

June, 2007

Aboriginal Education

SD 79/250-748-0321



Thank You!

This school year has been a very exciting, challenging time for all of us and the Aboriginal Education Department dedicates this issue to all of the people who went out of their way to make a difference for Aboriginal students.

In all schools across the district and in communities, there have been examples of outstanding effort and “going the extra mile”

with students at the centre of the efforts.

With that in mind, we raise our hands in thanks to everyone who reached out to be there, to be the person who made a difference in a student’s life this year.

Huy Tseep Qu

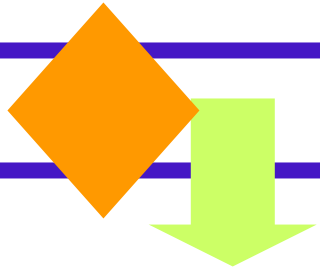
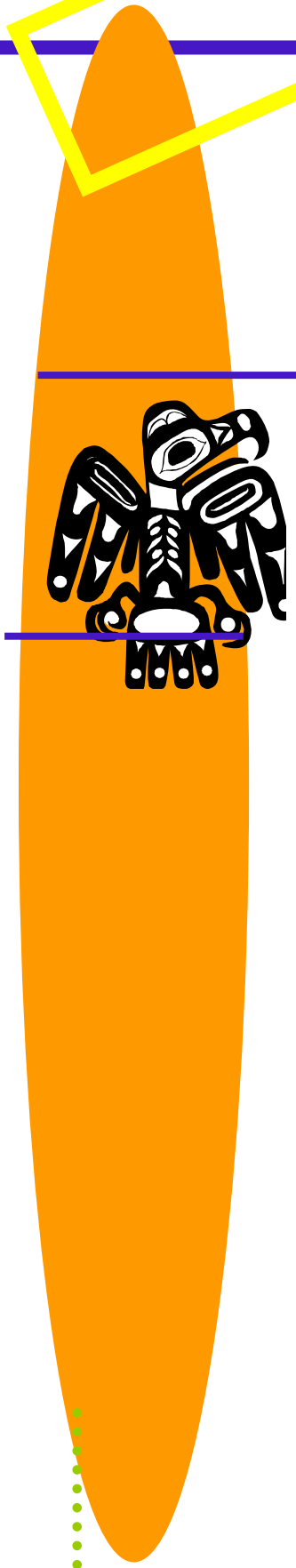
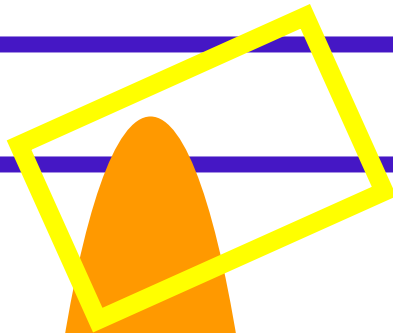
Our Students

Our Aboriginal students continue to meet with more and more success as they move on their educational journey. With the work done to integrate Aboriginal content and experiences into the life of our schools and the extra support for academic growth, our students are more likely today to find schools to be a successful, nurturing place than at any other time in history.

With this in mind, we give thanks to our

students who come to school every day and do their very best.





Thanks to the Board Office Squad

For many of the events that happen across the district to support Aboriginal students, an often unnoticed part of making things run smoothly is the team at the Board Office. This includes all of the clerical support squad who rarely get to be part of the events like the language sputtitul or the canoe races or the totem pole unveiling but they are integral to all of these unfolding properly and on time. When a cement pad is needed quickly or a delivery has to happen or tables and chairs are needed for a community forum, the maintenance department has

always been there to make things happen. Emergency reports or information requests are always met with a friendly smile and extra effort. From staffing to literacy to student support services, we raise our hands in thanks for all of the behind-the-scenes heroes.

Aboriginal Student Support Workers and Cultural Teaching Assistants

Our Aboriginal Student Support Workers and Cultural Teaching Assistants are the connection our schools have with the local community. They bring the cultural depth that our students need to be successful as Aboriginal students. For all their work this year in arranging cultural events, bringing language lessons to the next generation, supporting academic

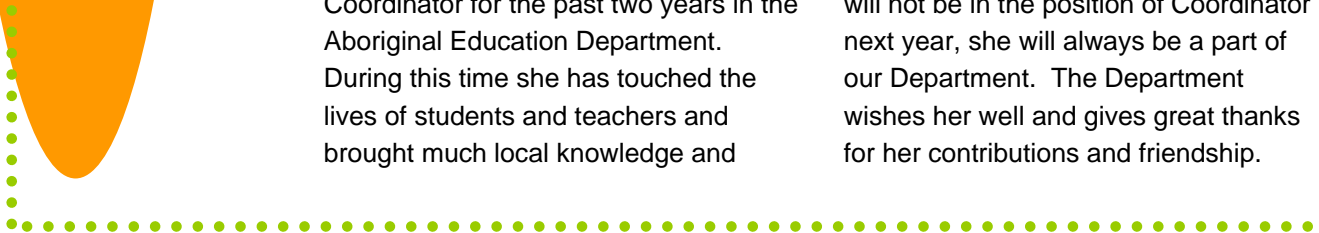
improvement and being a supporting blanket for all of our students, we give a large huy tseep qu!

