



Letter from the Interim Executive Director

Dear School Staff,

Drin Hozo! We hope you are enjoying the slow return of the sun and the beautiful winter weather we've had that has allowed so many of us to be comfortable outside.

January was a busy and productive month for many of us as we all continue to work so hard for the students. Working hard is important and fulfilling – but it's important to rest, recharge, and release some of the stress that builds up. This time of year can be especially trying for some.

Taking care of each other is an important value within the First Nation School Board model and can be seen in our Org Chart where each expanding tree ring wraps around and takes care of the layers within. In this sense, the trustees and staff at FNSB, as well as the HR team at the Department of Education, are offering our Education Teams a variety of supports and resources. This newsletter provides you details on some of these.

I'm thrilled to be able to offer all of you "Virtual Weekly Support Circles" for all FNSB educators that will be led by Christine Klaassen-St Pierre, a talented restorative-practices facilitator with a depth of expertise in this field. We are holding these 45-minute sessions every Thursday from 4:00 - 4:45 pm. Starting with a 4-week block before spring break. See the poster further in this newsletter for more details.

Thank you for working with Megan Norris, our Literacy Coach, welcoming her into the school and analyzing the literacy data with her. We are committed to improving literacy rates in our schools to ensure future success of our children, and are so excited to roll out our full literacy plan with you, our school teams.

Hqzq Łëk'ätr'ënòcha (We take good care of one another – Han),

Melissa Flynn | ed@fnsb.ca



Ross River School's grade 3-5 teacher, Khaganeë, explores geometry in nature with her students.

Math Advocates Update

Since the winter break came to an end, the YFNED Numeracy Team and their Math Advocates have been busy visiting communities and supporting students and teachers at FNSB Schools. They spent a couple days in Haines Junction visiting classrooms and introducing Mathology to the staff at St. Elias Community School. They were excited to visit Ross River School and see that the intermediate class had started a unit of Geometry. Khaganeë (their grade 3-5 teacher) took her class for a walk in the bush to photograph geometrical shapes they saw in nature. What an opportunity to turn math class into a lesson on respect for the land and reinforcing ideas the Math Advocates had discussed in class.



Oh, look! A cylinder and a few triangles!

Math Advocates February Schedule

Jan. 31 - Feb.3	Johnson Elementary and Watson Lake High School
Feb. 9	St. Elias Community School
Feb. 14 - Feb. 17	Ross River School
Feb 21	St. Elias Community School
Feb. 28 - Mar 3	Johnson Elementary and Watson Lake High School



Update from our Literacy Coach

January was a very action-packed, word-learning, literacy-loving month for Literacy Coach Megan Norris as she made the rounds of our 8 FNSB Schools.

In early January, Megan went up to Old Crow and presented a full-day PD for K-6 teachers about how children learn to read. The Literacy Coach presented with Terri Gordon, a Speech and Language Pathologist with YFNED. Topics included the Science of Reading, Structured Literacy, and the 5 pillars of reading instruction. The next two days were spent in the classrooms supporting teachers in implementing the material discussed in training. Mahsi Cho for all the smiles and laughter!!

Throughout the month, Megan met with primary grade teachers about the Literacy Screener results. They had meaningful conversations about students' strengths and areas for growth, and discussed plans for support moving forward. The Literacy Coach will continue meeting with teachers in February.

In February, the Literacy Coach will be on the road:

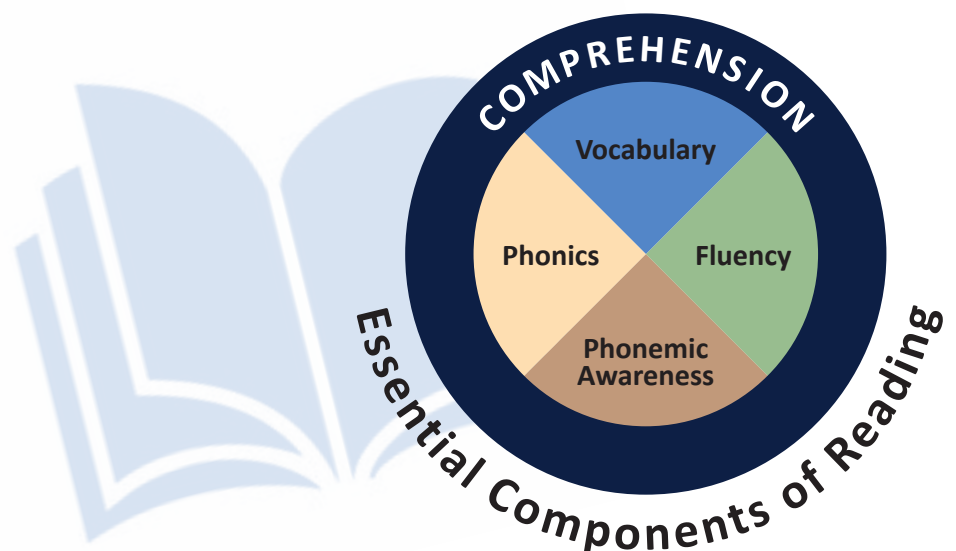
- Continuing to meet with teachers about the Literacy Screener results.
- Feb. 13-16: Visiting Ross River to continue supporting reading instruction in the classroom.
- Feb. 23: Providing a half-day literacy PD for primary grade teachers at St. Elias Community School including the team from Nelnah Bessie John.

