



Fall 2017

Tepachemoona Newsletter

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Student Photographer...pg. 8

Deer Lake First Nation School

Indigenous Artist Teaches Students in Deer Lake

Submitted by: Nikki Osborne
Grade 9 Teacher



Donald Chrétien works with Grade 9 student Daisy Meekis. At time of print, the students were preparing a large art display.

Indigenous artist Donald Chrétien was in Deer Lake from Oct. 22 to Nov. 4 to share his knowledge of woodland style art. Students learned both procedural techniques and the stories and history of the Ojibwe clans. Donald is best known for his artwork featured during the Vancouver Olympics. This opportunity for the students was made possible through a generous grant from the Ontario Arts Council.

Message from KOBE Director of Education



Booshoo everyone. As the fall sets in we realize how busy things have been in your communities and schools. It has been great to be back planning activities to support all the exciting work going on in your classrooms.

We started the school year with a meeting with many of your teachers and school staff at a summit in Thunder Bay where we saw some pretty neat activities around technology and programs. Hopefully you are seeing many new things in your school this year and there will be more to come.

We are excited about having all of the outdoor classroom structures up in each community. This will provide space and lots of opportunity for traditional activities and learning.

This year we are developing some new programs which should support students even more. One is the addition of a school Reading Intervention Teacher in each community which will help students acquire reading as early as possible. We are also developing a Mental Health/Wellness program which will provide opportunity for students who need that support.

We are looking forward to the many learning opportunities which will come as well as the opportunities to bring students together. We are deciding which community will host the Indigenous Games this year, so keep your eyes open for that!

The role of KOBE is to help "Move Education Forward" in our partner communities. We want to support the schools in whatever way we can. Please let us know your thoughts on how we are doing and feel free to offer suggestions for what additional ways we can help.

Have a great fall and enjoy those meals of moose meat if you were so lucky to get some!

Meegwetch!

Darrin Potter
Director of Education



KOBE Staff

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- Jonathan Woolley**
FNSSP Coordinator
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Numeracy Lead
- Melissa Major**
Student Retention Lead
- Sarah Johnson**
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- Katie Burch**
21st Century Technology Lead
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Technology Coordinator
- Nicole Robertson**
Mental Health/Wellness Coordinator
- Jill Woolley**
Special Education Consultant & Communications
- Nora Ignace**
Administrative Assistant
- Corrina Benson**
Receptionist
- Jean Kim**
Speech-Language Pathologist
- Sue Smetana**
Communicative Disorders Assistant
- Jasmin Thomson**
Communicative Disorders Assistant
- Ashley Anderson**
Martin Family Initiative Lead

KOBE

FIRST KOBE SUMMIT A HUGE SUCCESS

Submitted by: Jonathan Woolley
KOBE FNSSP Coordinator

On August 28th staff from all five of the KO schools gathered in Thunder Bay to participate in the first KOBE Summit.

The main goal of the Summit was to bring staff together from all the schools to share ideas and experiences.

Principals, teachers and Teaching Assistants participated in a full-day of Google training that saw them exploring the many opportunities the Google platform can provide for their students.

The following two days were led by KOBE staff. Participants worked in grade-specific groups where they could network and gather training resources for the grade levels they are teaching.

There were about 100 people that participated in a successful KOBE Summit.



Ahgwahbuush Memorial School

Learning to Snare Rabbits with Our Grade 7/8 Buddies

Submitted by: Debbie Kravis
SERT/Kindergarten Teacher



The Kindergarten Class at Ahgwahbuush Memorial School in Poplar Hill has been learning about snaring rabbits with their Grade 7/8 buddies. Andy Strang, a community member and Surbhi Pasquel the Kindergarten TA agreed to share their expertise and experience making rabbit snares.

They showed students how to twist the wire and attach it to the right sized stick. The older students helped their younger buddies to follow the steps.

