

Tepachemoona Newsletter



Celebrating Academic Success at Deer Lake First Nation School

Congratulations to the graduating class from Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School.

During the 2015-2016 school year, staff at Deer Lake First Nation School created an honour roll to recognize Intermediate students who achieved an 80 per cent average or higher by the end of the year.

The honour roll program was advertised to students in grades 7, 8 and 9. That year, 12 students received recognition for their achievement. In acknowledgement of their efforts, they received a certificate, a gift card to The Northern and were invited to a sit down dinner, served by their teachers. The students' names were also added to a plaque which is featured prominently in the school.

As the current school year comes to an end, we look forward to adding additional names to the plaque for the 2016-2017 school year.

Submitted By: Nikki Osborne
Gr. 7 Teacher, DLFNS



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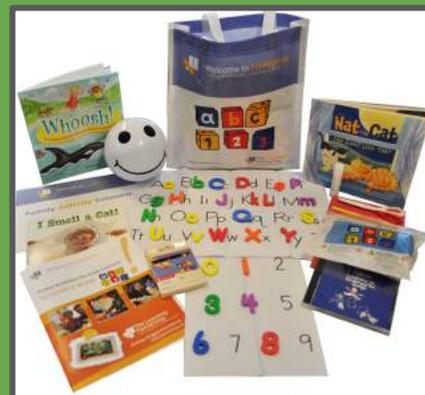
Welcome to Kindergarten

On May 31st, children, parents, school staff, and KOBE staff participated in the Welcome to Kindergarten event in Fort Severn. Wasaho Cree Nation school provided an introductory event for incoming Kindergarten students to a group of excited children.

Each year KOBE works with The Learning Partnership to support incoming Kindergarten students. In June, schools are encouraged to host a Welcome to Kindergarten event where parents, teachers, future students, and other community members participate in literacy-rich activities. These activities are designed to help future Kindergarten students adjust to the types of activities they will be doing in September.

As part of the Welcome to Kindergarten event, each child receives a take home kit with four books, family activities, magnetic letters and numbers, scissors, pencil, glue, crayons, and the an activity ball.

Submitted by: Jonathan Woolley
FNSSP Coordinator, KOBE





Photos from a recent musical event which took place in the outdoor structure at Victoria Linklater Memorial School in North Spirit Lake.

KOBE Career Fair

In collaboration with KOBE, Connected North was able to support a Career Day on May 17th that invited students to explore future pathways and career development. Grade 7/8 students from Ahgwahbuush Memorial School, Deer Lake First Nation School, Keewaywin First Nation School, Victoria Linklater Memorial School, and Wasaho Cree Nation School connected via videoconference to meet career role models from a variety of fields.

The Career Fair opened with a message to the students from the Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde, who said in his address to the students, *“It is up to you to explore your passions and dreams. Know that you are not alone; there are excellent programs and trusted individuals that will help [in] the transition from elementary school to high school where you can get a better understanding of what you want to create for your future and that’s what it is all about ... if you can dream it, it can happen.”*

The students from the five communities viewed videos from the business, education, forestry, health, mining, and public service sectors. They learned about job entry requirements such as education requirements and if any specific volunteer time would benefit their chances of gaining a job in their field of interest. Following the event, teachers said their students liked hearing about the different career paths that are available to them, both in their home communities and abroad.

Students and teachers learned outside of their classroom walls through virtual field trips and sessions with guest speakers from other parts of Canada and the world. The program is led by TakingITGlobal and other partners dedicated to promoting student engagement and empowerment for Indigenous students.”

Submitted by: Tom Doherty
Student Retention Lead, KOBE

Attendance Award

Congratulations to Ahgwahbuush Memorial School for having the best attendance from March to June 2017. The school will be receiving \$500 in gift cards to put towards your school library.

It was a close race between Poplar Hill and Deer Lake with only 1.27% difference. We would like to congratulate all staff in each of the schools for engaging and encouraging the students to attend school.



OAME Conference

Teachers from four communities had the pleasure of attending the OAME (Ontario Association for Mathematics Education) Conference in Kingston on May 11 -13.

Sessions included topics such as “Coding 101:

Robotics for Beginners”, “Developing Spatial Reasoning Through Guided Play”, and “Spiralling and Inquiry in the Primary Classroom”. Keynote speakers included Dan Meyer “Full Stack Lessons” and Gail Vaz Oxlade “How Money Smart Are YOU?”.

It was an excellent conference; the teachers learned valuable math strategies to implement in their classrooms and share with their colleagues.

All teachers who attended the conference would **highly** recommend this conference again for next year!



Submitted by: Rose Kakekagumick
Literacy and Numeracy Lead, KOBE

Conference Attendees: (left to right) Monika Batta (North Spirit Lake), Sigrid Neuland (Poplar Hill), Rose Kakekagumick (KOBE), Myles Ryan (DLFNS) and Gloria Kakekapetum (Keewaywin).

Principals Meeting

Our journey in education is never over and the recent Principals Learning group is a prime example of this. For two days, the principals from each of the five KO schools shared ideas, explored the benefits of literacy programs, and provided feedback on school improvement plans.

Adrian Lawrence (Education Program Coordinator, North Spirit Lake) and Michael Boos (NAN/KPDSB School Support Program) presented on the School Improvement Planning for Victoria Linklater Memorial School. Adrian shared the importance of having measurable goals to improve school performance but more importantly student success.



