



Smoke Signals

Spring 2015



A Message from the Principal, Laurie Ebenal

Our department continues to bring teachings to the District.

Carrie Clark and Dawn Marks continue to honour the drum teachings by sharing them with students at Glen Elementary. The students were able to demonstrate the understanding of the teachings by drumming at Glen's Button Blanket Ceremony (article to follow). Kirk Gummow shares the drum teachings as well, at a number of our elementary schools. Dawn Brown & Trista Fuller led a workshop on creating the frame drum, a small, single-person hand drum.

Historically, most regions & cultures across the country had frame drums. Each culture used materials and hides indigenous to the environment they lived in. For example, the Artic (Inuit) people's drums have large, light frames and they strike the rim rather than the hide. The drums use a variety of materials such as deer skin, caribou & mountain sheep. They also use whale or walrus intestines. Originally, the drums were made from whale parts. Drumsticks are antler, bone or wood.

From a "holistic" world view the drum is found in nearly every culture in the world and have existed since before 6000 BC. The drum is a powerful teaching tool that can be utilized to promote self-regulation technique, self-confidence or simply to spread the joy of making music together. The drum builds bridges, from the West African Talking drum to the Daiko Japanese drums and finally, home to the Coast Salish deer hide drum.

These are only a few examples but the essence of the message is that we need to share the heartbeat of the drum so we can all reconnect to our roots.

Respectfully,
Laurie Ebenal
lebenal@sd43.bc.ca



IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, May 5—Summer Learning Registration begins

Thursday, May 28 9am-3pm—Rites of Passage Camp for
Grades 5 & 8—Buntzen Lake

Thursday, June 18—Honouring Ceremony
at the Hard Rock Casino Theatre

July 6—August 21—9am-3pm—Red Wolf Summer Camp
Ages 6-10 July 27-31, Aug 3-7, Aug 10-14 and Aug 17-21
Ages 11-14 July 6-10 and 13-17

July 23-25—All Nations Festival—Coquitlam



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Button Blanket Ceremony at Glen Elementary

Dawn Brown, Carrie Clark and Glen parent, Jennifer Ladouceur spent many hours with grade 4 & 5 students at Glen Elementary creating button blankets.

The students bonded and forged friendships that will last a life time and the button blankets are a testament to the many Aboriginal teachings students learned at Glen Elementary.

Button blankets take patience. When you sew only one button, the work is not there. When you sew many buttons, there is cooperation and team building because it takes many hands to sew many buttons. It helps to give us vision because you eventually see that a work of art is expressed.

Life is like that—the things you learn in school are like the buttons on this work of art. Have patience, don't be in a hurry to grow up - enjoy the wonders of today. You are like the blanket and the knowledge you gain is just like those buttons that will come together and make -you "you"! **Have a vision of who you want to be!**

The Students at Glen Elementary are now part of those blankets - "The Salmon and the Owl". They represent trust and both of these are connected to the Kwikwetlem people, who have called this place home for many centuries.

If you look around, there are many symbols weaved everywhere into everyday life. They can be as small as a hummingbird's feathers or as large as the First Nation's Grandmother moon.

Our Elders teach us that all people seek love, wisdom and trust and it is in our courage that we find these things. The button blanket is a symbol that represents these teachings.

It's the hush and the calm that comes over the wearer of the blankets that brings a feeling of wisdom and courage.

The creation of these two blankets has brought a close community even closer.



School Trustee, Judy Shirra (wearing a gifted "Sisters—Double Eagle" blanket) with two students displaying "The Salmon and the Owl" button blankets.



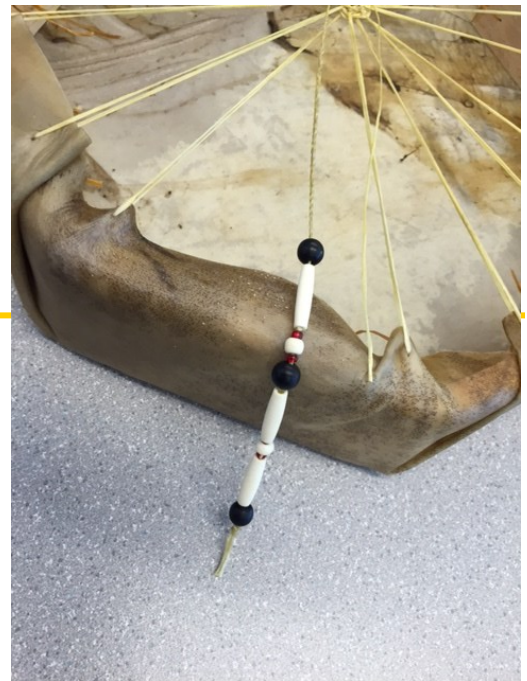


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Walton Elementary

Ms. Maki and Aboriginal Support Worker, Dawn Marks have been working together with the Aboriginal students to create awareness of culture, responsibility, self-esteem and courage. The students work together on projects, create great food, drum and experience building and creating their own items to take back to class and home to share. We worked as a team and put the longhouse puzzle together and had it on display in Ms. Maki's room for the week. We recently learned about the different types of shelters our First Nations people created in the different territories. Look for them on display at Walton Elementary!

