



The Talking Stick

MISSION STATEMENT

Together, and in the Spirit of the Ancestors, we recognize, respect and embrace the responsibility to meet the needs of all our Aboriginal Children and Youth in the Coquitlam School District.

It is through the wisdom of our Elders that we, as warriors, the protectors and providers of our community, will guide and uphold the Enhancement Agreement signed on April 2, 2007.

UP TO DATE INFORMATION

District staff can access information at:

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

Parents and community members can access information at <http://www.sd43.bc.ca/Programs/AboriginalEd/Pages/default.aspx>

IMPORTANT DATES

December 16	Winter Break
January 3	Schools Open
January 23	Provincial Exams begin
January 30	Semester 2 begins (secondary schools)
February 17	District Pro-D
March 12-23	Spring Break
April 6	Good Friday
April 9	Easter Monday
May 21	Victoria Day
June 13	The Honouring

A Message from the Vice Principal, Laurie Ebenal

Greetings and Salutations Everyone,

The last four months have been nothing short of spectacular here in the world of Aboriginal Education. We have many new initiatives underway as well as building on our past successes. The staff has been working diligently to respond to your service requests in a timely and effective manner.

The Aboriginal support teachers have been working closely with our Aboriginal Resource teachers to develop a 'menu' for you to choose from. Many of us in the department have teachings to offer but we do not currently provide a structure for SD43 teachers and administrators to access those amazing lessons. By the end of this school year you will be able to peruse our web site and find lessons and teachings designed specifically for certain grades. These teachings will be linked to prescribed learning outcomes for specific subject areas. It is important to note you will need to also connect your request to one of SD43's Aboriginal Education Enhancement Goals. Specific support workers will be assigned to your request and provide the teachings throughout a variety of settings. We are open to collaborating with the teacher to create a product that speaks to the needs of the youth in their classroom.

My Grandmothers' teachings are sacred to me but I know the importance of sharing those teachings. I encourage you all to honour each other's path as all our journeys are not the same. My Grandmothers taught me the importance of listening to each and every story. Sitting in the stillness and honouring others' truth is not always easy. The need to anticipate, solve problems and dole out advice is the culture of being an educator. I encourage you to be mindful of listening with your heart, taking a breath and offer nothing but your ears and time. The story is the essence of the soul, in the story we share a sense of self we may never have known existed. The story reveals, and binds us together through understanding and compassion.

All My Relations
Laurie Ebenal
Vice-Principal Aboriginal Education



December 2011

Community Feedback for our 5 Year Strategic Plan

Share **your** story....

The Aboriginal Education Department is currently creating a 5 Year Strategic Plan. Our goal is to effectively work in partnership with schools, parents, and Aboriginal community organizations towards increasing Aboriginal students' academic success, school experiences, confidence levels and sense of community.

We are working with Tamara Goddard, of Mahigan Consulting, to assist us in engaging the community for input and feedback. Parents, teachers, and community members are vital to the successful development of our way forward; and in creating an Aboriginal Education Program that reflects the needs of the community it serves.

If you would like to participate in our survey and have not already done so, please click on the link from your representative group:

PARENTS: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GFKPCCB>
ADMINISTRATORS: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PPZRZ8Z>
TEACHERS: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/P6KXL88>

In addition, we are holding Focus Group sessions at The Gathering Place (1100-2253 Leigh Square, in Port Coquitlam). If you would like to participate, please see the dates below:

PARENTS:	Tuesday, January 17	6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
ADMINISTRATORS	Friday, January 20	4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
TEACHERS	Tuesday, January 24	4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Please contact Jacquie Boons (604.945.7386) to secure your seat.

