



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

September 23	District Pro D
October 6	Family Appreciation Tea
October 10	No School
November 11, 14	No School
December 16	Winter Break
January 3	Schools Open

A Message from the Vice Principal, Laurie Ebenal

I am starting in my second year as the Vice Principal of Aboriginal Education. The department has undergone many changes but the goals of the Enhancement Agreement remain consistent and School District 43 has committed to engaging the community in working collectively to empower Aboriginal Children and Youth to achieve academic success, self reliance, and inner confidence. We are committed as a team to develop programs and services that add value or enhance current curriculum. Our journey as a school district community is to create an identity through defining what culture means to our students, families, Elders and staff. We are excited to engage our students in the experience of being Aboriginal as opposed to learning ‘about’ Indigenous People. We will focus on exposing all students to traditional Aboriginal customs and culture. This process is meant to create lifelong learners who have a passion, drive and desire to be academically successful and become productive members of a global society.

Each Aboriginal student was gifted an Aboriginal Education Student Planner. The planner is chalk full of descriptions of what services are being offered this year through our department. We have also included a description of new or changed services in the newsletter. I encourage reading your child’s planner and calling us if you have any questions.

All My Relations

Laurie Ebenal

Enhancement Agreement

The Aboriginal Education Program provides a wide array of resources and opportunities to enhance the learning environment for all Aboriginal learners—First Nations status, non-status, Inuit, and Metis.

Schools provide the daily structures and supports. Working with Aboriginal families, and the Aboriginal community at large, classroom teachers respond to the unique educational needs of their Aboriginal students. The responsibility for Aboriginal student success belongs to everyone and this is a common theme of the Enhancement Agreement.

The Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement focusses on the academic, emotional, physical, and cultural growth of all students and raises the profile of Aboriginal learners. It is a means to an end, and the end is improved outcomes for Aboriginal students. It signifies the collective responsibility of School District No. 43, and all Aboriginal communities served by the district, for the success of Aboriginal students. Although the Aboriginal Education Department has taken the lead in working with the community, while developing the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement, the daily experiences in schools will make it a living document that truly changes the reality of Aboriginal learners. All students, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, will develop greater knowledge and respect for Aboriginal traditions, challenges, and potential. The Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement has been informed and directed by a respectful, reflective, and open process of inquiry and relationship building. All contributions from both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal participants have been valued, in a process led by the Aboriginal heart and mind and enhanced by input from the extended learning community.

Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement Goals:

1. Increase knowledge and respect for Aboriginal culture and history for all students
2. Increase the number of Aboriginal students reporting feelings of safety and a sense of belonging
3. Improve Aboriginal students' achievement
4. Improve Aboriginal students' grade-to-grade transition rate and 6-year Dogwood Completion rate

Guided by the four goals of our Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement, the Aboriginal Education Program of School District No. 43 strives to:

1. Promote the cultural identity of our Aboriginal students
2. Create a positive learning environment that supports the Aboriginal students
3. Improve academic achievement of all Aboriginal students
4. Raise awareness of First Nations cultures within our school community
5. Work in cooperation with schools, community, and Aboriginal families

Positions within the Aboriginal Education Department

The following descriptions provide information on the roles of staff within the department:

Aboriginal Resource Teachers: We currently have 4 resource teachers who are involved in facilitating quality programs and services in the schools, while liaising with district and community resource people.

Aboriginal Support Workers: We currently have 6 support workers who provide opportunities for Aboriginal students to meet outside the classroom to work together on culturally-based educational activities through the pull-out program. In the classroom, they support teachers to address the Aboriginal content requirements in the BC curriculum and also offer in class support for students.

Aboriginal Youth Workers: We currently have 7 youth workers who assist schools, parents, and students in their efforts to develop positive relationships and effective communication methods. They provide individualized support for students as needed. Services are generally accessed through a referral from the student's school.