All My Relations,
Dawn Marks
Aboriginal Support Worker
dmarks@sd43.bc.ca



Jackie Toombs
Youth Worker
jtoombs@sd43.bc.ca



As we move into the end of the year I am running most of the same programs as I have since September. Recently though I have begun supporting students in Middle school as well. With this added assignment I have been sharing my Elementary School caseload with another Aboriginal Youth Worker named Ryan Williams. The students have been telling me that they are really enjoying getting to know him and the program he is delivering.

From now to the end of the year I will be working with my coworkers and Aboriginal students to organize Aboriginal Day celebrations in some of my schools. Some of the students have had the opportunity to work with teachers from Aboriginal Education to gain the teachings on drumming, sewing button blankets and creating various pieces of art. In turn they will pass on the teachings to fellow students during our Aboriginal Day celebration in June.



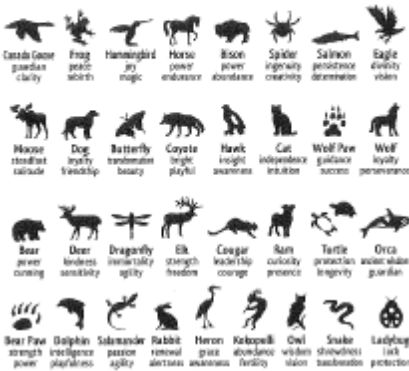
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Greetings everyone,

I can't believe how fast the time is flying. I have had the pleasure working with 8 elementary schools since January. In my Cultural Pull-Out programs, the students are learning about their birth Animal totems. The students have enjoyed learning how their totem plays a huge role in their lives, aiding in self-discovery, capturing their imagination and giving them incredible avenues of self-expression and awareness. Following with animal teachings, the students are also learning aboriginal animal legends.



Carrie Clark
Youth Worker
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I have recently completed a 6 week after school program at Lord Baden Powell where the focus was on outdoor education, learning the things one can see, hear, smell and touch outdoors as well as respect for every living thing and our earth.

The grad scarf workshops are complete and I look forward to seeing everyone who participated wearing their scarf with pride at their commencement and at our annual Honouring Ceremony. Thank you to Dannielle Batisse who assisted me in the workshops and a BIG "Thank You" to Denise Nembhard at Charles Best, Kathy Hess at Terry Fox and Susan Priestly at Gleneagle for allowing us to use your sewing machines.

K uk scemx (Thank you)

The Paddle Journey

We have started our paddle journey with 120 students at Como Lake Middle School. Throughout the year, we have been working with these students to learn some of the traditions of our West Coast First Nations' art. They have been focusing on how the traditional shapes have been used by the Nations along our West Coast to create the beautiful art work that we see around us and how different Nations have created styles and form that is unique to their cultures and traditions. The students have then taken these teachings to create a design that they will be presenting on their own wooden paddles. This is a journey of learning the traditions of our West Coast Nations, and the important role that the paddle and the canoe play in our current and traditional culture. It is very exciting to be on this journey of discovery with the students at Como Lake Middle School.



Darcy Ellis
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Trista Fuller
Resource Teacher
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Dawn Brown
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Dannielle Batisse
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Aboriginal Bursary Due Date: May 15th, 2015

The due date is rapidly approaching for our 2015 bursary applications. All graduates with Aboriginal ancestry are encouraged to apply. Please see your school Guidance Counsellor for the application forms.

Complete applications are to be forwarded to *Trista Fuller, Resource Teacher, Aboriginal Education, c/o Pitt River Middle School, 2070 Tyner Street, Port Coquitlam, BC V3C 2Z1*

Drums with AYLK:

The Aboriginal Youth Leadership Council had the opportunity to work with our Elder, Dawn Brown, and gain teaching of the drum to become drum carriers. Each student actively engaged in creating their own drum, honouring Dawn's teachings of respecting the spirit that is found within each drum. Kirk Gummow has begun preparing the students for their upcoming performances at Riverside Secondary's Multicultural Story Telling Festival as well as the Aboriginal Honoring celebration this June. The students are keen to share their cultural knowledge and new found drumming skills. A special thank you from AYLK, to both Dawn and Kirk for taking time to share their gifts with our leadership students.

