

Letter from the Interim Executive Director



Dear School Staff,

Drin Hozo! The sun is finally warm and the snow is melting quickly here in Kwanlin, where I work and live on the traditional territory of Ta’an Kwäch’än Council and the Kwanlin Dün First Nation. Today, it feels like I am flying back into winter as I travel to Old Crow where it is calling for snow and more snow. The height of the sun in the sky will reassure me that spring has truly arrived.

Since finalizing our Transfer Payment Agreement with the Minister of Education in early April, which secured sustainable funds for the First Nation School Board, we have been busy building our dream team – new, exciting job postings are coming out every week for both our FNSB organization and for teaching/admin jobs at our schools. Check out www.fnsb.ca/jobs and spread the word!

Despite this office work, I was able to travel to many FNSB communities this April and have a busy month ahead. I’ll be in Old Crow in the first week, Pelly Crossing on May 10, Carcross on May 12, and Burwash Landing/Destruction Bay from May 23-25. I look forward to connecting with your school and First Nations teams.

Mahsi Cho,

Melissa Flynn | ed@fnsb.ca

Phrase of the Month: What is your name? My name is _____.

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 What is your name? My name is _____.

Southern Tutchone (Ta’an) Dànjye? (What is your name?)
Äyinjì _____ úúye. (My name is _____.)

Northern Tutchone (Pelly Crossing) Dúyuzhi? (What is your name?)
_____ úuzhi. (My name is _____.)

Gwich’in Noozrì’ dāvàazhii? (What is your name?)
Shoozrì’ _____ vāazhii. (My name is _____.)

Tlingit (Carcross) Wâ sé iduwasâkw? (What is your name?)
_____ wâ sé iduwasâkw? (My name is _____.)

Kaska Enzì’ dógúyā? (What is your name?)
Eszì’ _____ gúyē. (My name is _____.)

Hän Nts’ à nqzrè? (What is your name?)
Shqzrè’ _____. (My name is _____.)

Upper Tanana Ntsaq’ nqqsì? (What is your name?)
_____ shqqsì’. (My name is _____.)

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

News from our Literacy Coach

Through the month of April, Megan Norris, our Lead Literacy Coach continued travelling to our schools across the territory to support staff and students.

Highlights from April:

Old Crow: Visit to Old Crow in April with FNSB and YFNED to support the first week of Old Crow Culture Camp. They learned traditional stories, sang Gwitch'in songs, and honed their snowshoeing and dog sledding skills. Mahsi' choo for the wonderful week!

Whitehorse: Visit to Grey Mountain Primary and Takhini Elementary School in April to deliver resources and meet with school staff.

Beaver Creek: Trip to Beaver Creek in April with FNSB to support staff and students at Nelnah Bessie John School. Tsin'jj choo for hosting us!



First-week of May trip to support staff and students at Chief Zzeh Gittlit School and participate in VGFN's "Literacy Family Fun Night"!

Travels in May:

PELLY CROSSING

May 10 day-trip to meet staff and students at Eliza Van Bibber.

CARCROSS

May 12 day-trip to meet staff and students at Ghùch Tlà Community School.

BEAVER CREEK

Trip at end of May to work with staff and students at Nelnah Bessie John School.

Spring Literacy Assessments

Thank you staff and students for working so hard to complete the spring literacy assessments! Just a reminder that the TOWRE-2 and TOSREC raw scores need to be inputted on the Sync.com spreadsheet by Friday, May 12. Please email Megan Norris at megan.norris@fnsb.ca if you have questions.

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! Resources are continuously being added to the new Channel. Be sure to check it out!

Science of Reading Webinar

- We have 21 staff registered in this webinar! Wow! Mahsi Cho!
- The final live webinar, "District Adopts Science of Reading Instruction and Interventions – Changing Reading Outcomes for Kids" is May 16 at 3:00-4:30 pm PT.
- If you can't attend the live event, that's okay! All webinars are recorded for later viewing.
- Please contact megan.norris@fnsb.ca to register.
- For more information about the webinar series, visit: <https://righttoread.ca/workshops/science-reading>

FNSB team members and YFNED Early Years staff and Speech Language Pathologists were invited to support the first week of Old Crow Culture Camp last week. They learned traditional stories, sang Gwich'in children's songs, and honed their snowshoeing and dog sledding skills. Mahsi' choo for the wonderful week.





