



## Dates to Remember

- October 11 – Autumn Advisory Committee Meeting
- October 21- Non Instructional Day
- November 2,3 & 4 - Aboriginal Youth Conference
- November 11<sup>th</sup> - Remembrance Day
- November 14<sup>th</sup>  
Altered Calendar Day  
No School
- November 16<sup>th</sup>  
Aboriginal Career Fair @ MRSS,  
6:30-8:30
- December 16<sup>th</sup> January 2  
Winter Break
- January 3<sup>rd</sup> - Schools Reopen
- February 6<sup>th</sup> - Winter Advisory Committee Meeting
- February 15<sup>th</sup>  
Non-instructional Day.
- March 12<sup>th</sup>-March 16<sup>th</sup>  
Spring Break
- March 26<sup>th</sup> - Schools Reopen
- April 6<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday
- April 9<sup>th</sup> – Easter Monday
- April 30<sup>th</sup> - Spring Aboriginal Advisory Committee
- May 21<sup>st</sup> –Victoria Day
- May 22 – Non-instructional Day
- May 29<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> - Annual District No. 42 Aboriginal Awards

## Introducing the Aboriginal Education Staff for 2011-2012

The Aboriginal Education department is organized into three 'Families of Schools' to better serve the students in each of the three regions of our district - West, Central and East. We believe this enables more timely and effective lines of communication and connection. We encourage you to contact the member(s) of the Aboriginal Education Family at your school.

### Aboriginal Education District Staff

Mr. Alan Millar District 42 Principal - District Office  
Mrs. Carmen Brittain Administrative Secretary - District Office  
Mr. James McCloskey Secondary Resource Teacher - Mt. Crescent Office  
TBA District Aboriginal Cultural Mentor – Mt. Crescent Office  
Mrs. Amanda Gauley Aboriginal Youth Worker – Mt. Crescent Office  
Ms. Natalie Robertson Aboriginal Youth Worker – Mt. Crescent Office  
Mrs. Annette McComb Senior Aboriginal Support Worker (ASW) – South Lillooet Centre

### West Aboriginal Family of Schools Support Team

Mrs. Cathy Crook Elementary Resource Teacher - Mt. Crescent Office  
Ms. Janna Dahlin Elementary ASW at Edith McDermott and PME  
Mrs. Monique Duclos Elementary ASW at Hammond  
Mrs. Robbi Lamour Elementary ASW at Davie Jones, Fairview and Highland Park  
Mrs. Bev Charlie Secondary ASW at Pitt Meadows Secondary  
Mrs. Patti Williams Secondary ASW at Westview Secondary and Riverside Centre

### Central Aboriginal Family of Schools Support Team

Mrs. Marg MacGillivray Elementary Resource Teacher - Mt. Crescent Office  
Ms. Lisa Adair Elementary ASW at Glenwood and Maple Ridge Elementary  
Ms. Jennifer Hamilton Elementary ASW at Alouette, Eric Langton and Laity View  
Ms. Wendy Lawrence Secondary ASW at Maple Ridge Secondary/Outreach  
Mrs. Corrina Miller Secondary ASW at Samuel Robertson and Maple Ridge Secondary

### East Aboriginal Family of Schools Support Team

Ms. Suzanne Hall Elementary Resource Teacher - Mt. Crescent Office  
Ms. Anita Sandy Elementary ASW at, Golden Ears, Harry Hooze and Yennadon  
Ms. Kate Thicke Elementary ASW at Alex. Rob., Blue Mountain, Webster's and Whonnock  
Ms. Kathleen Williamson Elementary ASW at Albion and Kanaka Creek  
Ms. Ricky Jennings Secondary ASW at Thomas Haney Secondary, and Westview Secondary & Riverside Centre  
Mrs. Nathalie Pioca Secondary ASW at Garibaldi Secondary





## Of Note from 2010-2011 from the Aboriginal Education Department

**Ignite Alumni Camp..** Grade 7's who participated in the Ignite Academy in their grade 6 year to tour Simon Fraser University Computing Science Department.

**Second Annual Aboriginal Career Fair..** Once again we hosted an Aboriginal Career Fair on November 16<sup>th</sup> concurrently with Maple Ridge Secondary. The Third Annual Aboriginal Career Fair is taking shape and will be held

**Pole Raising At Edith McDermott Elementary..** Last year saw the number of schools involved in the creation of a totem for their schools rise from three to ten. Our first completed pole was raised at Edith McDermott and now stands, elevated, in the entrance to the school.. welcoming all.

