

**“TOGETHER WE EMPOWER
STUDENTS OF ALL NATIONS”**



11th Annual Report

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION
CENTRAL OKANAGAN SCHOOL DISTRICT - 2013/2014



11th Annual Report

This document will highlight and celebrate student success by reporting on the annual events provided by the programs and services of the Aboriginal Education Program.

Due to the labour dispute at the end of the 2013/2014 school year, some student performance data is unavailable. As a result, this report will be an abbreviated edition.

Additionally, with the signing of the Enhancement Agreement in January 2014, September marks a new beginning in data gathering to reflect the new targets and goals. *The Ministry Report "How are We Doing" is posted on the District's website.*



Aboriginal Advocate Teepee Training

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A special thank you to the Aboriginal students, parents and families. Sincere thanks to the Aboriginal Education Council, District staff, community partners and members who gave so freely of their time to continue to provide support to enhance the success of all of our Aboriginal students Kindergarten through grade 12.

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DISTRICT PRINCIPAL - ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

JOANNE DE GUEVARA

Way', ǵast sǵǵalt,

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to acknowledge the traditional territory of the Okanagan Nation in which I have the honour of working as the District Principal of the Aboriginal Education Program, in the Central Okanagan School District.

It is a pleasure to work with a caring, dedicated Aboriginal Education staff who is supported by Aboriginal community partners, School District leaders, our 43 school teams, and an Aboriginal Education Council. Thank you to our parents and Elders for the knowledge and expertise they share as this is an integral part on the path to success for our students of Aboriginal ancestry.

We continue to grow in our ability to support our District's 2352 Aboriginal students and foster their success in school as well as living a well-balanced life. I am proud to be a part of what it is now and what it is yet to become.

We continue to celebrate the amazing accomplishments of our students, recognize the strengths and gains we have made over the past years, and understand that we need to continue to strive to improve, so that our Aboriginal students reach the success rate of the non-Aboriginal population.

It is my pleasure to present the Central Okanagan School District, Aboriginal Education Program, 11th Annual Report! I would like to thank all those who put an amazing amount of time and effort in creating, editing and publishing of this report.

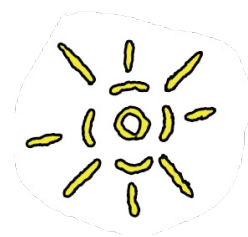
Way' Limlǵmt,

Joanne De Guevara

District Principal – Aboriginal Education

Aboriginal Education Staff





Grade 7 Gathering - Drumming

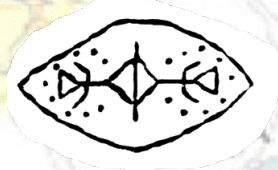


INTRODUCTION

The Central Okanagan School District and the Aboriginal Education Council acknowledge and honour the traditional territory and history of the Okanagan (Syilx) People and Westbank First Nation as our host band. We also acknowledge the traditional teachings of our Elders and the wisdom of their Aboriginal culture.

In partnership, we will build on the success of Aboriginal students who self-identify as First Nation, Métis and Inuit. We continue to foster cultural awareness, cultural pride and improved student achievement for our Aboriginal learners. Our program continues to evolve to meet the needs of Aboriginal students, families and communities.