-Dannielle Batisse and Trista Fuller





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Beading with Coquitlam Open Learning:

Aboriginal Education had the honour to forge a new relationship with the learners at Coquitlam Open Learning. Trista Fuller and Dannielle Batisse had the pleasure of teaching the EAL adult education students the Metis beading teachings. The participants engaged in hands on practice and crafted their own flower applique. Students participated in a deeper understanding of Aboriginal culture as well as sharing elements of their own culture during the session. Overall, it was a very engaging and informative session for everyone and we look forward to future requests at COL.

-Dannielle Batisse and Trista Fuller



Social Emotional Learning Professional Development Day:

Aboriginal Education had the privilege on April 17th to be a part of the Social Emotional Learning Professional Development Day at Citadel Middle School. At this time, Aboriginal Education facilitated part two of their “Fostering the Inner Warrior” sessions led by Dawn Brown and Trista Fuller. Dawn shared her teachings regarding the cultural significance of the drum and with the help of Trista and Dannielle Batisse, sixteen teachers from throughout the district gathered to craft their own personal drum. To round out the session, Kirk Gummow shared traditional drum songs that the teachers could then utilize in their classrooms. Overall, the Aboriginal Education staff were humbled to be invited to such an event and honoured to share their cultural teachings. Given the success of our first drum making session, we are excited to facilitate more sessions next year.

-Dawn Brown, Dannielle Batisse & Trista Fuller





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I am connected with six amazing elementary schools right now being a part of both classrooms and staff teams. I also play an important role being involved with many families in our district. It is truly an honour to be a part of such a special group of people! We have had the opportunity to create new friendships and bonds as well as experience many cultural teachings. As the students are growing and learning, it has been special to be able to experience nature's gifts outside with our students.

I can't believe how fast this year is going by!

Spring is definitely in the air.

Lori Halcro
Aboriginal Youth Worker
lhalcro@sd43.bc.ca



I would again like to extend my gratitude to the unceded ancestral territory of the Kwikwetlem First Nation and neighboring Coast Salish Tribes for sharing their territory with me. Over the course of the past few months I have had the privilege of connecting with a variety of schools in the district, sharing and learning from those who have graciously welcomed me in. Highlights, again, rest in community-building through gatherings initiated by

our department (Mother Earth Day) as well as commencement of a Pilot Project known as the Seven Sacred Pathways with Cape Horn Elementary. This project is an experientially-based curriculum that integrates concepts of social emotional learning with First Peoples Principles of Learning through the exploration of the Seven Sacred Teachings. I have also been fortunate enough to have been given the opportunity to work with Changing Results For Young Readers (CR4YR) and facilitate how the First Peoples' Principles of Learning can be integrated into our district's curricula while helping our teachers to make approaches and connections to these principles within their regular classroom practice.

Warmest Regards,
Kirk Gummow
Resource Teacher
kgummow@sd43.bc.ca





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Hello once again everyone. Spring time has been bestowed upon us and I hope everyone has been able to enjoy some outdoor adventures with your loved ones. As the weather warms up, this means that the end of the school year is fast approaching and opportunities to get outside must be taken advantage of. Aboriginal Education will be hosting the Rights of Passage camps for all Aboriginal students who will be making the transition from their respective elementary and middle schools. Information for these one day camps will be available in the next few weeks so keep your eyes and ears open. The camp offers students an opportunity to come together and share in a day of fun and experiences. It also creates an opportunity to make new friends from different schools and share thoughts on how they are feeling about the transition. The students will experience activities such as: hiking, orienteering, crafts, canoeing, and test their skills in the forest and on the lake. It's a great experience for the Aboriginal Youth Workers and students to make connections from the past and for the future. After school programs continue to run at different elementary schools across the district right up until the end of May.

Safe journeys to everyone!

All My Relations,

Greg Hallifax
Youth Worker
ghallifax@sd43.bc.ca



Hello,

Currently, I am working with several Aboriginal leadership groups in our district. They are creating paddles and bentwood boxes. Each student takes pride in creating beautiful First Nations art.

Starting with simple shapes and progressing into designs that can eventually be transferred onto wood. Each student has prepared wood with days of sanding, providing them with a smooth surface for their finished product.

The lessons that each student takes away from this, is as individual as the art they have created. While being an individual in their creation, they also learn the value of working together and respecting the differences within their groups.



