

Letter from the Interim Executive Director



Dear School Staff,

Drin Hozo! I hope you had a restful March Break and feel the renewal of spring. Here, on the Traditional Territory of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'an Council, we are thrilled to welcome back the sun, and with it, snow buntings, pussy willows and patches of thawing ground.

Today we finalized our Transfer Payment Agreement with the Minister of Education, securing sustainable funds. This will allow us to build up our FNSB teams who will provide enhanced supports to all our FNSB schools. We now have the resources to actualize our vision of strengths-based, child-centered public education delivered through a Yukon First Nations worldview. And stay tuned for the many job openings we will post in the coming weeks and months.

Working closely with the school board trustees, we have developed the first FNSB Strategic Plan, a powerful document that gives further energy and clarity to the FNSB. We worked hard honing core values, vision and goals of the FNSB, which we will be sharing in the coming weeks. Keep an eye out on our social media and website for this upcoming announcement.

As the FNSB enters its second year, I am thrilled to be in a position of building and supporting the many teams and relationships that will ensure successful educational journeys for our students.

Mahsi Cho,

Melissa Flynn | ed@fnsb.ca

We are our language

Diiginjik
tr'iinlii

Dakwänjē
niich'e

Phrase of the Month

Every month we will introduce you to a common word or phrase in all 8 Yukon First Nation languages. Choose the phrase(s) for the Traditional Territory where you live and try to use this as often as you can in your speaking and writing. Check www.ynlc.ca for sound clips and more resources.

English We are our language

Southern Tutchone Dakwänjē niich'e

Northern Tutchone Dàyumnjī ech'i

Gwich'in Diiginjik tr'iinlii

Tlingit Hā yū x'at'ángix

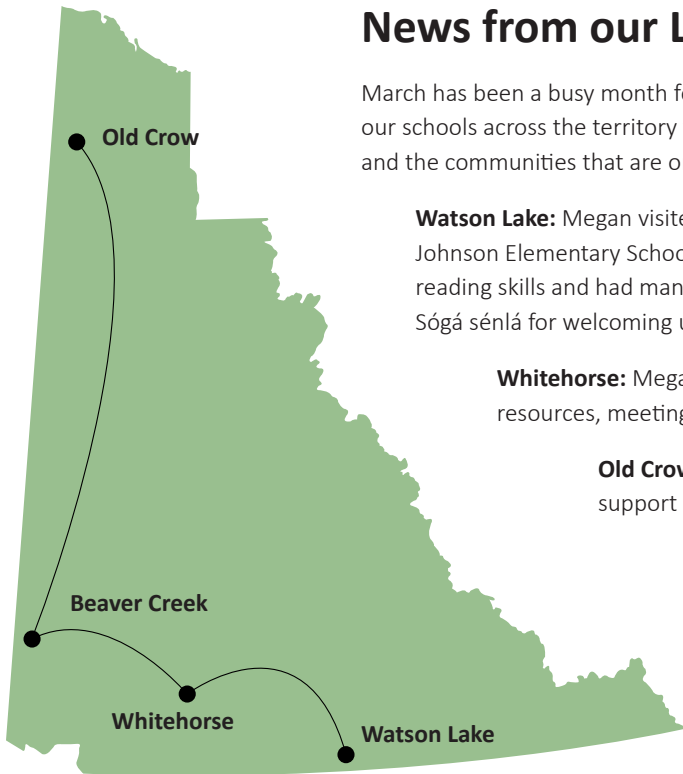
Kaska Kudzāge léts'et'e

Hän Dihenjik tr'inlay

Upper Tanana Nee'aaneeg ts'iiłjj

April Language Challenge

Teachers: Try working this phrase into your classroom. Snap a photo and send to communications@fnsb.ca!



News from our Literacy Coach

March has been a busy month for our Lead Literacy Coach, Megan Norris, as she continued travelling to our schools across the territory to support staff and students. Here are highlights from some of her travels and the communities that are on her radar for April:

Watson Lake: Megan visited Watson Lake with other FNSB and YFNED team members to support Johnson Elementary School staff and students. They organized literacy activities to work on various reading skills and had many great conversations with staff about literacy instruction in the classroom. Sógá sénlá for welcoming us into your classrooms!

Whitehorse: Megan visited Grey Mountain Primary and Takhini Elementary School, delivering resources, meeting with school staff, and modeling literacy lessons in classrooms.

Old Crow: Next month, Megan visits Old Crow to participate in culture camp and support staff and students at Chief Zzeh Gittlit School.

Beaver Creek: Next month, Megan visits Beaver Creek to support staff and students at Nelna Bessie John School.