FNSB Board Retreat

Over the last weekend in April, all five FNSB trustees met at Inn on the Lake for two solid workdays together where they finalized and approved:

- FNSB Strategic Plan
- FNSB Policy Manual

The trustees also worked with our design team to make near-final tweaks and revisions to our exciting new logo. Stay tuned over the coming month as we release and announce much of this work.

FNSB Interim Executive Director Melissa Flynn's daughter Hannah plays with "Baby-G", daughter of FNSB Chair Dana Tizya-Tramm at last weekend's board retreat.



Math is Everywhere

An Update from Marie Daniels, Math Advocates Team Lead

We spent most of the month of April assessing Grade 3 students as well as supporting teachers and students at Ross River School, Johnson Elementary School and St. Elias Community School. We will be finishing our travel for the school year with a trip to Haines Junction on May 11 and to Ross River and Watson Lake over the week of May 15-19. A big focus of our visits will involve taking the students outside for on-the-land math activities.

With the launch of the FNSB Math Strategy, we've been talking with school admins and teachers so everyone knows what to expect for next year. We look forward to supporting your teachers and students, working with you to tailor a math program that best works for your community.

First Nation School Board

NUMERACY STRATEGY

MAY 2023

Our Vision

The First Nation School Board's Numeracy Strategy aims to **improve numeracy outcomes for students in a culturally-inclusive model** following a targeted and comprehensive approach. We do this by increasing supports and training, following best-practices in math teaching, and developing useful and relevant assessment methodology.

Background

The First Nation School Board recognizes that a robust Numeracy Strategy must be in place across our schools to complement its Literacy Plan. As has been identified through a variety of reports, including the 2019 Auditor General's report on Education, the numeracy skills of school-aged learners are notably and alarmingly lower with Yukon Indigenous students and rural students.

We also heard from our communities that financial literacy is important to our students, and schools are currently lacking support and resources.

Components

Our Numeracy Plan will contain the following components:

- A unified and consistent approach in all classrooms to numeracy.
- An emphasis on hands-on and land-based math teaching to promote student engagement and connections with their community.
- A team of Numeracy Coaches who will provide continued and consistent support to help with best practices in the classroom.
- The primary use of one resource, Mathology, to support assessment and guide instruction.
- Ongoing support, training and professional development in the implementation of the Mathology program.
- Relevant assessment and data collection to support analysis and strategies tailored to each classroom and to track student success in successive years.
- Financial literacy resources available in all Intermediate and High School classrooms in partnership with Martin Family Initiative to support financial literacy programming.
- The flexibility to tailor to localized needs and approaches.
- Plan will be in effect for 2023/24 school year, across all 11 FNSB schools.

What is Mathology?

Pearson Mathology is a comprehensive, yet flexible family of print and digital math resources for Grades 1-8 with real-world applications that help educators engage and teach students across all skill levels. The Department of Education purchased Mathology and the FNSB is rolling it out across its schools.



- Tailored to the BC Curriculum and has built-in mechanisms to localize lesson delivery.
- Supports teachers as they gain a deeper understanding of student thinking through a wealth of on-going assessment opportunities that help determine next best steps.
- Develops student curiosity through engaging math stories and activities that helps them enjoy a positive math journey.
- Includes lessons and stories reflecting multiple perspectives, including Indigenous perspectives
- Are available in print and digital formats, reflecting the reality of how teachers like to plan and deliver lessons while putting concrete and engaging materials into the hands of students.

For Further Information

Please contact:
Melissa Flynn
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ed@fnsb.ca

Sources

South Slave: www.ssdec.net

2019 June Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Yukon Legislative Assembly: www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/English/yuk_201906_e_43400.html