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Alison George | Alice Jimmy |
| Julie Rice-Wyse | Jennifer Wyse |
| Claudia Sylvester | Terry Daniels |
| Dolly Sylvester | Deb George |
| Ken Savard | Paula Charlie |
| Chuck Seymour | Stella Johnson |
| Bobbie Gabriel | Stuart Pagaduan |
| Darlene Sylvester | Carol Louie |

Debbie Paige

Debbie Paige has been the Curriculum Coordinator for the past two years in the Aboriginal Education Department. During this time she has touched the lives of students and teachers and brought much local knowledge and

culture into our schools. Though Debbie will not be in the position of Coordinator next year, she will always be a part of our Department. The Department wishes her well and gives great thanks for her contributions and friendship.



School Events

Many schools took advantage this year of the funding available to bring Aboriginal experts into schools to work with students. A Cultural Awareness event took place in Chemainus Elementary where students had a full experience of the diversity and rich heritage of the First Nations on Vancouver Island.

At Quamichan, students celebrated their year with races in Cowichan war canoes on Quamichan Lake.

At Cowichan Secondary, students organized and staged a fashion show featuring outfits with Aboriginal designs.

At Palsson, students and staff worked with Stella Johnson to integrate Métis content into their curriculum.

At Frances Kelsey, students and staff worked with Jacob Joe to carve a totem pole that now sits proudly at the entrance to the school.

Cowichan Valley Open Learning Coop (CVOLC) students worked with Norm Thorne and Grant Mellemstrand to produce a film that was entered in the Aboriginal Student Film Festival and won the coveted Boudreau Award.

These are just a few of the rich experiences that staff at our schools organized for all students. It is through such experiences that students learn about each other and appreciate the similarities and differences that make our valley a better place to live.

The Aboriginal Education Department gives a great thanks to all of the people who made these learning experiences part of the learning journey for all of our students.

Aboriginal Education 2007-08

The Aboriginal Education Department will be going through some changes next year with some staffing changes. The Department welcomes Heather Smith, Julie Smith and Corrine Symes. These three teachers will be assigned to support Aboriginal student achievement at Koksilah, Khowhemun and Alexander Elementary Schools respectively next year.

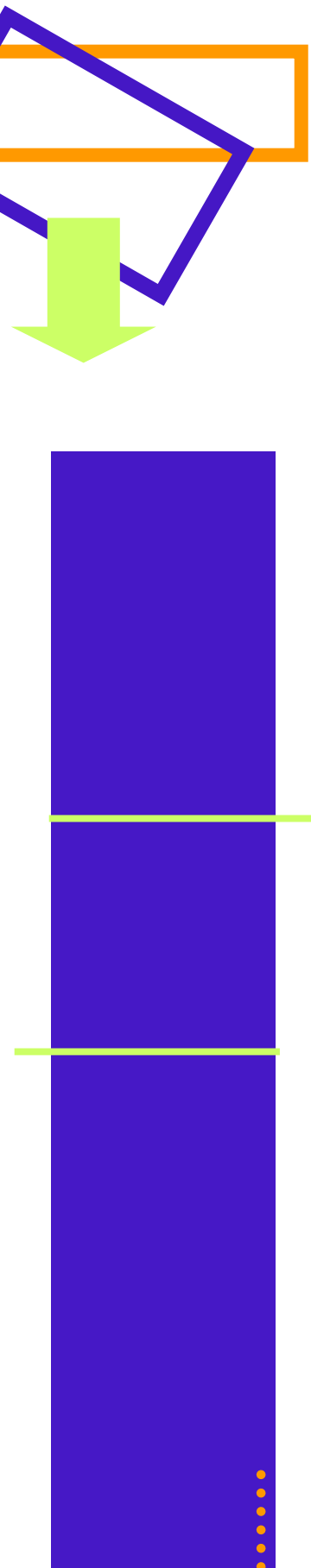
The Department also welcomes Francine Johnny and Greg Wall. These teachers will be assigned to Cowichan and Chemainus Secondary respectively

beginning in September.

At press time, there remained a .438 position at CVOLC that had not yet been filled.

Last but not least, the Department welcomes Fred Wilson as Curriculum Coordinator.

We are all looking forward to next year and continuing to make a difference for our students.






SD 79



ACIP Team

During the past year, the Aboriginal Curriculum Integration Project team, consisting of **Norm Thorne and Grant Mellemstrand**, has coordinated a province wide project of considerable scale. All of their hard work has resulted in the development of a website that uses multimedia to integrate Aboriginal knowledge into the **Grade 7-9 curriculum**. This project will unfold next year with the inclusion of material that

profiles the North American Indigenous Games. Norm and Grant have begun work on developing a mini-Indigenous Games unit that will be available for download to all schools in the province. At this time the team would like to thank all of the teachers and Aboriginal experts who have given of their time and expertise to develop this one-of-a-kind project. For more go to www.sd79.bc.ca/programs/abed/ACIP/acip_index.html



SD 79
2557 Beverly Street
Duncan BC
V9L 2X3

Phone:
250-748-0321

Fax:
250-748-3497

E-Mail:
abed@sd79.bc.ca

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.sd79.bc.ca