Information for Parents and Community Members

Appreciation Tea

Parents, caregivers, Elders, and community members are invited to enjoy bannock and tea at Minnekhada Middle School on Thursday, October 6th from 3-5pm. This will be a great opportunity to meet the Aboriginal Education department staff, find out about our programs and services, and have your questions answered.



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.

Who do I call if I have an issue to be resolved?

Laurie Ebenal, Vice Principal — (604) 945-7386

How can I stay informed throughout the year?

Aboriginal Education newsletters will be sent home electronically throughout the year, so **please ensure we have your current email address.** The newsletter will also be posted on the website. If you are aware of a parent who does not have internet access, please let them know that we also do a small run of printed newsletters which are available for pick-up by parents or students from our main reception area in the office. If you have any questions, contact Jacquie Boons at 604-945-7386.

What's new this year?

Suwa'lkh

Suwa'lkh, meaning 'First Beginning' in Stó:lō, includes culturally relevant curriculum to support Aboriginal students within the district who are struggling to succeed. The program will include support from teachers, youth workers, support workers, community members, parents, and Elders. Inclusion of local knowledge, culture, and traditions will help students connect with their urban community. It is important to note the student still remains registered in his/her home school.

This program is based at Minnehada Middle School. Program staff include Brad Ross (Teacher), Carrie Clark (Youth Worker), Andrea Hotomanie (Support Worker), and Dawn Brown (Elder).

Homework Support for the School Year

There are three opportunities available for homework support that Aboriginal students within the district can access:

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. Minnehada 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. Kwayhqitlum Reserve—academic support for all grades and subject areas on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-5:30pm. To register, contact Janice at COL 604-945-4211.

The Resource Library has moved!

The Aboriginal Education resource library is now housed at Minnehada 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 Brad Ross by email brross@sd43.bc.ca or by phone 604-945-7386.



Aboriginal Education Student Planners 2011-2012



Every Aboriginal student in the Coquitlam School District has received a student planner to support his/her learning. This is an excellent tool to help students stay organized with homework, projects, and tests. The planner also includes lots of information about the department and services that are offered, as well as cultural protocols on smudging and button blankets.

Each Aboriginal student was given a planner by their support worker or youth worker within the first two weeks of September.

Meet the Aboriginal Education Staff for 2010-2011



Warm regards, my name is **Laurie Ebenal** and I am of mixed ancestry. I am the Vice Principal of the Aboriginal Education Department. Being an Urban Aboriginal means we must learn to live in two worlds and I aspire to do this with both grace and dignity. It is my dream our Aboriginal students find a place of understanding and empowerment within the fabric of School District 43's community.



My name is **Mel Loncaric**; I came to this country as a political refugee many years ago. I was born in a country called Yugoslavia; it no longer exists. This is my first year with the Aboriginal Education Department; I will be working as a counselor.



My name is **Dawn Sasges**. I have a Master of Science in Audiology and Speech Sciences, UBC 2003. I have worked as a SLP in the District for 8 years and have enjoyed working with the Aboriginal Education Department in the area of oral language enhancement. My passion is to help children develop strong oral language skills which are the basis for strong reading and writing language skills and ultimate academic success. My husband and 3 children are of Métis heritage.



Hello, my name is **Jacquie Boons** and I am the secretary for Aboriginal Education. This is my third year with the department.

Youth Workers



Pekwin! My name is **Carrie Clark** and I am from the Nlaka Pamux Nation, also known as Thompson Nation from the Merritt area. It has been a pleasure working with our families for the past 13 years.



Tansi! My name is **Lori Halcro** and I am Métis. I grew up in Coquitlam and have been a Youth Worker since 1985. I have worked in Coquitlam since 1991 and I'm pleased to be starting my 6th year with the department.



My name is **Erin Marshall** and I am of mixed heritage. My family roots come from the Coast Salish people and my ancestry is both Squamish and Sechelt Nation and Irish Celtic decent. I walk in two worlds and I look forward to bringing the harmony and balance to both to the children of School District 43.



