

Letter from the Interim Executive Director



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Drin Hozo! I hope you had a restful holiday and joyful new year!

2023 is set to be an exciting year for the First Nation School Board as we continue to expand our staffing, programs, and supports -- and as our newly elected trustees move full steam ahead on governing our school board.

December was a busy month gearing up for the holidays. Thank-you to Takhini Elementary and Grey Mountain Primary for inviting me to your concert and craft fair. I also enjoyed meeting with our five trustees for the first time in mid-December for two days of productive sessions. It is great to have such a dynamic team to be governing our school board.

Looking at the month ahead, we have a busy travel schedule lined up for both our Literacy Coach Megan Norris, our Math Advocates, as well as YFNED's Education Analysts, so expect to some of our crew at your child's school soon.

We will be releasing the data from our K-3 literacy assessments to our administrators who will be sharing these results with each classroom. Soon after that, parents with kids in K-3 classes will be receiving information about the results. Our Literacy Coach Megan Norris will be working closely with teachers on how to tailor this data into classroom strategies. With our teachers and administrators, we are leading the way in Yukon with our Literacy Plan.

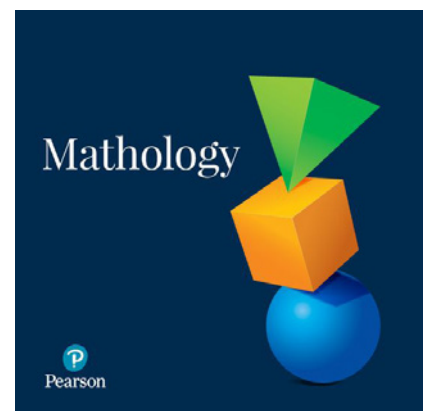
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Math Advocates Multiply their Efforts!

As the New Year begins, the Numeracy team is looking forward to continuing the work they started in September. Over the fall semester, they visited Watson Lake, Ross River and Haines Junction once a month and spent time with teachers and students, gaining an in-depth understanding of the accomplishments and challenges at each school.

Over the coming months, they will be focusing on the Intermediate grades, and will be supporting students and teachers to develop stronger basic numeracy skills within the math curriculum. Every visit consists of a check-in with teachers, and support is provided around requests that are made or where it is needed. They will spend time in classrooms working with the teachers to do engaging activities or to assess progress. The goal is to make math equally accessible to all students and ensure that everyone's math skills are consistently at grade level or above.

Pearson's Mathology is a new resource introduced this year, and all FNSB math teachers have been offered Professional Development introductory sessions. This is an online resource with many hands-on activities and different ways of teaching the material. An interesting feature is that in the primary grades there are little reading books that support the teaching of the material and Pearson (the publisher) has included some First Nations content in their stories.



LITERACY UPDATES



Our Coach is in Motion

Our Literacy Coach, Megan Norris, has a full-slate of travel and literacy work planned for January. Here is a rundown:

- In Old Crow, she will be providing a full-day of in-person professional development for Chief Zzeh Gittlit School staff (with a focus on primary grades) about how children learn to read and evidenced-based approaches to teaching reading in the classroom.
- Also in Old Crow, Megan is working with Chief Zzeh Gittlit School staff, in-person, to implement reading strategies and programming in the classroom.
- Back in Whitehorse, Megan will be meeting virtually 1:1 with all our primary grade teachers to support their classroom instruction in reading and writing.

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	<i>We are happy to see (all of) you</i>
Southern Tutchone	<i>Dákwäní'j yū shàw ghàniddhän.</i>
Northern Tutchone	<i>Dàye yésóots'enindhän, dàkhwäts'enè'in yū.</i>
Gwich'in	<i>Nakhwanyà'in geenjit shòh iidìlii.</i>
Tlingit	<i>Yak'é ixhwsatìní.</i>
Kaska	<i>Dahgáts'enehtān yéh gutie.</i>
Hän	<i>Nëkhwëtr'ënoh'qy häjit shò tr`inlqy.</i>
Upper Tanana	<i>Nohts'eneh'jì tsin'jì choh ts'eninḥän.</i>

The FNSB Team Grows!

We are thrilled to welcome two amazing new members to the First Nation School Board team.

Ruby Grant (Khàshdàxh Tlâ), Executive Assistant

Ruby is a Dakh'awedí woman, a descendant of the Fox family from Teslin. For the past 15 years, Ruby has worked for Yukon Education in the First Nations Initiatives Branch. As the FNSB Executive Assistant, she will be an integral member of the newly forming team at the First Nation School Board and will cross paths with so many of our school teams and families. Welcome Ruby!



Sean Smith (U'yenets'echia), Language and Culture Strategist

Sean is a Kwanlin Dün First Nation citizen whose parents are artists Ann Smith and Brian Walker. He lives in Kwanlin with his wife Sarah, their three children and dog Marshall. Sean brings a wealth of knowledge and passion for language and culture, having devoted much of his life to revitalization of Yukon First Nations culture. Over 5 years, he has held different positions at the Yukon Native Language Center and is learning fluency in both Southern Tutchone and Tlingit. He also served six years as a Councillor for the Kwanlin Dün First Nation. He is the current President of the Northern Cultural Expressions Society as well as a Co-Chair on the Yukon Climate Leadership Council. We are thrilled to welcome Sean to the school board team!



Photos from the Ross River Craft Fair

Students at Ross River School worked as elves in Santa's Workshop for 2 weeks leading up to their December 10 Christmas Craft Fair. The fair was a huge success, raising close to \$1000 for the school. The students made an array of beautiful ornaments and decorations. Some students also sold their own products, including paintings, self-portraits, and Christmas cards, learning valuable entrepreneur skills.





If you have photos or stories to share in future FNSB newsletters or on our new Facebook and Instagram pages, please email communications@fnsb.ca