For more information about this project contact Laurie Ebenal, VP Aboriginal Education, at 604.945.7386, lebenal@sd43.bc.ca

or Tamara Goddard, Facilitator, at 778.837.9461, tamara@mahiganconsulting.com or visit <http://aed.mahiganconsulting.com>

Information for Parents and Community Members

Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee

The intent of this committee is to represent the diversity of Aboriginal peoples residing in the district, as well as school district partners. The committee will include representatives from the Kwikwetlem First Nations, 3 Aboriginal Parents and Elders (representing Port Moody, Coquitlam, and Port Coquitlam), current and former Aboriginal student representatives, and one representative from each of the following groups: Aboriginal Parent Focus Group, Coquitlam Teachers' Association (CTA), Coquitlam Principals' and Vice Principals' Association (CPVPA), and District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC). The Enhancement Agreement has a unique focus and identity, while being respectful and mindful of other district directions and priorities. The Committee meets throughout the school year to review the Enhancement Agreement.

If you are interested in being a parent representative on the Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee, please contact Laurie Ebenal, Vice Principal at Aboriginal Education (604) 945-7386.

Homework Support for the School Year

Homework support is available to all Aboriginal students with their studies:

1. **Gleneagle Secondary School**—academic support for high school students in the areas of Math and Science on Tuesdays from 3:30—6:30pm. To register, contact Janice at COL 604-945-4211.
2. **Minnekhada Middle School**—academic support for Grades 1-8 in all subject areas on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3-5pm. This program will be run out of the Suwa'lkh facilities. To register, contact Jacquie Boons at Aboriginal Ed 604-945-7386.
3. **Kwayhquitlum Reserve**—academic support for all grades and subject areas on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-5:30pm. To register, contact Jacquie Boons at Aboriginal Ed 604-945-7386.
4. **New! Banting Middle School**—academic support for Grades 1-8 on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3-5pm. This HW support is offered in Room 228. To register, please contact Jacquie Boons at Aboriginal Ed 604-945-7386.



Provincial Exams

Students in grades 10, 11, and 12 will be writing Provincial Exams during the week of January 23-27. You can access the exam schedule at:

<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/handbook/schedules.htm>

To help students study and prepare, practice provincial exams can be found at <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/search/>

December 2011

Making Connections within the District



Suwa'lkh

Suwa'lkh currently has 11 students attending and we are continuing to grow. Hard to believe 3 months has already gone by and Christmas is just around the corner. Homework club is flourishing every Tuesday and Wednesday after school, as is our inclusive drop in with Minnekhada students before school, during nutrition break, and at lunch. A few of our students are involved with Support Worker Shelley Saje Ricci's "Warrior Within" teachings at HWSS and we have craft day every Friday morning, hosted by our Elder Dawn Brown.

All our relations,

Natasha Pellatt (Teacher) and Carrie Clark (Youth Worker)

Aboriginal Education's Support Classroom at Banting Middle School

The Aboriginal Education Program and Banting Middle have joined together to develop a support classroom initiative for students in the Coquitlam School District.

Located in Room 228 at Banting Middle, Aboriginal Ed staff provides social, cultural, and academic support for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students.

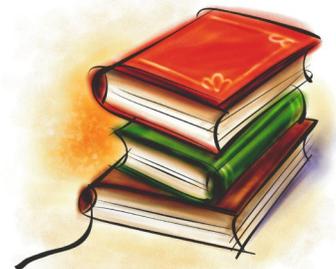
Teachers who wish to register a student in our program, please contact your administrator. All applications must go through Laurie Ebenal, Vice Principal of Aboriginal Education.

For more information, please visit our my43 Aboriginal Education website and select "Banting Program" from the left hand menu bar.

Aboriginal Education Library

The Aboriginal Education resource library is now housed at Suwa'lkh, located at Minnekhada Middle School. This library includes an assortment of Aboriginal content resources, including fiction and non-fiction books, videos, novel studies, artifacts, and curriculum binders.

If you would like to borrow resources, or take a tour of the library to see what is available, please contact Natashia Pellatt by email npellatt@sd43.bc.ca.