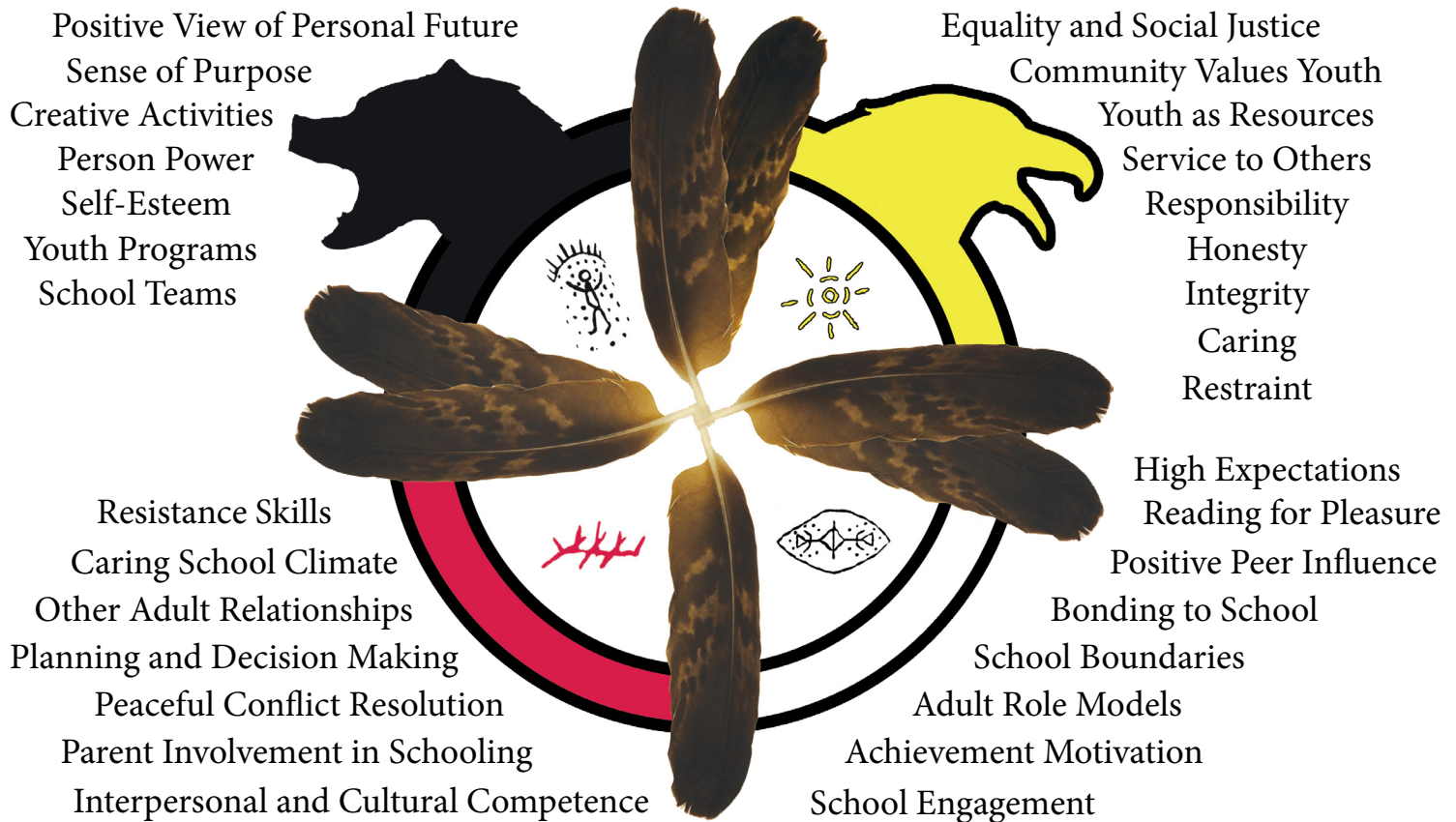
The Central Okanagan School District is a diverse learning community with a student population of 21,985 in the 2013/2014 school year, making us the fifth largest district in British Columbia. Nearly 10% (2,296) of these students are of Aboriginal ancestry.





The 11th Annual Report will address the four goals of the Central Okanagan School District's second Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement and the progress that our students have made towards meeting these goals.

Our goals reflect the teachings of the Medicine Wheel and support the 40 Developmental Assets®



EMOTIONAL

Aboriginal students and families will attain a sense of belonging, self-respect, and pride of heritage.

SPIRITUAL

Aboriginal students will actively participate in Aboriginal teachings, traditions, culture and language.

PHYSICAL

Aboriginal students will make healthy choices that will enhance their physical well-being.

INTELLECTUAL

Aboriginal students will achieve high academic standards from K-12.



ABORIGINAL STUDENTS AND FAMILIES WILL ATTAIN A SENSE OF BELONGING, SELF-RESPECT, AND PRIDE OF HERITAGE

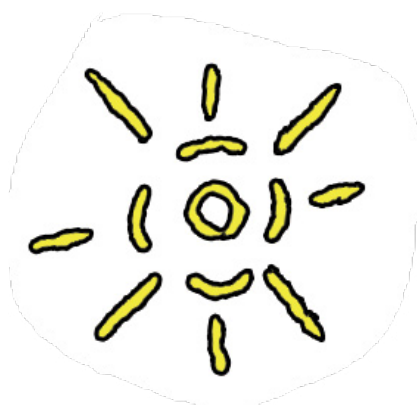


RATIONALE

Our community input tells us that Aboriginal students and families need to feel connected in order to thrive in the school environment. By incorporating the Developmental Assets®, through cultural teachings, we believe Aboriginal students and families will gain a greater sense of self-worth and increased sense of pride in their culture.

