

The Talking Stick Aboriginal Education in School District No. 42 February, 2011

Students at Alouette Elementary School, one of ten schools currently involved in pole carving projects.



Message from the Principal

Welcome to 2011 and our Winter *Talking Stick*. As many of you know, we signed our third Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement on March 3 last year and it became effective on July 1, 2010, so we are now half way through the first year of the five year agreement. This new agreement includes not only goals for academic success, but for an increased sense of belonging as well. The entire Enhancement Agreement is posted on the Aboriginal Education website under "Programs" on the SD42 website (www.sd42.ca). It is a significant time in education as the entire district is exploring ways to more effectively support student success. The district held an Education Forum in the fall to explore 21st century learning, and we are holding our own Aboriginal Education Forum in conjunction with our Winter Advisory in February to ensure this collaborative process includes significant input from our Aboriginal community. We are fortunate to have His Honour, The Honourable Steven L. Point, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia provide the opening remarks and Her Honour, Mrs. Gwen Point provide the Keynote Address. More information will be shared in upcoming newsletters. In the meantime, enjoy reading about the success our aboriginal students are experiencing in this edition of *The Talking Stick*.

Doug Hoey, Principal, Aboriginal Education

Ten district pole carving projects

Last year (2009/10) the Aboriginal Education Department initiated pole carving projects in three elementary schools: Edith McDermott (West), Alouette (Central) and Albion (East). Each school community provided input regarding how the pole could best represent their community. These ideas were then transformed into a unique traditional design by Quentin Harris, our district cultural mentor. These poles are really starting to take shape, and the project has been so successful that we now have pole projects running in seven more locations. We eventually hope to have one in every school in the district. Pole carving is currently underway in the following locations:



Elementary: Albion, Alouette, Edith McDermott, Pitt Meadows and Yennadon.
Secondary: Garibaldi, Thomas Haney, Maple Ridge, Connex and a joint project with Katzie First Nation and Pitt Meadows Secondary.

Fourth Annual District No.42 Aboriginal Achievement Awards

Our third Aboriginal Achievement Awards last year brought together over 600 students, family members and school district staff to celebrate the success of our Grade 8 – 12 Aboriginal youth.

Tuesday, May 31, 2011
Dinner 5:00 pm
Awards 6:30 pm
Thomas Haney Centre Gym
and Rotunda



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(Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows)
22225 Brown Avenue,
Maple Ridge, BC V2X 8N6

Phone/fax: 604.463.4200
AbEd Phone/Fax: 604.466.6265

Dates to Remember

February 7 - Winter Aboriginal Forum and Winter Advisory

February 16 - Non-Instructional Day

March 18 - Schools close for Spring Break

March 28 - Schools re-open after Spring Break

April 21 - Non-Instructional Day

April 22 - Good Friday

April 25 - Easter Monday

May 2 - Spring Aboriginal Advisory Committee meeting

May 23 - Victoria Day

May 31 - The Fourth Annual District No. 42 Aboriginal Achievement Awards

June 6-9 - Fourth Aboriginal Annual IGNITE Academy

June 21 - National Aboriginal Day

June 29 - Last day for students



Strengthening the Circle Aboriginal Youth Conference

On November 9 and 10, 2010, twenty-four aboriginal students representing the six secondary schools in Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows attended the twelfth annual Aboriginal Youth Leadership Conference at Newlands Golf and Country Club in Langley. Billy Rogers was once again the conference facilitator and his teachings on leadership, relationships and communication were inspirational. The students worked hard for the two days of the conference and are continuing their work in their own high school communities. Our 2010/11 Youth Leaders are:

- **Garibaldi Secondary:** Ashton Bontron, Jessica Britton, Kelsey Duke and Andrew McComb
- **Maple Ridge Secondary:** Kishan Moore, Brandon Robertson and Rachelle Vandenberg
- **Pitt Meadows Secondary:** Christina Kenworthy and Natalia Molanus
- **Samuel Robertson Technical Secondary:** Tyler Firth, Darbee Peragine, Jessee Peragine, Aaron Sunshine and Lexie Trotter
- **Thomas Haney Secondary:** Jenene Butler, Troy Butler, Samantha Cameron, and Mitchell Desabrais-Tremblay
- **Westview Secondary:** Meghan Florance, Nicole Florence, Ashley Gauley, Jacob Jules, Kirsten Moore and Dustin Parker.

Aboriginal student numbers keep growing

For the fourth consecutive year the number of students of aboriginal ancestry in the district has increased. Aboriginal ancestry is determined on a voluntary basis through self-identification. This includes First Nations (status or non status), Métis or Inuit ancestry. No documentation is required and the ancestry can go back several generations. If you know someone who is of aboriginal ancestry and they are not sure how to self-identify, please ask them to contact the Aboriginal Education office at 604.466.6265.

Academic Year Number of Aboriginal Students

2006 – 2007	2007 – 2008	2008 – 2009	2009 – 2010	2010 - 1011
935	955	988	1015	1038

Fourth Annual Aboriginal Achievement Awards logo contest

Aboriginal students are invited to submit a drawing in pencil or black ink that represents the 2010/2011 Annual Achievement Awards theme:

“Power of the Four Directions”

The contest is open to all Aboriginal students in Grades 6 to 12. The design must be; (a) original, (b) black and white, and (c) on 8 1/2” x 11” white paper. All entries must be accompanied by the Awards Logo Contest Entry Form which is available from the Aboriginal Support Worker in your school. The logo will be used in the program at the awards ceremony, and the winner will receive a \$200 cash prize. Please submit your entry to your Aboriginal Support Worker. Deadline for submissions: Wednesday, April 13, 2011.

