

### Letter from the Interim Executive Director



Dear Families and Caregivers,

Drin Hozo! February has been an exciting and busy month for all. I hope you had some time outside on the land to soak in the gradual return of the sunshine and appreciate this beautiful place we all call home.

Our Literacy Plan announcement was well received by our school teams, families and the wider public – as well as by literacy organizations around the country who have been congratulating us for our approach and commitments. We can't wait to start building our Literacy Coach team for next school year!

The First Nation School Board had a booth at the Together Today for our Children Tomorrow 50th Anniversary celebrations, and for two days I was able to connect with so many people curious about the Board. It gives me such a sense of pride to think about how the work we are doing today – Yukon First Nations sharing public education authority with the territory – was a vision our ancestors only dreamed of. Hope you were able to celebrate this historic Yukon anniversary in some way.

This month, we were in the thick of a referendum to allow more school communities to join the First Nation School Board. Today, the results are official: We are thrilled to welcome **3 new schools** to the FNSB family: **Eliza Van Bibber School** (Pelly Crossing, Selkirk First Nation), **Kluane Lake School**, (Destruction Bay/Burwash Landing, Kluane First Nation), **Ghùch Tlâ Community School** (Carcross, Carcross/Tagish First Nation). I look forward to building authentic relationships with these school communities.

As our trustees finalize the details of our core funding agreement, we are starting to anticipate the sudden growth this will bring to the FNSB staff and programming, and we can all look forward to the bolster in new supports and programming our students will receive in the coming month and year.

Mahsi Cho,

Melissa Flynn | [ed@fnsb.ca](mailto:ed@fnsb.ca)

### 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](http://www.ynlc.ca) for sound clips and more resources.

English *Love one another*

Southern Tutchone *dáts'än nänji nk'ats'ädli-do*

Northern Tutchone *Tljq̄t'ō uk'éts'edli*

Gwich'in *Nihkhat'ànyinookhwidhàn*

Tlingit *Woosh gaysxán*

Kaska *Deyénehzen*

Hän *ładaynähthän*

Upper Tanana *Nahnòh lihxah daltsjj'*

TEACHERS: Try working this phrase into your classroom. Snap a photo and send to [communications@fnsb.ca](mailto:communications@fnsb.ca)!

### Update from our Literacy Coach

February was a huge month for our Literacy Program, starting with our big public Literacy Plan announcement which described how, with the support of the Minister of Education, we are replacing Balanced Literacy approaches (e.g., Reading Recovery) with Structured Literacy approaches that follow the science of reading. It also details how we are developing a strong team of FNSB Literacy Coaches who will offer training, support, resources and assessment/analysis to all our FNSB classrooms. Prior to the announcement, we informed our school teams, families, as well as Education teams at local First Nations. For more info, visit FNSB Literacy Plan website.

Our Lead Literacy Coach, Megan Norris, had a full February as she continued to meet with school staff across the territory about the literacy screener results. A letter will be going out to all parents/caregivers that explains the results from our literacy screening. Keep your eyes open for another email from us, soon!

Here are highlights from some of her travels and communities on the radar for March:

- **Ross River:** Our Lead Literacy Coach visited Ross River School with YFNED Speech Language Pathologists. They organized literacy activities to work on various reading skills, and had much fun playing with the students. Megan says: “Sógá sénlá to staff and students for inviting us into your classrooms. Thank you for all the learning, smiles, and laughter – and showing us how you teach and learn about literacy.”
- **Haines Junction/Dakwākāda:** Lead Literacy Coach Megan Norris and YFNED SLP Kelsey Kerr, hosted a literacy Professional Development at St. Elias Community School, including the school team from Nelnah Bessie John School in Beaver Creek, about the science of reading, structured literacy, and the 5 pillars of reading. Megan says: “Shāw nithān for spending the day with us!”
- **Watson Lake:** In March, the Lead Literacy Coach will travel to Watson Lake to support Johnson Elementary School staff and students.



Megan Norris, Lead Literacy Coach, and YFNED SLPs share a variety of fun literacy games and activities with kids and teachers at Ross River.



*Sarah Jarvis, FNSB Human Resources Consultant, delivering literacy resources to St. Elias Community School.*

## Math is Everywhere: An Update from the Math Advocates

In February, the Numeracy team from YFNED continued their regular community visits, travelling to Watson Lake, Haines Junction/Dakwākāda, and Ross River. In the photos below, Lead Math Advocate, Marie Daniels, shares photos and stories to celebrate how these schools are making math come alive for their students.

### UPCOMING TRAVEL DATES FOR THE MATH ADVOCATES:

**Watson Lake**  
February 28 - March 2

**Haines Junction  
and Beaver Creek**  
March 6 - 8

**Ross River**  
April 3 - 6

**Haines Junction**  
April 12

**Watson Lake**  
April 18 - 21



The Gr. 3-5 students at Ross River School worked on their measurement and geometry units by going outside and building a brush shelter. They learned how to estimate distances and angles, use measuring tapes and hand saws and overall, how to plan and construct these shelters.

It is great to see teachers taking math outdoors and letting students make connections with the real world.



St Elias Community School celebrated 100s day by playing with the number 100. K-3 students moved around various classes making chains with 100 links, necklaces with 100 cheerios, and painting 100 dots.

What an awesome way to play with numbers.



Johnson Elementary in Watson Lake welcomed parents to a Math afternoon where Gr. 1-3 students demonstrated math games they had practiced in their classrooms. A favourite one was BUMP. The game was introduced and then parents/guardians were invited to go to selected classes and practice the game.

Everyone seemed to have a good time. And it was good to see so many families in the school.