Although we do not have the data from the 2013/14 school year, we have added the following to reflect our work in reaching our emotional goal:

Youth and Family Counsellor -this program was implemented as a pilot project for the 2013/14 school year. The Aboriginal Youth and Family Counsellor provided counselling services and cultural support to our middle school Aboriginal students.



We increased parental involvement by offering Teacher Federation parent workshops to all parents across the Central Okanagan School District. Further, we offered motivational talks for parents, including a presentation by Candy Palmater.



The Aboriginal Education Program continues ongoing partnerships with Westbank First Nation, Okanagan Nation Alliance, Lake Country Native Association, Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society and the Kelowna Métis Association.





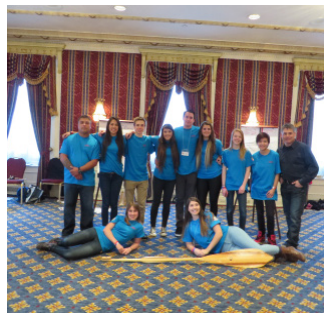
STUDENT RECOGNITION

We believe that we need to recognize our Aboriginal students' successes. We have students who are excelling at every level in and out of school. They are setting the bar higher for the rest of our students, and we wish that level of excellence for all of our students. Along with implementing a series of local recognition awards at the school and District level, we also continue to celebrate the many accomplishments of our students!

PROUD MOMENTS FOR OUR STUDENTS



Saige Werstuik, Quentin Scott, and Lenasia Ned at the Canadian Student Leadership Conference



Aboriginal Ambassadors presenting at Gathering Our Voices Provincial Conference



Graduate Kiana Chuhaniuk, Valedictorian for George Elliott Secondary



Ashley Alec chosen to speak on behalf of the Grade 12's who attended the Graduation Retreats



Valedictorian, Robert Davies, Aboriginal Graduate



Aboriginal Graduation Award Winners in the Emotional, Spiritual, Physical and Intellectual categories



Prize Winners at the University of British Columbia Okanagan Career Fair



Staff Carriers, Saige Werstuik and Lenasia Ned, on the Atlantic Ocean with the Eagle and Unity Staff



ABORIGINAL STUDENTS WILL ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN ABORIGINAL TEACHINGS, TRADITIONS, CULTURE AND LANGUAGE.

We continue our commitment to increasing participation and exposure to the Okanagan Language (nsyilxcen), which is offered to both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students. We know that cultural teachings for our Aboriginal students is just as important as cultural awareness for our non-Aboriginal students. Therefore, we are offering more District cultural activities that are beneficial for all of our students.



CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

The Aboriginal Education Program is consistently able to offer many school-based and District cultural activities; therefore, providing more cultural connections with our students. Students are actively engaged in authentic, hands on experiences that will provide them with the cultural knowledge and teachings to pass on to future generations.

Canoeing CareerFair **Okanagan** Métis Siya
UBCO OkanaganCollege Empower **Language**
HarmonyDay **Leadership** Drumming **UnityStaff** Traditional
Graduation **Sports** Medicine **HoopDancing** StickGames
WinterGathering DrumMaking Ethnobotany
MedicineWheel **Protocols** CulturalBelonging **Smudging**
Drum-a-thon **PaddlingTeam** EagleStaff
Powwow **AboriginalDay** Singing Workshops **Elders**



Academy of Indigenous Studies

Our goals for the academy are improved self-confidence, increased cultural awareness, academic achievement, and an increased connection to the school.

Currently, Mount Boucherie Secondary School offers First Peoples English 10-12, First Nations Studies 12, Aboriginal Leadership 10-12, and First Nations Art Studio as part of the Academy. We currently strive to implement 'R' Native Voice and Okanagan Language.