Graduating Class of 2012

Grad Scarves

This February will be the start of the 8th Annual Grad Scarf Workshop. Each year our program invites all graduating students to design their own “original” scarf to wear with their cap and gown at Commencement. Invitations to all Aboriginal graduating students will be sent out in January 2012.

As in past years, the workshop will be held at Dr. Charles Best Secondary each Monday evening for ten weeks. The **first session begins on February 6, 2012.** Youth Workers Carrie Clark and Gena Sanderson, with teacher Denise Nembhard, will be on hand to assist students to create this beautiful piece of wearable art. It is something they will be able to wear with pride for a lifetime.

If you would like more information, or would like to pre-register, please call Carrie Clark at 604.945.7386.



Scholarship Evening

On Thursday, December 1, the Aboriginal Education Department hosted an information evening for all of our Grade 11 and 12 students and their parents. Valuable information was provided about scholarships

and bursaries specifically for Aboriginal students, Aboriginal contacts at post secondary institutions, other financial options such as BC and Canada student loans, and career programs for First Nations and Métis students.



Folders with this information have been created for each Grade 11 and 12 student. Ab Ed Youth Workers will be distributing this information to those students who did not attend.

National Aboriginal Achievement Awards

The National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation (NAAF) is hosting their annual Achievement Awards in Vancouver this year at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre on Friday, February 24, 2012 at 8:30pm. The Aboriginal Education department has been allotted **50 complimentary tickets** for our students and parents/guardians to attend!

Each parent is requested to accompany 1 to 2 students to the awards show. If you would like to attend, please contact Jacquie Boons at 604.945.7386 with the number of tickets you are requesting and the names of those attending.

As there are only a limited number of tickets, register early!



The Honouring

The 2nd annual Honouring Ceremony will be held on **Wednesday, June 13, 2012** at Red Robinson Theatre in Coquitlam to celebrate the achievement of our Aboriginal Youth. Please note the date (the Ab Ed Student Planner has the incorrect date listed).

At this event, all Grade 12 graduates are honoured. As well, Aboriginal Award Winners in Grades 9-12 are invited to receive recognition. A feast is hosted after the formal event.



2011 First Annual Honouring Ceremony, Heritage Woods Secondary



December 2011

Button Blanket Presentation at Moody Elementary

On October 13th, Elder and Artist in Residence Dawn Brown gave a classroom presentation to Grade 4 and 5 students at Moody Elementary. Teachers Tracy Craig and Cristina Lupien requested this service to increase knowledge and respect for Aboriginal culture and history.

During the presentation, Dawn shared knowledge on Métis and Haida people and told stories in a talking circle. Dawn provided teachings on the button blanket and each child had the opportunity to sew his/her own button blanket. Teachings on gifting were presented at the end of the lesson and students were excited to select a special person to gift their button blanket to.

As a way to show their appreciation, the class wrote thank you letters to Dawn and gifted her friendship bracelets!

Here are a few examples of the letters Dawn received:



THANK YOU DAWN! Aka cute and adorable!

Thank you for coming in and teaching me about Aboriginal culture. I learned so much about it in two hours! I really love my Button Blanket. I can't wait to mail it to my Grandparents in Arizona! One thing I learned is when you give something to somebody you honour it to them. Don't treat it like it's nothing. Treat it like it is a human being. One day I wish to be like you nahane. Is that how you spell it? Well I wish to be cute and adorable I hope you like your friendship bracelets. I would have done better on mine but I haven't done friendship bracelets in a year so I was a little rusty. Would my totem be a dolphin?

Thank you very much for teaching the ways of the Métis!