Gilkasla' My name is **Gena Sanderson** and I am from the Mamalilikulla Band from Village Island. I worked in the Campbell River School District for 26 years. Two years ago I moved to the Tri-Cities where I have had the opportunity to work as the Aboriginal Youth Worker for Coquitlam School District. I look forward to working with the students in the Coquitlam area again this year.



My name is **Laura Taylor** and I am Métis. My family has roots in northern Alberta and southern Manitoba. This is my second year with Aboriginal Education, and I look forward to seeing our new and returning families.



Greetings! My name is **Raymond Taylor** and I am Coast Salish from the Sliammon Nation. I had the pleasure of working with Surrey School District for the last 5 years and now I have the opportunity to be part of SD43. I believe in liberation through education. I look forward to meeting our Aboriginal learners, parents, caregivers, and community agencies.



Gila' Kasla, my name is **Jackie Toombs**. I am from the Namgis nation in Alert Bay, BC. I worked in Campbell River for 11 years as an Aboriginal Youth Worker, but have worked with and supported Aboriginal students and families for over 20 years.

Support Workers



Boozhoo ahniin!! (Hello, how are you?) My name is **Verna Aquash** and I am from the Big Grassy First Nation near the Great Lakes area in Ontario. I am fully fluent in my own Ojibway language.



Dahooja (hello). My name is **Angela Guy** (formerly Bell) and I am a member of the Lusilyoo Clan of the Nak'azdli Band from the Dakelh Nation. I have been working for the Aboriginal Education Department for 8 years. I was first introduced to the program as a student and I felt that it was important to carry on the teachings that I had received by returning to the program as an Aboriginal Support Worker. Meci-cho (thank you).



My name is **Andrea Hotomanie** and my background is Cree, Sioux, Assiniboine, Saulteaux, and Coast Salish. This is my 2nd year with the district as a cultural support worker.



Malcolm Key is from the Anishnabe Nation, originally from Northern Ontario. He has a background in Wilderness Education and has spent the majority of his career managing outdoor programs for youth. Malcolm looks forward to the opportunity of working within the Coquitlam School District.



My name is **Dawn Marks**. I am from the Shíshálh First Nation and the Stailes Indian Band from the Stó:lō Nation. I am very pleased to be working with the students in SD43.



Tansi, my name is **Shelley Saje Ricci**. Both my parents are half Cree and a mix of European ancestry, including Scottish, Danish, and Austrian. We come from north eastern Alberta near Smokey Lake. After working in Winnipeg in the child and youth care field for 5 years, I moved to Toronto where I worked as a Community Development Trainee at an Aboriginal health centre. I was fortunate to receive many teachings from the Ojibway people as well as my spirit name which translates to Bearpaw Woman. Arriving in Vancouver in 1998, I worked as an Employment/Career Counsellor, and now this is my 5th year delivering cultural and academic lessons in my role as an Aboriginal Support Worker.



Dawn Brown (Aboriginal TA) is a passionate and spiritual First Nations artist living and working out her dreams having mastered different art form mediums. Currently she is focused on creating glass etched art as well as Ceremonial Button Blankets. She is also a master artist in beadwork and is a member of the Métis Nation.

Resource Teachers



Greetings! My name is **Breanne Black** and my ancestry is Italian/German/Cree. I have spent the last two years tutoring on the Kwikwetlem reservation. I received my teaching degree from SFU and my passion for Aboriginal history and education has led me to this department. I look forward to a great new school year!



Rob Cowie has been a teacher in the Coquitlam School District for 16 years. He has been an Intermediate teacher at Glen Elementary for the majority of that time. All his life he has been drawn to first nations culture and art. He has studied carving and design under Carmen McKay (Sto:lo) and Mark George (Burrard). Rob has been interested in providing leadership opportunities for Aboriginal youth. He organized a camp where Aboriginal high school students were invited to be camp councilors. He is excited and honored to be apart of the Aboriginal Education team as a Resource Teacher.