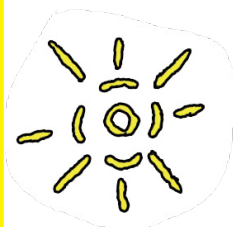


Work Ethic

A letter of Recommendation is awarded to a student who has made the Work Ethic List of Distinction in Academy courses. (20 credits)

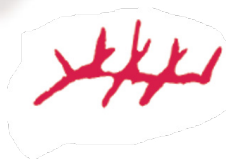
Honour Roll

A certificate is presented to a student who has achieved Honour Roll in all Academy courses. (excluding final exams totaling 20 credits)



ACADEMY OF INDIGENOUS STUDIES

							Credits
Grade 10	Intro to Okanagan Language	Leadership	R' Native Voice	English 10 First Peoples			Possible 16
Grade 11	Okanagan Language 11	Leadership	R' Native Voice	English 11 First Peoples	First Nations Studies 12	First Nations Art Studio	Possible 24
Grade 12	Okanagan Language 11	Leadership	R' Native Voice	English 12 First Peoples	First Nations Studies 12	First Nations Art Studio	Possible 24

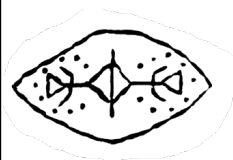


Principals List

A medallion is presented to a student who has achieved Honour Roll in each of the Academy courses. (20 credits)

Award of Excellence

An honour drum is awarded to a student who has achieved a 4.0 GPA in Academy courses. (20 credits)



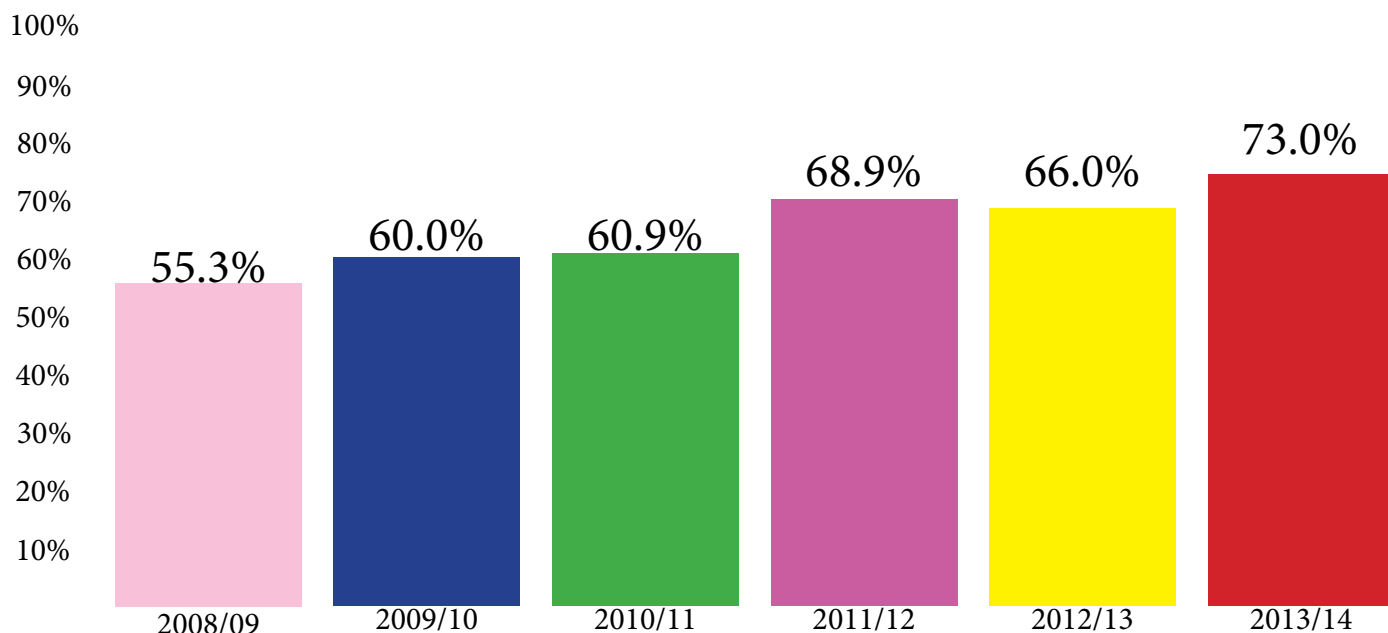
The Academy of Indigenous Studies is a full 30 credit program that can be taken by all secondary students throughout grades 10-12. While a broad focus of British Columbia First Nations culture is examined, students will experience a more holistic approach with the local Okanagan culture. Students will participate in authentic, hands-on Aboriginal activities aimed at enriching their understanding of the local culture while making a positive contribution to the community. This is a unique and innovative opportunity for students to gain a greater sense of how their interaction with local First Nation culture has an effect on future generations of British Columbians.