Olivia< the tomboy and awesome



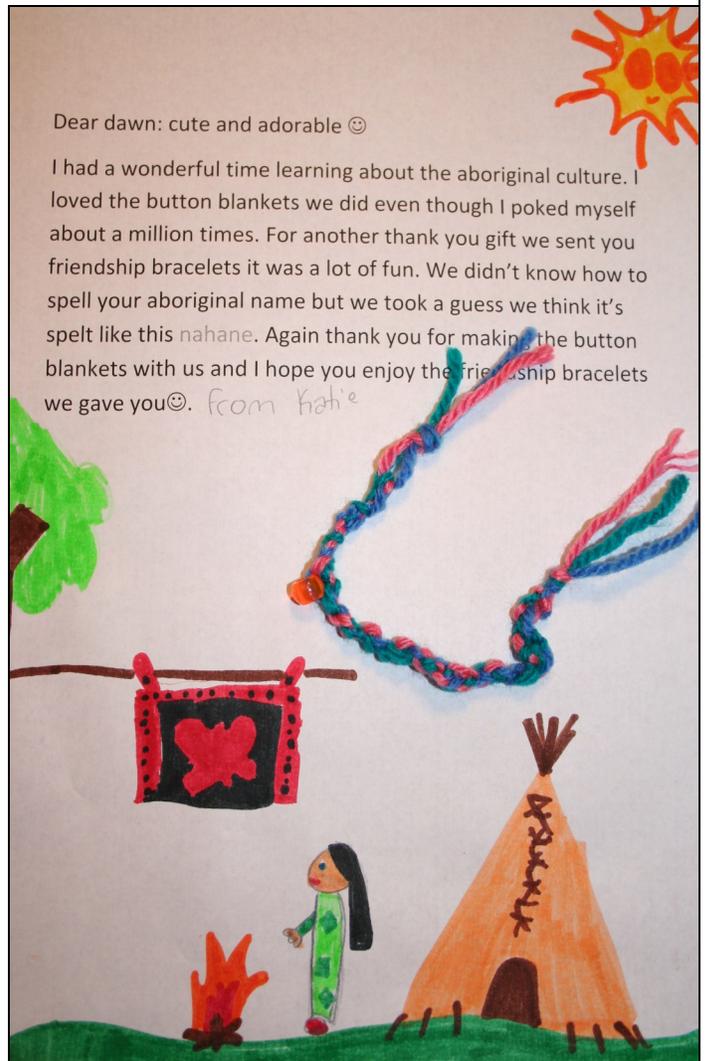
Dear Dawn

Thank you for teaching us how to make a button blanket it was fun. I really liked making them I liked how mine looked like. I had the butterfly it looked really cool. I learned how to stitch it was awesome. I'm going to gift my blanket to my dad. My dad will like it. Or I could give it to my mom she will also like it... From William



Dear Dawn, - cute and adorable

I like it when you told us stories about your family and the button blanket. I also enjoyed learning how to make a button blanket. I want to give my button blanket to my dog. I am giving it away because it is nice to share than to be selfish....From Xalli



'The Warrior Within' - Timberline Ranch

On October 28th, students from Moody Middle, Banting Middle, Port Moody Secondary, and Heritage Woods Secondary attended a fieldtrip to Timberline Ranch. Organized by Support Worker Shelley Saje Ricci, this event was an extension of the 'Warrior Within' project which students are working on during their pull-out sessions.

Students were organized into clans (Sky, Earth, Sea, Rain, Wind) and rotated through 5 stations: horseback riding, wall climbing, team building, archery, and a warrior craft. Students displayed honourable behavior and leadership skills. Here is a sampling of their feedback:



Being in Nature...

- made me feel small compared to the trees
- made me feel connected to the world
- made me feel in touch with my ancestors-
- felt awesome and amazing!



What did I learn about myself?

- -if I push myself enough with a goal, and don't give up, I can do almost anything!
- -I can be a leader and see the good in situations
- -I can trust people and some-times you have to rely on your teammates
- -Younger kids look up to me!
- -It is ok to challenge yourself



Warrior Traits		
Brave	Strong	Fierce
Honor	Instinctive	Pride
Focused	Helpful	Faith
Courage	Creative	Reliable
Loyal	Strength	Trustful
Leader	Passion	Patience
Honest	Visionary	Fearless
Fierce	Grateful	Trusting
Cautious	Modest	Selfless
Generous	Gentle	Helpful
Determined	Compassion	
Hardworking	Strong-willed	

How did you feel like a warrior?