Greetings from the desk of **Terri Mae Galligos**, ancestral name Setlakus, from the Sliammon band. Welcome to the 2011/2012 school year. Respectfully, I believe that the child's best interest is at the heart of all stakeholders involved with education. Having said that I would like to share a greeting, honoring our time as the Department of Aboriginal Education, planning, preparing and implementing quality programs and services pertaining to the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement. "*Gi ah thetch ga chigit toomatlaxw (May the Creator guide us in a good way)*".



My name is **Brad Ross** and I am of Métis ancestry and new to the Aboriginal Education Department. I am loving the energy here and look forward to learning, growing, and sharing the trust with all my relations. Meena kawapimitin.



Caroline Ross has been teaching in the district for 11 years at both the middle and secondary level, with experience in Social Studies and Special Education. She is excited to be working with the department and district at large to create curriculum with an Aboriginal focus and to personally develop a richer understanding of Aboriginal history and culture.

Who is supporting my child(ren) at school?

YOUTH WORKERS

Lori Halcro	Erin Marshall	Gena Sanderson	Laura Taylor	Raymond Taylor	Jackie Toombs
604-317-4862	604-329-2375	604-836-2041	604-802-6633	778-887-3279	604-329-2375

Elementary

Birchland
 Blakeburn
 Cedar Drive
 Coquitlam River
 Irvine
 James Park
 Leigh

Middle

Kwayhquitlum
 Minnehada

Secondary

Terry Fox

Elementary

Bramblewood
 Glen
 Hampton Park
 Meadowbrook
 Mountain Meadows
 Nestor
 Panorama Heights
 Pinetree Way

Ranch Park
 Walton
 Westwood

Middle

Maple Creek
 Scott Creek
 Summit

Secondary

Gleneagle
 Pinetree

Elementary

Alderson
 Baker Drive
 Cape Horn
 Lord Baden Powell
 Mundy Road
 Parkland
 Porter Street
 RC MacDonald
 Riverview Park
 Rochester
 Roy Stibbs

Middle

Como Lake
 Mallaird

Secondary

Centennial
 Dr. Charles Best

Elementary

Central
 Eagle Ridge
 Harbour View
 Hazel Trembath
 Kilmer
 Mary Hill

Middle

Citadel
 Hillcrest
 Pitt River

Secondary

CABE/GOAL
 Riverside

Elementary

Castle Park

Middle

Banting
 Minnehada
 Montgomery

Secondary

Terry Fox

Elementary

Anmore
 Aspenwood
 Glenayre
 Heritage Mountain
 Miller Park
 Moody
 Mountain View
 Pleasantside
 Seaview
 COL (K-9)

Middle

Moody
 COL

Secondary

Heritage Woods
 Port Moody
 COL
 CIL

Who is supporting my child(ren) at school?

SUPPORT WORKERS

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 Mountain Meadows Mundy Road Pinetree Way Porter Ranch Park RC MacDonald Rochester <u>Middle</u> Como Lake Hillcrest Mallaird Montgomery Summit <u>Secondary</u> Centennial Dr. Charles Best	<u>Elementary</u> Anmore Baker Drive Heritage Mountain Panorama Heights Riverview Park COL (K-9) <u>Middle</u> Citadel COL (K-9) <u>Secondary</u> Gleneagle Pinetree	<u>Elementary</u> Kilmer	<u>Elementary</u> Central Coquitlam River Glenayre Miller Park Moody Mountain View Parkland Pleasantside Seaview <u>Middle</u> Banting Moody <u>Secondary</u> Heritage Woods Port Moody	<u>Elementary</u> Birchland Cedar Drive Irvine James Park Leigh Mary Hill <u>Middle</u> Kwayhquitlum Maple Creek Minnehada Pitt River <u>Secondary</u> Riverside Terry Fox