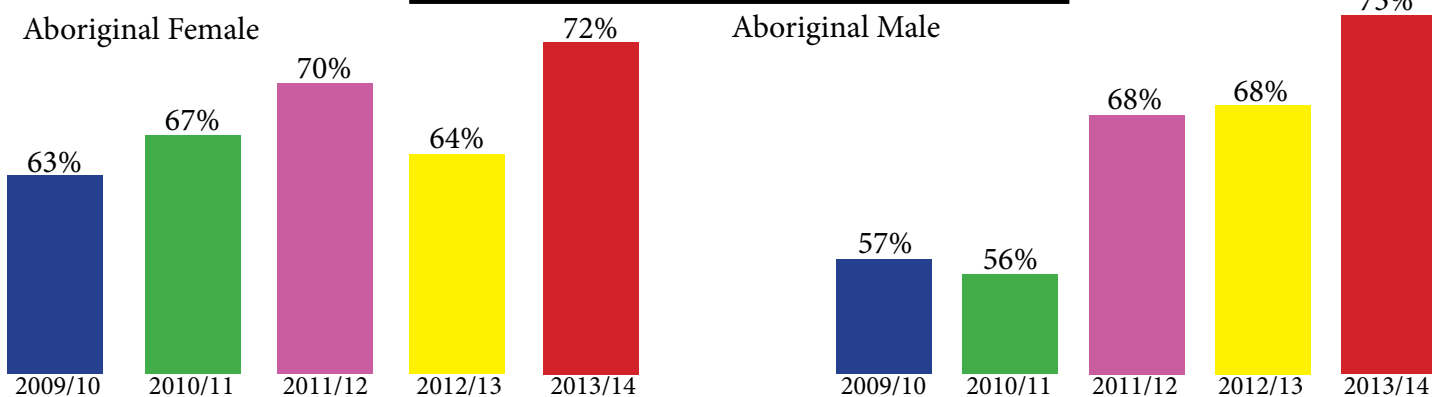
ABORIGINAL STUDENTS WILL ACHIEVE HIGH ACADEMIC STANDARDS FROM K-12

CENTRAL OKANAGAN SCHOOL DISTRICT SIX-YEAR COMPLETION RATE FOR ABORIGINAL STUDENTS



The School District has continued to focus on meeting the goals of the Enhancement Agreement and this has had a positive impact on our Six-Year Completion Rate. This year we have news worth celebrating! The 2013/2014 Ministry reporting for Aboriginal Students highlights the significant increase in our six year graduation rate and this marks a milestone achievement in the Central Okanagan School District. With our new graduation rate at 73%, we recognize the significant support of our District's Aboriginal Program staff, administrators, teachers, support staff, parents, and communities who have all contributed to the success of our Aboriginal students. Much work is yet to be done as we strive to reach our target of 90%.

Six-Year Completion Rate: Aboriginal by Gender



WE BELIEVE STUDENTS MEETING AND/OR EXCEEDING GRADE LEVEL EXPECTATIONS IN READING, WRITING, AND NUMERACY WILL GRADUATE WITH A DOGWOOD CERTIFICATE AND BE FULLY PREPARED FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION.

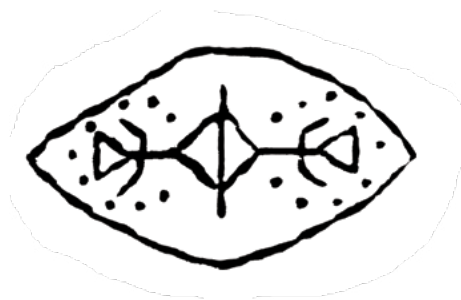
INTERVENTIONS AND PROGRAMS

The following interventions and programs have been implemented to increase the number of Aboriginal students successfully transitioning and obtaining Academic Grade Readiness. For Academic Grade Readiness, students must complete all five of their core courses, Mathematics, Social Studies, English, Science and Physical Education. We continue to provide additional supports for our at-risk students and those working below grade level.