This year we are also offering an elementary logo contest. The contest is open to all Aboriginal students in Grades 4 to 7. The design must be: (a) original, (b) black and white, and (c) on 8 1/2” x 11” white paper. The winning submission will receive a gift from the Aboriginal Education Department and have their art work framed and displayed in the School District office for National Aboriginal Day on June 21. Please submit your entry to your Aboriginal Support Worker. Deadline for submissions: Wednesday, April 13, 2011.

Second Annual Aboriginal Career Fair a success

The Aboriginal Education Department hosted our second annual District No. 42 Aboriginal Career Fair at Maple Ridge Secondary School (MRSS) on the evening of November 16 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm with over 200 people in attendance. The evening was co-hosted by MRSS where representatives from post-secondary institutions and agencies across British Columbia provided information to students and their families. Aboriginal representatives from many of the institutions provided information regarding opportunities and supports specifically for Aboriginal students. If you have any questions about post-secondary options for aboriginal students, please contact the Aboriginal Support Worker at your secondary school as indicated below.



Secondary School

Garibaldi Secondary
 Maple Ridge Secondary
 Pitt Meadows Secondary
 Samuel Robertson
 Thomas Haney Secondary
 Westview Secondary
 Riverside Centre

Aboriginal Support Worker

Mrs. Nathalie Piocza
 Ms. Wendy Lawrence / Mrs. Corinna Miller
 Mrs. Bev Charlie
 Mrs. Corrina Miller
 Ms. Ricky Jennings
 Mrs. Patti Williams / Ms. Ricky Jennings
 Mrs. Patti Williams

Phone Number

604-463-6287
 604-463-4175
 604-465-7141
 604-466-8409
 604-463-2001
 604-467-3481
 604-466-6555

Xa:ytem – Sharing Aboriginal culture

The Xa:ytem (Hatzic Rock) tours were once again a success for Grade 4 and Grade 7 students. This year Xa:ytem offered three programs: a Cultural Tour, an Archaeology Tour, or a session on Stories and Legends. All three were very well received. The Aboriginal Education Department sponsored 13 elementary schools to attend the half-day workshops throughout the month of October. This year a total of 725 students shared this worthwhile aboriginal cultural and educational experience, an increase from last year’s 629 students.

School District No. 42 Aboriginal Education at a glance

Grade	Academic and/or Cultural Support
K to 7	Elementary Aboriginal Support Workers provide academic and cultural support at each of the one to four schools that they are responsible for.
8 to 12	Secondary Aboriginal Support Workers provide academic and cultural support at each of the one or two schools that they are responsible for.
K to 2	Three Aboriginal Resource Teachers provide direct early literacy support to K- 2 students in a trimester model.
K to 7	Three Aboriginal Resource Teachers also provide support to students, teachers and Aboriginal Support Workers in all of the schools in their region.
7 to 12	A secondary Aboriginal Resource Teacher provides support to students, teachers and Aboriginal Support Workers in all of the secondary schools in the district.
4 and 5	The 'My Story' project has students investigate their ancestry and develop a story about a person significant to them such as a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, etc. It includes the use of a class set of laptop computers for a period of 5 to 6 weeks.
4 and 7	Xa:ytem (Hatzic Rock): Students have the opportunity to experience aboriginal history and culture at one of the oldest archaeological sites in North America.
6	IGNITE Academy: IGNiting Interest in Technology and Engineering for Grade 6 aboriginal students at a four day camp held each June.
7 to 8	Elementary and Secondary ASWs work together along with the Secondary Resource Teacher to help students with the transition from elementary to secondary school.
9 to 12	The 'Strengthening the Circle' Aboriginal Youth Leadership Conference is an opportunity for students to learn more about their history and culture as well as develop leadership skills.
K to 12	Mandy Gauley, our Aboriginal Youth Worker, is a liaison between the school, the family and the community resource network. Her role is to support students and families dealing with issues that are interfering with success in school. She works with both elementary and secondary students and their families.
K to 12	Annette McComb, our Senior Aboriginal Support Worker, provides support to all ASWs. She also works with a number of students and families across the district with a particular focus on supporting students at-risk of not succeeding in a variety of areas working with the Keeping Kids in School district team.
K to 12	Quentin Harris, our full time Cultural Mentor, teaches hands-on experiential Aboriginal cultural classroom lessons, after school sessions and special activities.

Davie Jones dolphin mural

Under the leadership of Principal Bob Schneider, and with the help of Aboriginal Support Worker Robbi Lamour and Aboriginal Cultural Mentor Quentin Harris, approximately 50 elementary students worked together to create an 8' x 8' Davie Jones Dolphin mural that is now permanently mounted on the front of Davie Jones Elementary. The official unveiling was held on November 9, 2010. As Principal Schneider said at the ceremony, "the dolphin represents joy, harmony, intelligence and self-connection – all of which are present in the students and staff of the Davie Jones school family."