Once the snares were built everyone headed out to the bush to set the snares. The students have returned regularly to their snares to check them and make repairs.

As of yet they have not caught a rabbit, but there has been evidence of close calls with fur nearby!



Ahgwahbuush Memorial School

We all Count. We all Matter.

Submitted by: Anne Andreasson
Grade 1/2 Teacher

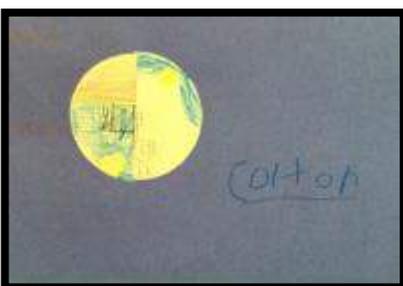
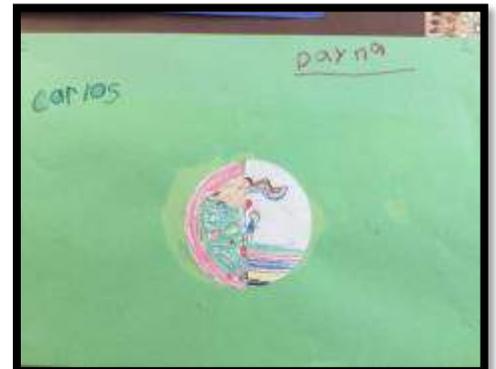
Anne is a Grade 1/2 teacher at Ahgwahbuush Memorial School in Poplar Hill First Nation. She submitted these photos of the work she and her students have done this fall.

We kicked off the year with “The Dot” by Peter H. Reynolds. This story reminds us that we each bring our own unique voice and contribution to our classroom community. We all count. We all matter.

Students made a drawing, cut it in half, and then gave half of it to someone else. We learned how we can be partners and that we all need to share our ideas.

“Ish”, also by Peter H. Reynolds, is a story that got us talking about how we need to encourage each other, especially when we are learning something new and we find it hard - at first.

We made speech and thinking bubbles to encourage positive peer interactions, and to develop positive self-talk.



Reading Intervention Teachers



Deana Meekis
Deer Lake



Madison Wagner
Fort Severn



Brenda Pascal
Keewaywin



Angela Fiorletta
North Spirit Lake

New for 2017-2018!

Reading Intervention Teachers

Submitted by: Annette Berry
KOBE Early Literacy Lead



Exciting things are happening!

KOBE has introduced this year a new school staff position: Reading Intervention Teachers! These teachers possess superhero powers of teaching children to read!

The Intervention team consists of: Deana Meekis (Deer Lake), Madison Wagner (Fort Severn), Brenda Pascal (Keewaywin), and Angela Fiorletta (North Spirit Lake).

The Reading Intervention Teacher's role in the school is to provide guided reading support to students in the Grade 1 or 2 classroom. Our intervention teachers work with the classroom teacher to ensure that all students in the Grade 1 or 2 classrooms receive **daily** Guided Reading. You read that right, **DAILY!**

The Reading Intervention Teacher then takes small groups of students (maximum three students) for the second round of Guided Reading and writing. Depending on the school, the teacher may also work with the Kindergarten teacher to provide daily oral language discussions with the students.

Intervention students are those that need some additional support to meet grade-level reading expectations. The program is not a Special Education program. It hopes to give students the skills they need to succeed.

With just a little bit of extra help, our students will be on their way to becoming confident and literate!

We have formed an incredible team, and I am looking forward to working with them over the 2017-2018 school year.

Ahgwahbuush Memorial School

Connected North Storytime in the 21st Century

Submitted by: Debbie Kravis
SERT/Kindergarten Teacher



The Kindergarten and Grade 1 class at Ahgwahbuush Memorial School in Poplar Hill have launched their first Connected North Session with Waukomaun Pawis of Taking it Global. The students were thrilled to meet him and experience Google Earth and the distance that separates us. Wauk shared his favourite book with the students: “One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish” by Dr. Suess. The students made fish bowls, complete with a red and blue fish, to show their appreciation to Wauk! It was an engaging and fun hour of learning.