- Ongoing Advocate support at all school levels (K-12)
- Dedicated teacher tutorial support at all secondary and the middle school
- Academic support at all elementary schools with our Aboriginal Student Advocates continuing to receive training in direct early learning intervention and ways to support our struggling learners in the classroom
- Implementation and expansion of Indigenous curriculum (K-12) including land-based learning, and partnerships with the Kelowna Art Gallery, and the Westbank First Nation sncəwips Heritage Museum.
- Continuation of Girl Power, Teen Groups, the Ambassador Paddling Team, and Middle School Leadership Groups
- Continued implementation of the Academy of Indigenous Studies at Mount Boucherie Secondary School
- Continuation of culturally appropriate transition events for our grade 6, grade 9 and grade 12 Aboriginal students
- Continued partnership with the University of British Columbia and Okanagan College to support transitioning into post secondary studies
- Ongoing grade-specific Cultural gatherings which include two grade 12 grad retreats
- Coordination and implementation of Indigenous curriculum (K-12) by the District Resource Teacher
- Ongoing Okanagan language teaching (K-12) by the District's Okanagan Language Instructor and Teacher



Phoenix Prince and Jayda Setah at the Aboriginal Graduation



Northern Tribes Drum Group performing at the Aboriginal Graduation





PHYSICAL GOAL

We know that...

Aboriginal Education Program staff provide opportunities for students to receive healthy snacks, breakfast and lunches each day at school. Promotion of making healthy choices and living a healthy lifestyle is emphasized. Aboriginal Student Advocates also assist many families to access the local food bank and may also provide families with food hampers.



Our students learn from the land.

We have seen an increase in participation in physical activity including more Aboriginal students involved in team sports in and out of school. Participation on school teams and traditional cultural activities were encouraged to increase participation in physical activity. Participation will be tracked over the course of the 2014/2015 school year.



Our students learn from the land while they explore pictographs around the lake.



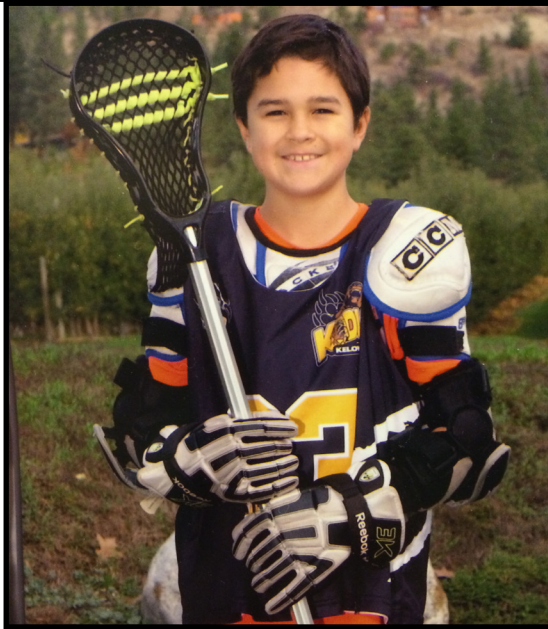
Our students learn from the land by picking bitter root and understand its medicine.