- -acting like a 'tribe' to get everyone working together
- -we were out in nature doing 'strong' activities
- -I was the oldest and made sure the little ones were good
- -when I led the horse



Thanks to the Aboriginal Staff who helped organize and facilitate this amazing opportunity: Shelley Saje Ricci, Caroline Ross, Rob Cowie, Andrea Hotomanie, Jackie Toombs, and Malcolm Key.

Me 2 We



On October 13th, students from Kwayhquitlum Middle, Millard Middle, Moody Middle, Minnehada Middle, and Pitt River Middle attended the Me to We Day at Rogers Arena.

The students witnessed inspirational speeches by many human rights activists, including Mikael Gorbochev, Spencer West, and Waneek Horn-Miller (Team Captain for Canada's Women Water Polo from the Mohawk Nation).

The students learned that one voice can turn into many and with their actions they cannot only help their local community, but those around the world. Our Aboriginal Youth can be the change!

Thanks to the Aboriginal Staff who helped organize and facilitate this amazing opportunity: Rob Cowie, Lori Halcro, Erin Marshall, Gena Sanderson, Jackie Toombs, Laura Taylor.



Several of the ME2WE students participated in the annual "Halloween 4 Hunger".

Students were encouraged to ask for non perishable items during their trick or treating.

Students raised more than 400 non perishable food items and over \$250! All items collected were delivered to the local food bank.



The Coquitlam Aboriginal ME2WE students' next project is in full gear. Morgan and Kayla, Summit students, have begun the "Aboriginal Play It Forward Foundation".

The foundation's goal is to collect as much 'gently' used sports equipment and sports apparel and donate them to the Nitinaht Aboriginal Community, who have no resources or access to sports items.

ME2WE students have partnered with the Nitinaht Aboriginal Community on Vancouver Island. The students are asking their schools and classmates for 'gently' used sports equipment. If you have any soccer cleats, runners, or sports equipment you would be willing to donate, please drop it off to the Aboriginal Education office (located at Central Elementary, 2260 Central Ave, Port Coquitlam).

Aboriginal Youth Leadership Committee (AYLC)

Coquitlam School District's AYLC had its first meeting November 28th, 2011 at Central Elementary. The 28 high school students participated in several leadership building discussions and activities.

The AYLC program is designed to provide Coquitlam's Aboriginal Youth with leadership skills (such as First Aid and Food Safe) and opportunities to volunteer in the community. AYLC's next meeting will be January 30th, 2012 at Dr. Charles Best Secondary.



Medicine Wheel Teachings at James Park



One of the goals of Aboriginal Education is to provide more inclusive teachings and presentations. Support Worker Malcolm Key and Resource Teacher Rob Cowie have been working with James Park Elementary and classroom teacher Kelly Kolbe's Grade 2, 3, and 4 Montessori class to introduce the importance of the medicine wheel in Aboriginal culture.

Kindergarten Talking Circle

"The Circle is a time of sharing with gentle humour of the Native beliefs and the understanding of the teachings of our Ancestors. The Circle is sharing memories, either true or make believe, in a safe and respectful way. The Circle is a way of teaching many core values like Respect, Trust, Generosity, and Compassion. My Grandmother used to say "the world is full of many strange and wonderful and mysterious things". I know this is true because I have seen many of them: some wondrous, some funny, some powerful, and some small. But every thing has a purpose and the circle teaches us that we are a gift of life as we share the same worries and same lessons in life. Kindergarten is a time that we can share the teachings of our Elders and learn to trust ourselves and our Elders."

Dawn Brown

Aboriginal Education is offering the Talking Circle this year to Kindergarten classes. Support Worker Andrea Homanie and Elder Dawn Brown from Ab Ed will come to your class and share the teachings of the Circle.

