been included: Okanagan, Métis, Inuit, Dene, Cree, and more. The feedback from students and teachers about these learning opportunities has been overwhelmingly positive.
- **Field Trips:** some of the ABED student field trips that have taken place so far this year have included: UBCO Open House and Pow Wow, traditional tea harvesting, pictograph hikes, and tule-mat making.
- **Residential School Presentations:** Anne Tenning has been going into classes to introduce the topic of residential schools (Aboriginal Awareness 7 Exploratory classes at SLMS and English 8 at KVR Middle School) and also to explain the intergenerational impacts of residential schools (First Nations Studies 12 at PSS and Social Justice 12 at PMSS).
- **International Students:** On January 22nd, 2013 several ABED staff members volunteered after school to teach a group of visiting Korean students how to make dreamcatchers. Thank you: Lana Lamb, Carmen Baker, Karen Frazie, Lorraine Johnson, Sandra Hussey, Jolanda Poetsch, Donna MacDonald, and Lisa Stephens for helping our guests to feel welcome in SD67!
- **Cultural Activities:** Many ABED staff have been working with groups of Aboriginal students to teach various Aboriginal art activities: Jessica Crawford and Tanya Hall at SLMS, Carmen Baker at SMS, Lisa Stephens at KVR and MNP, and Lana Lamb at PMSS. These activities provide great opportunities for students to connect with ABED staff and to get to know other Aboriginal students.

Upcoming Announcements

- **Strengthening Connections Symposium:** PIB will be hosting their annual career symposium on February 27th at the Penticton Trade and Convention Centre from 8:45am – 2:45pm. This event is open to all secondary Aboriginal students. Neighbouring school districts have also been invited. New this year: a limited number of spots are being reserved for parents/guardians to attend. Please contact [Barb Jagodics](mailto:bjagodics@pib.ca) for more information: bjagodics@pib.ca
- **Louis Riel Presentations:** ABED staff at the middle and secondary levels will be facilitating informative presentations about Louis Riel and Métis culture in February. Dates and schools to be announced soon.
- **ABED CEA Cultural Activity Day:** On February 26th, 2013, all ABED CEA's will be spending the day at the Board Office to teach each other how to do new cultural activities with students. This is a great example of "in house" professional development by maximizing upon the tremendous gifts and talents that are already available amongst the ABED CEA team.
- **ECOMMUNITY SCHOOL VISITS:** in March 2013, students from Queen's Park Elementary (3 classes) and West Bench Elementary (the entire school) will be going to ECOMMUNITY Place to participate in hands-on activities to learn about the local Syilx culture and environment. These visits were made possible by grants from the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation. Special thanks to Michael Bezener from the En'owkin Centre for helping the schools to write these grant applications.
- **Building Cultural Bridges:** the Building Cultural Bridges program consists of the entire ABED team spending the day at an elementary school to facilitate a number of different stations in which all of the students will learn about various Aboriginal cultural groups. A few new stations will be added this year. Schools that will receive this program include: Wiltse Elementary (April 11th, 2013), Carmi Elementary (April 18th, 2013) and Uplands Elementary (April 25th, 2013).
- **"Our Voices, Our Stories":** on April 22nd – 24th, 20 students from Penticton Secondary School and Princess Margaret Secondary School will be invited to participate in a writing workshop with renowned Aboriginal author, Richard Wagamese. Students will develop their personal written and oral storytelling skills. An evening celebration is planned for April 24th, 2013 in which Richard Wagamese will do an oral storytelling presentation followed by readings from the students of some of the works they created in the workshop. Details about this event will be announced soon. This exciting workshop opportunity was made possible by an 'Artists in the Classroom' grant from ArtStarts.
- **UBCO ORIENTATION:** Secondary Aboriginal students will have the opportunity to participate in an orientation at UBC Okanagan on May 2nd, 2013. Students will attend presentations and go on a tour of the campus.
- **24 HOUR DRUM-A-THON:** School District 23 in Kelowna will be hosting a 24-hour drum-a-thon starting in the afternoon on May 3rd, 2013. Students from SD67 will be invited to attend.
- **Aboriginal Graduation Lunches:** Special recognition lunches will be held to honour this year's Aboriginal graduates from 12pm – 1:30pm on the following dates: Summerland Secondary School (May 27th, 2013), Princess Margaret Secondary School (May 28th, 2013), and Penticton Secondary School (June 6th, 2013). Parents/guardians, district, and community representatives will be invited to attend. The switch to school-based Aboriginal grad lunches from a district-wide Aboriginal grad dinner was made last year due to the circumstances around teacher job action, but the response to this change was so overwhelmingly positive that we have decided to try this format again this year.
- **Aboriginal Day:** Aboriginal Day occurs on June 21st of each year. Announcements about activities and events happening this year in the Penticton region will be shared once information becomes available.
- **English 10 and 12 First Peoples:** we are very happy to announce that English 10 and 12 First Peoples will be offered at Princess Margaret Secondary next year! These courses will be available to all students and provide a new choice for satisfying the Language Arts 10 and 12 graduation requirements. A very big thank-you goes out to Naryn Searcy for her willingness to teach both courses. Initial planning and community consultation about course content is already happening. Availability of these courses will be dependent upon sufficient enrolment. The courses will be promoted to students at PMSS this spring.