

January 2007

Aboriginal Education

SD 79/250-748-0321



Pune'q 2007

The time when the snow is waist deep



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We're on the Web!

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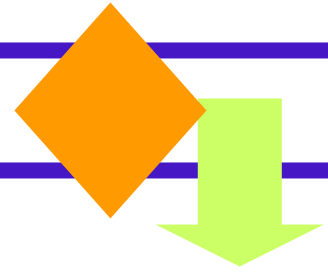
Cowichan Aboriginal Film Festival

This year the Cowichan Aboriginal Film Festival will take place in Duncan on **April 26th, 27th, 28th**. The Festival will feature films by Aboriginal people and, like last year, a category for student films. If you or your students would like to enter a film in the festival, please use the application form inserted in this newsletter or contact Film Cowichan or the Aboriginal Education Department.

Remember, entries must be in by March 16 by 4 pm.



The Aboriginal Education Department has a mini workshop available for your school on using lahal (bone game) and how it can be integrated into your elementary school curriculum. For more information contact Debbie Paige at extension 241.



About our Department

The Aboriginal Education Department is committed to supporting the goals of the Enhancement Agreement.

These goals are:

- Increasing the presence of Aboriginal culture, language, and history in schools for all students
- Increasing access to and skill level in the use of technology for Aboriginal students
- Increasing attendance
- Increasing academic achievement for Aboriginal students
- Increasing academic preparedness of Aboriginal students

For more information on the Enhancement Agreement, please contact the Aboriginal Education Department.

Integrating Aboriginal Content

Many schools have taken advantage of funding from the Aboriginal Education Department to bring in Aboriginal experts to share their knowledge with students. Quamichan, Koksilah, Chemainus Alternate and Cobble Hill are a few of the schools that have brought in carvers, Elders, and artists. Teachers are then able to integrate what has been shared into the learning outcomes for the course. If you are interested in accessing funding for your school to integrate Aboriginal content, contact the Aboriginal Education Department. Be aware, though, that community Aboriginal experts are in demand and may not always be available.

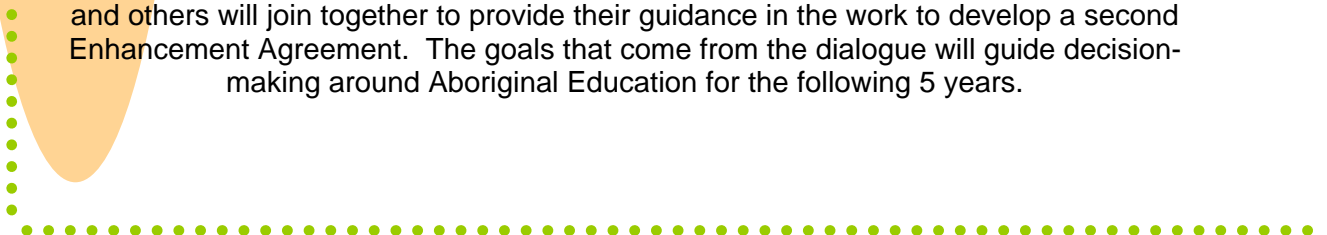
Imagination Education

Imagination Education is a teaching style that incorporates a variety of experiential learning into the curriculum. It is also part of a large scale research project (LUCID) that is indicating increased success rates for Aboriginal students in Haida Gwaii, Prince Rupert, and Chilliwack School Districts. LUCID stands for Learning for Understanding through Culturally inclusive Imaginative Development. Log onto their site and check out some of their sample LUCID units.

www.ierg.net/LUCID/

Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement

The Aboriginal Education Department is currently leading the conversation around the question "What does success look like for Aboriginal students?". At a forum held in late November, stakeholders came together at Quamichan to provide their thoughts. Over the next few months teachers, students, parents, support staff, trustees, administrators and others will join together to provide their guidance in the work to develop a second Enhancement Agreement. The goals that come from the dialogue will guide decision-making around Aboriginal Education for the following 5 years.



Aboriginal Parent Group Meetings

Parental involvement is crucial to student success whether you are parents, guardians, aunts/uncles, grandparents, or siblings. Regardless of what school your child(ren) attend you are welcome.

Join us every second Wednesday of the month
6:30 pm. - 5400 Khowutzun Crescent
(Deb & John Paige residence).

Bring a friend and or relative.

February 14
April 11
June 13

March 14
May 9

If you would prefer a one on one meeting call Debbie at 748-8594 (home) or 748-0321 ext 241 (work) to make arrangements.

HOMEWORK TIP FOR PARENTS:

When your child does homework, you do homework. Show your child that the skills they are learning are related to things you do as an adult. If your child is reading, you read too. If your child is doing math, balance your checkbook.



Aboriginal Student Graduation and Transition Rates Up

Over the past five years, Aboriginal students have graduated with a dogwood certificate at an increasing rate. In 2001, when the first Enhancement Agreement was signed, the completion rate for Aboriginal students in our School District was 22%. Last year, this had risen to 39%. That Aboriginal students are staying in school longer and being more successful is a credit to all of the hard work by our school staff and families. For more data on Aboriginal student success contact the Aboriginal Education Department for a copy of "How Are We Doing? Demographics and Performance of Aboriginal Students in the BC Public School System."





**Aboriginal Curriculum
Integration Project**

The New Year has to date been busy and productive for the Aboriginal Curriculum Integration Project (ACIP) team that consists of Ted Cadwallader, , and Norm Thorne. We have enjoyed the opportunity of working with local NITEP students and SFU instructor on loan to the NITEP program, to produce science related multi media lesson plans. Grant and Norm have also recently worked in collaboration with SD 79 math teacher Sandy McKay and SD 79 science teachers Chris Carlin, Allison Dunn, Bal Irvine and Susan Mayner to produce further multi media lesson plans.

Upcoming ACI project presentations will be conducted in Howe Sound District 48 as part of the Coast/Metro regional meeting, Malaspina-University College (Nanaimo campus), School District 52 (Prince Rupert) and New Westminister of School District # 40.

ACIP's in progress website now stores several Aboriginal student athlete profiles. These profiles highlight Aboriginal students from throughout the province who or may participate in the upcoming 2008 North American Indigenous Games.

To view these students Athlete and lesson development samples go to www.sd79.bc.ca/programs/abed,abed.htm and click on "ACI Project".

Aboriginal Fiction Unit Offered by Open School BC

Open School BC is offering an Aboriginal Fiction unit that features contemporary Aboriginal authors and the novel "Keeper and Me" by Richard Wagamese. It is created for the on-line environment and is suitable for any senior English course in whole or part as a short story or novel study. The Aboriginal Fiction unit is also available as a stand alone CD or as a School Server version.

Check out the Features Page <http://www.openschool.bc.ca/features/> for more information.