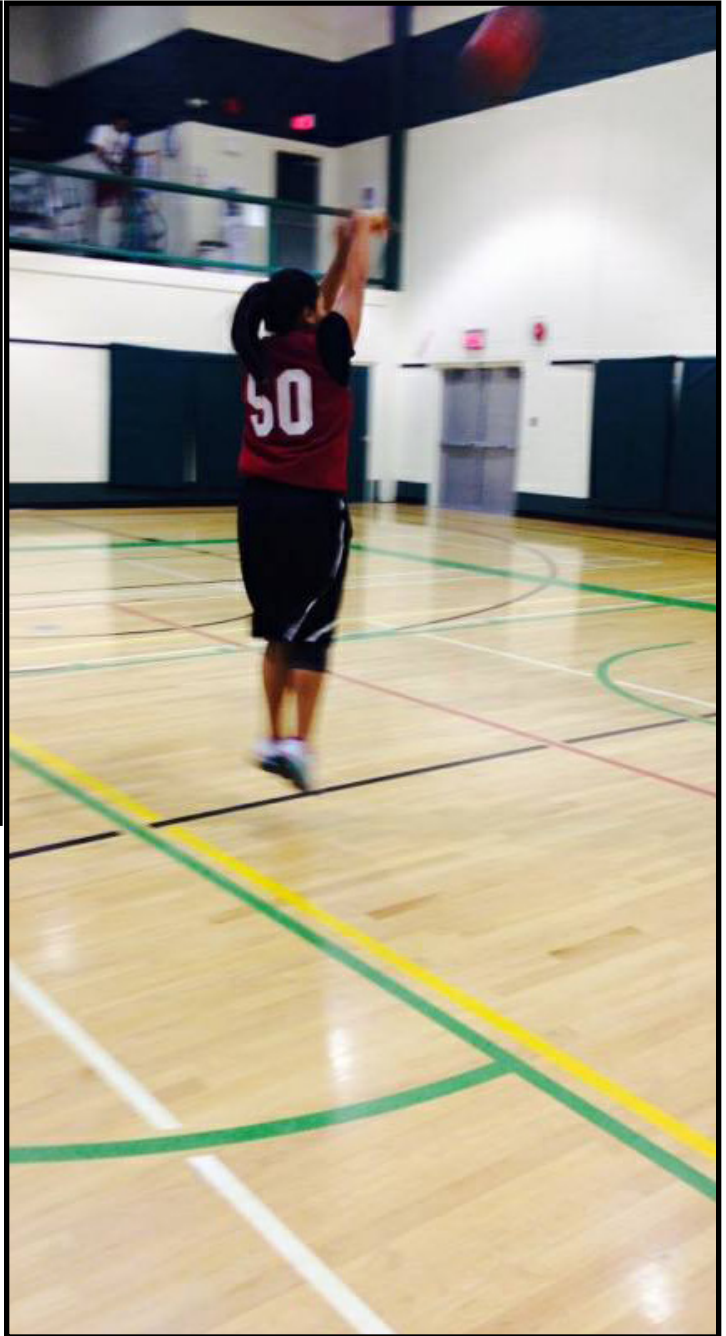
ABORIGINAL STUDENTS WILL MAKE HEALTHY CHOICES THAT WILL ENHANCE THEIR PHYSICAL WELL-BEING



Students take part in a traditional Double Ball game



Kodiak Lacrosse player, Noah Kaiser



Grade 6 student Pheonix Prince hitting a jump shot while showcasing her basketball skills



ABORIGINAL AMBASSADOR PADDLING TEAM



In the fall of 2013, the Aboriginal Education Program formed a Leadership Paddling Team comprised of students from middle and secondary schools. With our RCMP partners, Rohel Williams and Stan Walstrom, the students were able to learn the appropriate skills to begin paddling on Okanagan Lake. Our student leaders met once or twice a month after school, for sessions on the water as well as indoors. Throughout the year, the students learned bannock making, the medicine wheel teachings, drum making and songs. As well, they led a variety of presentations within the District and provincially at the Gathering of Our Voices Conference in Vancouver, B.C.

GATHERING OUR VOICES CONFERENCE - Students empowered!



Opening workshop with the Okanagan Song.



Student Ambassadors led a sharing circle at the end of the workshop.



Team Building Game.

It is truly amazing to see our students flourish when given opportunity, encouragement, and recognition.





CELEBRATION OF OUR SECOND ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT AGREEMENT

Many gathered at the Sensisyusten House of Learning School on January 15, 2014 to witness the signing of the Central Okanagan School District's second Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement. This five-year agreement is a commitment with our School District, the local Aboriginal communities, and the Ministry of Education to work together to support Aboriginal learners.



The colourful event began with Aboriginal Student Ambassadors entering the celebration with the Aboriginal Education's Unity and Eagle staffs. Also featured were student performances, including songs in the Okanagan (Nsyilxcen) language and a cultural Friendship dance was performed after representatives of the British Columbia Ministry of Education, School District and Aboriginal Education Council signed the agreement.



Much progress has been made since the first Enhancement Agreement was signed. There is more work ahead to reach our new targets set out for the next five years.