Sincerely,
Ryan Williams
Youth Worker
rywilliams@sd43.bc.ca



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Earth Day this year I acknowledged with the Meadow Brook Elementary's after school program. During this program as a group we were honoured to be educated in plant identification in Skwomesh which is Coast Salish language. This lesson took place during a nature hike in the green space surrounding the school. We were taught the word O'siem which means respect in Skwomesh. We practiced the meaning of O'siem by honouring Mother Earth and collecting garbage found on the school grounds as a group.



Brandy Darts
Youth Worker
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I have been busy with Westwood Elementary's after school program which is based on sports and team building activities. During the past months within the group new connections were formed and old ones were strengthened.

At Mountain View Elementary I recently started a few friendship groups based on activities focusing on social emotional learning. The friendship groups are off to an enthusiastic start with the goal of happiness, empathy for others and self awareness.

At Maple Creek Middle School I have been involved in a leadership group that is mentoring a neighbouring grade 2 class at Westwood Elementary.

The after school programs, friendship and leadership groups all incorporate a talking circle to engage students in sharing their thoughts, feelings and ideas as well as practicing the skill of listening to others in a group setting.

All My Relations,
Brandy

Hello,

I am the new face at the Aboriginal Education office within Pitt River Middle School. I answer the phones; help coordinate supplies & events for the Youth Workers & Teachers; do the financials and provide moral support where needed. I bring to the department several years of experience in differing roles within this school district. I have a diverse background (how much room do I have?) and besides my husband and daughter, I have a great love of the outdoors, nature and healthy environments. Learning, hiking, kayaking and gardening are passions. I have been blessed with the opportunity to work for Aboriginal Education and treasure the teachings I learn everyday from this amazing staff.

Mona Lacroix,
Secretary
mlacroix@sd43.bc.ca





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Greetings from the desk of Terri Mae Galligos, ancestral name: Setlakus, Tla'amin Nation.

Respectfully, I acknowledge the unceded, traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples namely the Kwikwetlem Nation.

It is always an honour to walk through school hallways with a sense of pride and reciprocity. Collaborating, smiling, and experiencing teachable moments with and from one another is priceless. Requests for Services as submitted per school are both unique and rewarding.

As a Coast Salish educator, I have been taught and lead by example the following values. These values were role-modeled by my family and great Aunts. Furthermore, I was reminded of these values by speaking with and learning from some Sto:lo educators.

1. We are taught to work together for the survival of our people.
2. All natural things have life and spirit. They have things to teach us if we are aware and listen.
3. We are taught to live in harmony within the circle of life, with all natural things, with our community, and with ourselves.
4. Our older children look after their younger brothers and sisters.
5. We honour the old ones for their wisdom. They hold a place of honour in our families and communities.
6. We prize a good sense of humor, especially when directed at one's self.
7. We respect the vision of others.
8. Our way is giving and sharing. If someone is greedy, he will lose everything in the end.
9. We honour persons for what they have done for the people, not what they have done for themselves.
10. Our traditional way is to feed strangers and make them comfortable.
11. We have a proud heritage that continues to live and grow within us.

With humility and humbleness I carry these teachings into the classroom as facilitator and curriculum developer.

In closing, I would like express my gratitude to the Aboriginal Education Staff for their teamwork and vision.

I express thanks to one and to all. This sentiment is dedicated to our aunts, Mothers, Grand-mothers and those caring for our children regarding Mother's Day on Sunday, May 10th:

“Che che ha thatch, imot qwayigen tan, eeks nam”

Terri Mae Galligos
Resource Teacher
tgalligos@sd43.bc.ca





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Community News

On April 21st, we hosted the Honouring Mother Earth Community Dinner at Hillcrest Middle School. This turned out to be an extra special event as we also used the evening to promote and launch the All Nations Festival. The evening attracted approximately 260 community members; quite a turnout seeing it coincided with a Canucks playoff game! To celebrate the launching of the All Nations Festival we had some special guests coming to share their award-winning musical talents. Ostwelve started off the evening's entertainment. Juno award winner, George Leach finished the evening, wowing the audience with songs from his new album, Surrender.



The Red Wolf Summer Camps are just around the corner July 6—August 14th! There will be six weeks of camp this summer and all will take place at Kwayhquitlum Middle School in Port Coquitlam. This will include two weeks of leadership camps for middle school aged youth (July 6-10 and July 13-17). There will be four weeks of camps for grades 2-5 (July 27-31, Aug 3-7, Aug 10-14 & Aug 17-21). The online registration will be ready to go starting May 15. Check our school district website (www.sd43.bc.ca) under the Program tab, click Aboriginal Education and follow the prompts from there. Register early as these camps are becoming quite popular and space is limited.

