





## Salmon Festival

We were happy to see a good amount of redfish return to Bridge Creek this year! ...And only one curious bear near the end of the day, so that's good too! The annual Salmon Festival takes place the last Friday in September, with Grade Two students from across the District going from station to station learning about the salmon. Aboriginal Education tells the story of Salmon, and how dip netting in the Columbia River eddys was the preferred method for harvesting these essential creatures.

## Pow Wow Visit

We ended up filling TWO buses for our trip to the Okanagan College Pow Wow this year! 82 students were keen to come, from all grades and all the schools. Most of the students were Aboriginal, but some non-Aboriginal keeners were invited along too because of their demonstrated interest in Aboriginal learning. We started the day with a circle, and then a very long bus ride. Our sincere thanks to Sonia Cinelli, bus driver extraordinaire, for getting us there and back safely! We returned with a better understanding of the significance of the Pow Wow...and with an interest in making some regalia for next time!



## Family Luncheon, Family Participation

Jessica Stewardson, Elementary Aboriginal Support Worker, is planning a luncheon (with moose stew made from meat her uncle hunted!) at each of the Elementary schools. Jessica hopes that lots of family members will come out, and hear about what's happening in the schools. She also hopes that some family members will want to get involved and share their stories and skills in schools. The tentative dates for these luncheons are: Nov. 8 (BVE), Nov. 9 (AHE), and Nov. 14 (CPE). Please watch for notices coming home.

## Ab Ed Advisory meeting dates

The Revelstoke Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee meets on the first Thursday of every month, from 4pm to 5pm at the School Board Office. This Committee has been vital to the strong and thriving Aboriginal Education program in our District. Our Chair is Michelle Cole, but Michelle has let us know that she will be away next year, and so will be stepping down from that role. If you would like to get involved with helping determine the direction of Aboriginal Education, please contact Ariel McDowell at (250) 837-2101. This year we also welcome new School Board Trustee representative Amanda Richardson to the table. The Committee is made up of parents, community members, educators, and a Trustee. We hope you'll consider getting involved!

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*"We envision a student body and staff who understand indigenous history and circumstances, and recognize our roles as individuals and institutions in reconciliation, ensuring that Aboriginal students are successful and confident in their endeavours, feel connected to their cultural heritage, and recognize their unique gifts, strengths and abilities. We are committed to a community that acknowledges, honors and respects the diverse cultures of Aboriginal students, families and Elders." (from the S.D. #19 Enhancement Agreement)*

For more information on Aboriginal Education: <http://www.sd19.bc.ca/abed>

#### Lisa Moore, Secondary Aboriginal Education Worker

September has kept me busy meeting new students, reconnecting with returning students, touching base with parents, and tracking down the dreaded 1701 consent forms. We did have a field trip to the Okanagan College Youth Powwow in Kelowna, with over 80 students, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, attending. Some of the students even danced, which was wonderful to see.

This year I have over 50 students that I work with; this includes the “official” students who have returned the parent consent forms as well as a few who have left school but stay in contact or may be doing work experience after graduation. I assist in the Aboriginal Connections class with Lissa Cancilla-Sykes, spend one-on-one time with a few students and provide academic support as needed. I was also able to attend a meeting with Work BC to help support the transition of one of our 2017 grads into the work force. Other duties have been to take students to doctor appointments, visiting guardians to get forms filled out, and helping with the breakfast program at RSS.

Orange Shirt Day was successful at RSS; students knew about the event and many students and staff wore an orange shirt to school on Friday, September 29.

We received an invitation to visit the Ktunaxa Education and Outreach coordinator, Leanna Gravelle. Michelle Cole (Advisory Chair) and I are planning to go to Cranbrook on October 20. Hopefully this will lead to closer ties with the Ktunaxa nation.

#### Jessica Stewardson, Elementary Aboriginal Student Assistant

I enjoyed hosting the Aboriginal Education station at the Fish Festival on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Shared stories of Salmon, and helped students make dip nets made from bent willow. All Grade 2s in the District visited, as well as homeschoolers. On September 21<sup>st</sup> we attended the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Okanagan College Pow Wow, bringing 82 students from Revelstoke all the way to Kelowna. Students from around our Region attended the Pow Wow. This event is a great introduction to the tradition of Pow Wow, since they know that many of the students are attending for the first time. We did some teaching and learning about Pow Wow etiquette, and many students enjoyed participating in the dances. I am visiting each of the Kindergarten classes to help Monica Penner, Speech-Language Pathologist, do a program that works on developing speech sounds in young children. The program is called Moe the Mouse, and draws on traditions, stories and names for animals in the local language.

I am joining the Parents as Wellness Supporters program in Sarah Newton’s class to add some culturally relevant ways to manage stress and anxiety. For example, I will talk to students and parents about the Seven Teachings, and the importance of balance.

This was my first year having to track down all the permission slips for students to participate in Ab Ed, so that has been time consuming! I’m looking forward to doing a lunch in each of the schools, with students and their families in the next few weeks.

#### Lissa Cancilla-Sykes, Aboriginal Education Helping Teacher

Last year I worked with teachers to help them implement culturally sensitive curriculum in classes from K through 12. From recurrent questions teachers had, themed bins have been created, and I will be visiting staff meetings and department head meetings to introduce the resources and plan how best to offer the ProD. Some of the topic areas include:

Territory and the land, Science and outdoor learning, Storytelling and Oral tradition, Ceremony and protocols, including drumming, Residential schools (junior and senior kits)

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