ABORIGINAL GRADUATION RETREAT

Annual Graduation Retreats

On November 1, 2013 and February 27, 2014 we celebrated two all day sessions with our graduates. Both events took place at Green Bay Camp and were a great success with a record number of graduates attending each session.



At the November event, we were honoured to invite Jacob Pratt, former graduate of Mount Boucherie Secondary School, who shared his life experiences after graduation. Jacob is a Men's Traditional Dancer, Hoop Dancer, and plays the Native American Flute. He is the founder of the WAMBDI Dance Company. Jacob's speech was inspirational as he shared his story. Jacob's hoop dancing was interactive and our students were able to learn some great hoop dancing moves.



In February, we gathered once again for a drum making workshop. The students worked alongside Emery and Bill Robins, Marlene Squakin and the Aboriginal Education staff to learn about drum protocols. The teachings included caring for the drum along with self-care. It was a great day and students left with a sense of pride and commitment to continuing their personal journey of learning their history, traditions and culture.





COMMENTS FROM THE ABORIGINAL EDUCATION COUNCIL CHAIR



Message from Chris Derickson, Councillor, Westbank First Nation and Chairperson of the Aboriginal Education Council

This has been an exciting year for our Central Okanagan Aboriginal Students, and the Aboriginal Education Council (AEC). We witnessed the signing of a new Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement that will build on the accomplishments from the first Enhancement Agreement, which has contributed to substantial improvements in our graduation rates. The AEC is proud of all the accomplishments and recognizes there is work left to do to meet the overall goal of a 90% graduation rate. We are committed to working with the Central Okanagan School District and our partners to continue to improve graduation rates, create and implement culturally relevant programming, and enhance the educational experience of our students. The future looks bright for our students and the Aboriginal Education Program. We are honoured to be a part of the journey.

Aboriginal Education Council

Moyra Baxter	Chairperson, Board of Education, Central Okanagan School District
Terry Beaudry	Assistant Superintendent, Central Okanagan School District
Ann Bell	Project Director, Lake Country Native Association
Deb Butler	Board of Education, Central Okanagan School District
Denise Clough	Education Coordinator, Westbank First Nation
James Coble	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Kevin Cutting	Kelowna Métis Association
Joanne De Guevara	District Principal of Aboriginal Education, Central Okanagan School District
Raf De Guevara	Westbank First Nation
Chris Derickson	Councillor, Westbank First Nation
Delphine Derickson	Elder Westbank First Nation
Roberta Robin Dods	Board Member Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society
Hugh Gloster	Superintendent, Central Okanagan School District
Allen Louis	Councillor, Okanagan Indian Band
Margaret Morton	Parent Representative, Aboriginal Parent and Family Education Council
Michelle Price	Parent Representative, Aboriginal Parent and Family Education Council
Val Richards	Kelowna Métis Association
Edna Terbasket	Executive Director, Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society
Joyce Brinkerhoff	Board of Education, Central Okanagan School District (Alternate)
Julia Fraser	Board of Education, Central Okanagan School District (Alternate)





ABORIGINAL EDUCATION PHOTO GALLERY

"TOGETHER, WE EMPOWER ABORIGINAL STUDENTS OF ALL NATIONS"



Students singing the Okanagan Song



Powwow dancers



Siya Celebration at Sensisysten



Primary Winter Gathering



Kelowna Art Gallery Project



WFN Career Fair



Stick Games - Grade 8 Gathering



Siya Celebration



Kelowna Museum Program



Grade Seven Gathering



Jill Setah and family at the Aboriginal Graduation Ceremony



7 GENERATIONS STATUE

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SURVIVORS MONUMENT



The 7 Generations Statue / Residential School Survivor monument was commissioned by the Elders committee of Westbank First Nation to be a commemoration for residential school survivors, dedicated to the survivors themselves, but also includes each and every First Nation and Métis person past, present, and future. The statue depicts the images of 7 different people representing 7 generations with the Elder as the focal point as a symbol of our traditional knowledge system and the passing of knowledge from generation to generation. The figures are positioned on top of a drum, the heartbeat of our lives and symbol of resiliency.

“ Limləmt, (Thank you) to Westbank First Nation Elders for permission to use this beautiful watermark “



*Access our Second Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement, Annual Reports,
and our most recent “How Are We Doing Report” on our website at
<http://www.sd23.bc.ca/ProgramsServices/AboriginalEducation>*