The Martin Family Initiative (MFI) was also introduced to the participants. This is an Early Years project in partnership with Chief and Councils, MFI, Head Start, Health Canada, KOBE, and Victoria Linklater Memorial School. The project will determine culturally relevant screening tools to help the community by assisting children and their families identify any barriers before the children enter school.

These meetings are designed to allow collaboration with the five schools and provide principals with an avenue to support each other. With the support of Annette Berry (Early Literacy Lead, KOBE) and Liz Sidor (Education Partnership Liaison, KOBE), the principals were able to expand their knowledge and continue their learning. The importance of the early years was discussed and the principals reviewed Balanced Literacy in the primary classroom. This led to a discussion about the crucial component that Oral Language plays in literacy acquisition. Participants were informed of the upcoming Reading Intervention Teachers model that the Chief and Councils approved for the 2017-2018 school year. This is one step closer to providing the support that our communities need so our students will continue to meet with academic success.

Future meetings will be planned to continue this collaborative approach and continue to build capacity amongst the five KO schools.

EQAO Completion

Congratulations to all the grade 3, 6 and 9 students who recently completed their EQAO testing. During the testing period, KOBE staff visited the schools and provided support to staff and students along with snacks and prizes for the students.

After completing the test, students enjoyed a pizza party to celebrate their accomplishments.



*Wasaho Cree Nation School Staff post
EQAO Testing*

New Teacher Induction Program Success

Earlier this year, Keewatin Patricia District School Board (KPDSB) and KOBE signed a Memorandum of Agreement to partner in educational programming in a variety of areas, such as the New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP).

Thirty-two educators within KOBE were partnered with a KPDSB teacher mentor to complete the program. The program involved professional development opportunities in the areas of board and school orientation, assessment, and examining professional policies, like the Growing Success document. KPDSB teacher mentors also participated in learning in the KO community schools and KOBE educators also had the chance to visit their mentor in their respective school locations.

This program supports professional relationship-building and helps remove many unknowns for teachers that may be new to the works of teaching. It also provides opportunities for sharing ideas about how to better support learning for all students. The KO communities have told KOBE they would like more training and professional development for their children's teachers. The NTIP program is one example of KOBE responding to this request.

The success of this year's program is attributed to the support from the elementary school principals, KiHS and communities. Much effort was made to ensure participants could be co-learners with their mentors.

KPDSB senior management team also made every effort to ensure KOBE was able to deliver this training by providing administrative leadership through Tracy Lindstrom to guide the program delivery. KPDSB principals also ensured their teachers had release time to visit the communities in person, which was a fantastic way for their educators to increase their awareness and understanding of First Nations communities.

All NTIP participants will receive notation on their Ontario College of Teachers certificate and the possibility of being a mentor to a new teacher.

Meegwetch!

Desta Buswa



21st Century Technology



This year has been a big learning curve for many communities with new technology initiatives rolling out across the board. We have seen great success with many of these initiatives:

- 1:1 Chromebooks in Grades 3-9
- 1:5 iPads in K-3
- One 360 camera in each elementary school and high school
- Lego Robotics kits in Grade 8
- Software such as: Hapara Dashboard, Dreambox Learning, Sesame App, and Reading A-Z

Shout Out To Community Tech Leads

A big thank you goes out to the Tech Lead Teachers who have supported their colleagues in implementing the Chromebooks in their classroom. We have seen teachers use their excellent pedagogy combined with the technology to meet students needs.

- **North Spirit Lake:** Carley Whittle used Google Slides for developing success criteria alongside her students' work. She has also used Google for timely feedback on assignments in class.
- **Deer Lake:** Sara Turner taught her students how to use the Research tool in Google Docs to gather information for classroom projects.
- **Poplar Hill:** Melissa Major was a regular participant in the Cisco in the Classroom events. I recently observed her students learning how to write music with Waukaomaun Pawis from Connected North.
- **Keewaywin:** Christian Appoh used Dreambox Math as a part of his regular math program. His students used the program for approximately 60 minutes per week which allowed them to show a 17% growth in mathematical skills.
- **Fort Severn:** Joshua Miller was part of the Chromebook management pilot project. He gave valuable feedback on the two Chromebook management systems Go Guardian and Hapara Dashboard.

Thanks again technology leads, without your help in each community our initiatives would not have gone as smoothly. I am looking forward to working with you all again next year.

360 Camera Project

KOBE, KiHS, and K-Net launched the 360 Camera Project in May this year. 360 cameras were sent to all KiHS classrooms and all KOBE elementary schools. We did not receive many submissions due to a number of factors. I would like to acknowledge the two classes that submitted entries for the project: Ben Gallups' high school classroom in Keewaywin submitted three entries and Carley Whittle's Grade 5/6 class in North Spirit Lake also submitted three entries.

The contest deadline is extended to **December 15, 2017**. KOBE will be awarding both of the classrooms that submitted entries a \$150-valued piece of technology to support their classroom learning.

Submitted by: Katie Burch
21st Century Technology Lead, KOBE

Student Submission

Thank you to Ramzee Ostamas (Grade 8 student from Deer Lake First Nation School) for sharing his photography for our final issue of the 2016-2017 school year. If at any time you wish to submit art, photography, or writing for publication, please email it to jonathanwoolley@edu.knet.ca