Assessment Letter for Parents

Parent letters with results from the fall literacy assessments were shared with school staff this month. These letters are to be shared with parents as soon as possible. The deadline for completing the next round of literacy assessments is Friday, May 12, as per the email that was sent to Administrators and Gr. 1-3 teachers this week. Please contact Megan Norris, Lead Literacy Coach, if you have questions or for more information.

Teams Literacy Channel

We created a Microsoft Teams literacy channel for use by FNSB primary and intermediate school staff to connect with classroom resources, information about professional development opportunities, and recommendations for books, podcasts, and articles. Please feel free to add your favourite resources to this group!

Science of Reading Webinar

The Right to Read program is offering a fantastic 7-part webinar covering various subjects within the Science of Reading. There are two sessions left in the series, taking place in 1.5-hour evening sessions in April and May. FNSB will reimburse tuition fees. Please contact megan.norris@fnsb.ca for more info.

Please visit: <https://righttoread.ca/workshops/science-reading>.

We have educators already participating: Mahsi cho for your openness to learn!



Math is Everywhere: An Update from the Math Advocates

March was a quiet month with Spring Break in the middle. We visited Watson Lake and started making plans around taking students outside in May to connect math instruction to land-based learning. We also had the privilege of visiting Nelna Bessie John School in Beaver Creek. Thank you to their school team, Heidi Warren and Remy Rodden, for the warm welcome. April will be a busy month with visits to Ross River, Watson Lake and Haines Junction. Planning has started for spring activities as well for next year. Teachers are slowly integrating the new resource "Mathology" into their teaching and there will be more PD on this in the future.

April Numeracy Team Travel Calendar:



April 3-6
Ross River



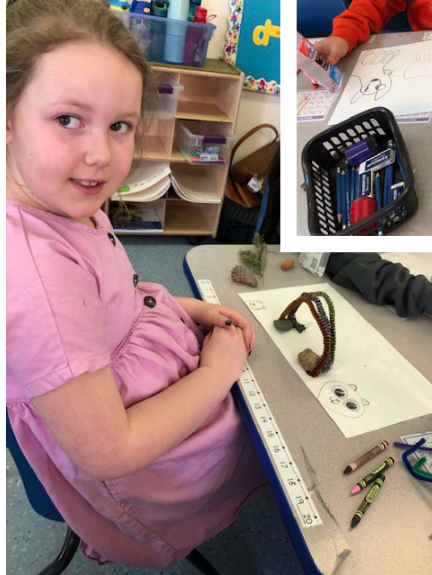
April 12
Haines Junction



April 18 - 21
Watson Lake

Logo Project: Student Workshops Underway

Working with the creative duo of Michael and Bianca Ericsson at MBDC Inc., we have begun the process of designing an FNSB logo. Graphic designer Michael, FNSB Executive Director Melissa Flynn and FNSB Communications Director Katharine Sandiford are conducting workshops with students to talk about the First Nation School Board, introduce branding and logos and talk about the career of graphic design, while also giving students an opportunity to contribute design ideas and artwork for the logo! So far they have visited Grey Mountain Primary Gr.1 class, Ross River Grade 12, and will be in Takhini's Grade 4/5 class in early April.



Students at Grey Mountain Primary participate in the FNSB Logo Workshop.

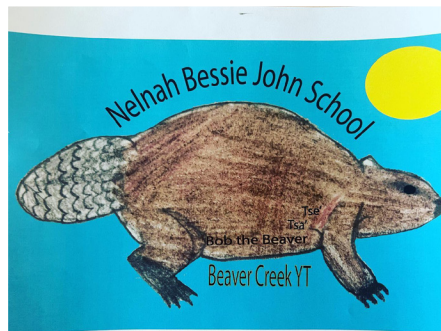


Pictured right is the new signage designed by Nelnah Bessie John student Blake Chassé.

New Vehicles

The FNSB purchased two new school vehicles: one for Nelnah Bessie John School in Beaver Creek and one for Chief Zzeh Gittlit School in Old Crow, which was driven up the Old Crow winter road while it was open this March.

Blake Chassé created new signage for both Nelnah Bessie John School and their new vehicle, now lovingly called Bob the Beaver Bus, and the first school vehicle they have ever had. Tsa' is Upper Tanana and Tse' is Northern Tutchone for Beaver. The beaver is an important part of the land and White River First Nation culture. Everyone is really excited about all the trips they can now make to culture camps, field trips and on-the-land learning experiences.



International Indigenous Languages Day

The FNSB and YFNED hosted an International Indigenous Languages Day pancake breakfast at Grey Mountain Primary on March 31. Shāw Nithän Ali Cat catering and everyone who came to eat and celebrate Southern Tutchone and all Yukon First Nation languages.

Dj̄māda?