By providing both the knowledge and inspiration, stories continue to strengthen the young mind. Kindergarten teachers who have not yet been contacted and would like to have this program in their classroom, please email ahotomanie@sd43.bc.ca or dabrown@sd43.bc.ca.

Who is supporting my child(ren) at school?

YOUTH WORKERS IDENTIFIED BY SCHOOL

<p>Lori Halcro 604-317-4862</p> <p>Elementary Birchland Blakeburn Castle Park Cedar Drive Coquitlam River Irvine James Park Leigh</p>	<p>Erin Marshall 604-329-2375</p> <p>Elementary Bramblewood Glen Hampton Park Meadowbrook Mountain Meadows Nestor Panorama Heights Pinetree Way Ranch Park Walton Westwood</p>	<p>Gena Sanderson 604-836-2041</p> <p>Elementary Alderson Lord Baden Powell Porter Street Rochester Roy Stibbs</p>	<p>Laura Taylor 604-802-6633</p> <p>Elementary Central Eagle Ridge Harbour View Hazel Trembath Kilmer Mary Hill</p>	<p>Michael Goldsack 604-345-9328</p> <p>Elementary Baker Drive Cape Horn Mundy Road Parkland RC MacDonald Riverview Park</p>	<p>Jackie Toombs 604-329-2375</p> <p>Elementary Anmore Aspenwood Glenayre Heritage Mountain Miller Park Moody Mountain View Pleasantide Seaview COL (K-9)</p>	<p>Carrie Clark 604-219-6555</p>
<p>Middle Kwayhquitlum Minnekhada</p> <p>Secondary Terry Fox</p>	<p>Middle Maple Creek Scott Creek Summit</p> <p>Secondary Gleneagle Pinetree</p>	<p>Middle Como Lake Mallaird</p> <p>Secondary Centennial Dr. Charles Best</p>	<p>Middle Citadel Hillcrest Montgomery Pitt River</p> <p>Secondary CABE/GOAL Riverside</p>	<p>Elementary Banting Moody COL (K-9)</p> <p>Secondary Heritage Woods Port Moody COL (K-9) CIL (10,11)</p>	<p>Middle Suwa'lkh Success for All</p>	

Who is supporting my child(ren) at school?

SUPPORT WORKERS IDENTIFIED BY SCHOOL

Verna Aquash	Angela Guy	Andrea Hotomanie	Dawn Marks	Shelley Saje-Ricci	Malcolm Key
<u>Elementary</u> Aspenwood Blakeburn Bramblewood Castle Park Eagle Ridge Glen Hampton Park Hazel Trembath Meadowbrook Nestor Roy Stibbs Walton Westwood	<u>Elementary</u> Alderson Cape Horn Harbour View Lord Baden Powell Pinetree Way Porter Rochester	<u>Elementary</u> COL (K-9)	<u>Elementary</u> Anmore Baker Drive Central Glenayre Heritage Mountain Kilmer Mountain Meadows Mountain View Mundy Road Panorama Heights Parkland Pleasantside Ranch Park RC MacDonald Riverview Park	<u>Elementary</u> Coquitlam River Miller Park Moody Seaview	<u>Elementary</u> Birchland Cedar Drive Irvine James Park Leigh Mary Hill
<u>Middle</u> Scott Creek <u>Secondary</u> CIL GOAL	<u>Middle</u> Hillcrest Maillard Montgomery Summit <u>Secondary</u> Centennial Dr. Charles Best	<u>Middle</u> Citadel COL (K-9) <u>Secondary</u> COL (K-9) Gleneagle Pinetree	<u>Middle</u> Como Lake <u>Middle</u> Banting Moody <u>Secondary</u> Heritage Woods Port Moody	<u>Middle</u> Kwayhquitlum Maple Creek Minnekhada Pitt River <u>Secondary</u> Riverside Terry Fox	