Rites of Passage Camp will take place this year on Thursday, May 28th for grade 5 and 8 students transitioning to Middle and Secondary Schools. This camp will take place at Buntzen Lake from 9am-3pm.

The All Nations Festival will be from July 23-25. This inaugural event will begin a three-year partnership with the City of Coquitlam. Next year, Coquitlam will be hosting their 125th anniversary. In 2017, Canada will have its 150th birthday. We are very excited to be an important partner with the City of Coquitlam in facilitating the All Nations Festival. This will be a great opportunity to create an Aboriginal cultural presence within the TriCity region.



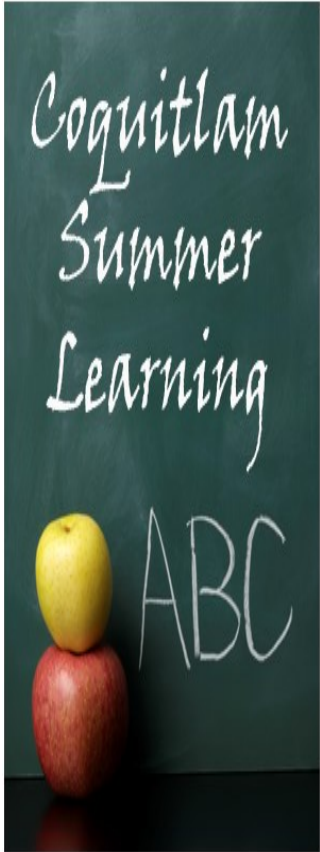
Our community program initiatives continue to build momentum. We remain committed to developing a relevant program platform that celebrates our culture and strengthens our community together.

Please contact me should you have any questions regarding any of our community events or Summer Camps.

Malcolm Key, Community School Coordinator
mkey@sd43.bc.ca



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SUMMER LEARNING 2015 ONLINE Registration Dates (6:00 a.m. Opening)

Middle Skill Building -Hillcrest, Kway, Scott Creek, Centennial, Charles Best:
May 28th

Grade 9 & 10 Skill Building—Charles Best: May 28th

We are offering courses in Art, Band, Computers, Creative Writing, Drama, English (LA and for beginners), French L. Arts (Kway only), Math, Montessori, PE/Leadership, Science and Tech Ed (*held at Charles Best and Centennial for students moving into Gr 7, 8 or 9) and more to come!*

- Grades 9 and 10 Remedial & EAL: May 19
- Grades 9 and 10 Skill Building: May 28
- Grade 10 High School Credit: May 5
- Grade 11 High School Credit: May 8
- Grade 12 High School Credit: May 12

We are offering new courses including Fitness 10 – check out the website for more information

Students must have an account with our online system **BEFORE** registering for courses. Please visit our website and create/update your account **now**.

Visit www.summerlearningcoquitlam.ca

Program Dates: July 7 to July 24

How to place an Aboriginal Education Request for Service:



Go to the Aboriginal Education Department's home page



<http://my43.sd43.bc.ca/departments/AboriginalEd/default.aspx>

- Click on the icon "Request for Service"
- Click on "New", then "New Item".
- Fill in the pop up page, including your name, school, vision and date of service.
- Click on "Save" and your request has been submitted!

The assigned staff member will contact you within 48 hours of the request to begin the planning process.



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Aboriginal Education Bursary Information

Every year, the Aboriginal Education Department offers two bursaries, the Brenda Kearns Bursary and the Aboriginal Education Department Bursary.

The Brenda Kearns Bursary was established in the fall of 2006 to honour the memory of Brenda Kearns, and to provide funds to assist an Aboriginal student in pursuing a post-secondary education. This \$300 bursary shall be granted to one graduating Aboriginal student.

The criteria for the Brenda Kearns Bursary:

- Currently graduating from one of the School District #43 (Coquitlam) secondary schools;
- Has been involved in the Aboriginal program and taken on a leadership role in that program
- Has demonstrated acceptable academic achievement for future entry into a training program at an institute of higher learning. This includes trades, apprenticeships, and post-secondary programs.

The Aboriginal Education Department Bursary is open to any Grade 12 Aboriginal student in School District 43. For this \$500 bursary, the student need not belong to our program.

The criteria for the Aboriginal Education Bursary:

- Excellent academic standing
- Acceptance in a post-secondary institution
- volunteer work with an Aboriginal focus

The application for these two bursaries follow this article or can be found at
<http://my43.sd43.bc.ca/departments/AboriginalEd/Courses/Post-secondary.aspx>

and are due **May 15th, 2015** to:

Trista Fuller c/o Pitt River Middle, 2070 Tyner Street, V3C 2Z1

For further information, **speaK with your Secondary School Counsellor**