**Fourth Annual Aboriginal Achievement Awards..** We thought the 09/10 awards ceremony was well attended however last years awards out did them . Thomas Haney Secondary provided, once again, a wonderful venue for the 650 plus audience of family, educators, school board trustees and friends.

**Fourth Annual Ignite Camp..** June saw us hosting our fourth camp for grade 6 aboriginal students. Close to sixty aboriginal students participated in the camp from across the district.



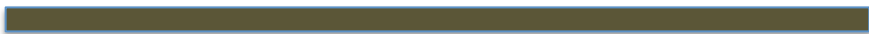
## Graduation Rates.. The Stage is Set..

As a district, department and community we can hold our heads high as our five year graduation rates are consistently higher than the provincial ones. This is an indication of the dedication of those involved and the positive impact of our initiatives. We are moving forward successfully for students emphasizing the need for our aboriginal students to feel a sense of belonging, connectedness and that there is respect for their culture in our schools and community. Couple this with the early literacy work and direct support and intervention with both social/emotional and academic concerns and one understands why our rates are so much better. However, although they are consistently better than the provincial graduation rates for aboriginal students they still lag far behind the graduation rate for non-aboriginal students and have remained stable there at 62% for five years. This is an unacceptable reality that needs to be changed.... The time is right to continue to nurture that sense of belonging but to add more assertive direct involvement for our graduation program students. Monitor their progress , ensure they are meeting the credit requirements for graduation and explore creative, meaningful, ways to address any credit deficits.

**Provincial  
Aboriginal  
Grad Rate  
48.6%**

**SD 42  
Aboriginal  
Grad Rate  
62%**

**Provincial  
Grad Rate  
82.4%**





# The Talking Stick

## Aboriginal Education in School District No. 42

October, 2011



### Welcome to the 2011-2012 School Year

I would like to continue the tradition of welcoming both new and returning families and educators to the fall edition of the this year's Talking Stick. It is one of our many resources for communicating about the exciting things occurring here in the Aboriginal Education Department and throughout School District No. 42 that support our Aboriginal Students in our schools and communities.

Let me start off by introducing myself to everyone. My name is Alan Millar and I am the new Principal of Aboriginal Education in School District No. 42. I am excited to continue the innovative, supportive initiatives the AbEd Department has become known for and to also bring a set of fresh eyes and ideas as to where to next. My background is quite diverse and many of the experiences, including 4.5 years working and living on reserve at Canim Lake as a teacher, have given me a unique insight and learning that will serve our students, and the department, well.

I would also like to introduce a number of new members to our team for the start of the year. Suzanne Hall joins us as a full time Elementary Aboriginal Resource Teacher (EART) working with our East Families of Schools. As well Jennifer Hamilton is in a temporary contract as one of our Elementary Aboriginal Support Workers (EASW). Both these additions bring energy, enthusiasm and a wealth of knowledge and experience to our group.

### Where We Have Been and Where To.....

As mentioned, the Aboriginal Education Department in School District No.42 has implemented many amazing and supportive initiatives which have brought greater profile and understanding to all our community and supported the success of our students. Many of the initiatives are long term, capacity building, and develop cultural understanding/sensitivity which enhance the sense of acceptance, connectedness and belonging for aboriginal students. In every building in School District No. 42 there are cultural artifacts and content which bridge the gap between aboriginal and non-aboriginal members of our community. As well there has been direct intervention and academic support for many of our students.

The stage is now set to continue to build on, and nurture, these supportive designs that increase the sense of belonging and connectedness and add a focus on individual student needs, particularly students at the secondary level in the grad program. Case management, close monitoring, and innovative credit design will be explored and implemented. At the elementary level a growing emphasis on working side by side with classroom teachers developing their repertoire of methodologies and pedagogies, supportive of aboriginal learners. These can then be utilized throughout their curriculum and enhance the long term success for our aboriginal students in their classrooms.

### The 2010/2011 Major Award Winners:

#### Logo Contest Winners "Power of the Four Directions":

Secondary: Jessica Marlo Harnett,  
Thomas Haney Secondary  
Elementary: Natalie Hamelin  
(Lacasse), Whonnock Elementary  
Rylan Frith, Albion Elementary

#### 5 Year Award of Excellence:

Brittany Johnnie, Maple Ridge  
Secondary  
Andrew McComb, Garibaldi  
Secondary

#### Kwantlen Community Impact Award:

Lucas Gallagher, Maple Ridge  
Secondary

#### Katzie Si:yam Cultural Leadership Award:

Alison Menz, Riverside Centre



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