Attendance Awards

KOBE will be having its Attendance Award Program again this year for our five KOBE schools. There will be three chances for your school to be awarded \$500 in gift cards. Each award will focus on different aspects of your school's attendance.

1st Award Period

December – The school with the best attendance up to December 2017

2nd Award Period

March – The school with the most improved attendance record from December 2017 to March 2018

3rd Award Period

June – The school with the best overall attendance from September 2017 to June 2018

CONGRATULATIONS

**Ahgwahbuush Memorial
School**

They are the recipients of the June 2017 award. The school purchased \$500 in classroom supplies and educational resources.

Profile of a Speech-Language Assistant (SLA)

Benji Owen

Submitted by: Jasmin Thomson
KOBÉ Communicative Disorders Assistant

Berensily (Benji) Owen is from Poplar Hill First Nation. This is his second year working as a Speech-Language Assistant (SLA) at Ahgwahbuush Memorial School.

In his spare time, Benji can be found at the gym or playing sports both indoors and outdoors. "Also I do a lot of sports for the youth," says Benji.

Debbie Kravis, Ahgwahbuush's Special Education Resource Teacher, works with Benji to make Speech and Language Therapy possible. "It has been such a pleasure getting to know Benji," said Debbie. "He is a real team-player, always willing to share his ideas and ensure that he meets his commitments. We are lucky to have such a dedicated staff member that will truly benefit the students he works with."

The KOBÉ Speech and Language Team asked Benji to share more about his role and his experiences as a Speech-Language Assistant.

Q: Can you describe the work you do with the students at Poplar Hill?

A (Benji): *I work with students that have speech delays/disorders, including articulation and motor speech, language delays/disorders, expression and comprehension in oral and non-verbal contexts. We try to work in all areas where each student needs help.*

Q: What is the most challenging part of being a Speech-Language Assistant?

A: *The most challenging for me is getting the students comfortable with me because some students are really shy and it's harder to get them engaged. Also keeping the older students interested and excited to come to speech therapy.*



Benji uses games and activities to work with students between therapy sessions.

Q: What do you enjoy the most about being a Speech-Language Assistant?

A: *Working with the kids. I wasn't sure what to expect when I started working as a SLA but I'm glad to be here working with them because they brighten up my day and it's a lot of fun.*

Q: What makes SLAs so important to the KOBÉ schools?

A: *We are here working with the students full time and trying everything we can to improve speech and language. Everything is on us to help these students.*

The KOBÉ Speech & Language Therapy team would like to commend Benji on the initiative and enthusiasm he has shown in his role as an SLA. We are grateful for his work and wish him success in the 2017-2018 school year.



Benji uses video conference during a therapy session.

Student Profile:

Ramzee Ostamas: Student Photographer



Deer Lake First Nation School Grade 9 student Ramzee Ostamas has been taking photos for the past two years. Five of his photos were printed in the June issue of Tepachemoona. "I was proud to see my pictures published," he said in an interview on Oct. 15.

Ramzee says he started taking photos with his phone. Recently, a family friend gave him a Canon Rebel DSLR camera. For those who aren't familiar with photography, that's a great camera!

"I take pictures to get out of the house more," Ramzee said. He likes taking pictures of nature because it looks nice. "Everything has its own colour and pattern."

Ramzee says he watches YouTube videos to learn new techniques. He is also teaching himself to use editing software to achieve new lighting and special effects.

Over the summer, he started a Facebook page where he shares his photos with his followers. Check out this talented photographer:

Ramzee Ostamas Photography

**Do you want to see
your school news
here?**

**Please submit photos and
articles to:**

jillwoolley@edu.knet.ca

**Send your
submissions by:**

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