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 three sessions left in the series, taking place in 1.5 hour evening sessions in March, 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



First Nation School Board Logo Project

We are excited to begin the work of designing a beautiful new FNSB logo. We will be working with the amazing creative duo of Michael and Bianca Ericsson at MBDC Inc. They will be visiting a range of classrooms to engage with students in a workshop-style session that introduces students to the career of graphic design and gives students an opportunity to contribute design ideas for the logo! We are working out our schedule right now, but if you are interested in participating, please email communications@fnsb.ca.



Michael Ericsson



Bianca Ericsson

Phrase of the Month

Every month we will introduce you to a common word or phrase in all 7 active 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>How are you?</i>
Southern Tutchone	<i>Dànnch'e?</i>
Northern Tutchone	<i>Dánninch'i?</i>
Gwich'in	<i>Neenjit dàgòonch'uu?</i>
Tlingit	<i>Mâ sá iyatì?</i>
Kaska	<i>Dénht'ā?</i>
Hän	<i>Nänjit dāhòonch'e?</i>
Upper Tanana	<i>Nts'àtdjìt'eh?</i>



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

Support Services for Teachers

The Department of Education Human Resources team offers important services for our education teams in need of support. In addition to the EFAP resources (see included poster), the HR team can provide the following supports when difficult situations arise:

1. Critical incident debriefing services: These services are quickly put into place when staff are experiencing extreme stress or trauma that needs immediate intervention. This process entails the following:
 - a. Consult and develop an action plan
 - b. Provide on-site support and counselling
 - c. Train leaders on response protocols
 - d. Implement stress management solutions
 - e. Develop proactive critical incident strategy
 - f. Establish peer support teams

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

FNSB

First Nation School Board



**VIRTUAL WEEKLY
SUPPORT CIRCLES
FOR FNSB
EDUCATORS**

HOZO, LĒK'ÄTR'ĒNÒCHA

WE TAKE GOOD CARE OF ONE ANOTHER (HAN)

Thursdays, 4:00-4:45 pm

Feb 16 - March 9

Join Restorative Practices Facilitator and Circle Keeper Christine Klaassen-St Pierre for this chance for FNSB educators to connect for a short but rich time to share our joys and challenges in a safe & confidential environment.

BECAUSE FLOURISHING STUDENTS NEED FLOURISHING TEACHERS.

For more info contact Melissa Flynn: ed@fnsb.ca

Registration link:

<https://forms.gle/xcuF5g6VwSpxJRK97>



Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP)



Book appointments by calling (867) 668-EFAP (3327) or toll-free 1-855-767-7429

What to expect when you call?

When you call EFAP, you will reach the Client Care Centre, and prompted to select

#1 to connect you with an intake specialist for crisis counselling
#2 for referral to short term counselling and worklife services
#3 for managers, supervisors and HR staff to schedule a consultation or Critical Incident Response Services for teams.

- The Intake Specialists are trained to flag crisis and emergency calls, and can transfer to immediate crisis counselling, available 24/7.
- The Intake Specialist will refer you to the expert best suited to your expressed needs whether crisis intervention, counselling or worklife services, consultation or Critical Incident Response services for teams.
- Local counsellors for in person appointments are available by request from the national network of services available.

What to expect after you call?

- The Intake Specialist can book you an appointment or refer you to your preferred service to schedule directly.
- Virtual and in-person counselling are available. Some worklife services, consultations and counsellors are only available by phone.
- Wait times to speak to a counsellor for non-urgent referrals vary based on your need for in-person or virtual counselling, specific counsellor request or counsellor expertise in specific areas of practice.
- The crisis counsellor at initial call is available through the call centre, but they may not become your ongoing counsellor.
- Virtual counselling may not lead to in-person appointments as some counsellors with specific expertise are only accessible virtually from outside Yukon.
- If you would like to try a different service or counsellor, contact EFAP again for more options. Note that accessing the many worklife services do not take away from counselling sessions available.

Counselling

Work with Master's level counsellors from Yukon and across Canada for your short-term, confidential and solution-focused goals, virtually or in-person, 24/7.

Managers Consultations

Supervisory staff can request expert consultations to prepare for difficult conversations, with concerns about mental health issues or behavior, or cross cultural communications.

WorkLife Services

Work with a subject matter expert to meet work/health/life goals in areas such as nutrition and health, legal or finance issues questions, and workplace challenges.

Critical Incident Response Services

Managers, supervisors or HR staff can request specialized professional support after a workplace crisis or traumatic event through virtual or in-person services.

How long will I wait to access services?

- Worklife services and short term counselling are available in-person, by video, and over phone.
- It may be quicker to access a counsellor by phone or video because there is a broad network of counselors available across Canada. Local Yukon counsellors may have limited availability as their services are in high demand and they may be seeing clients outside of our EFAP. If you're looking for in-person counselling in future, let the Client Care Representative know so they can connect with you with a local counsellor.
- The service standards for EFAP worklife services and counselling follow a structured risk assessment – ranging from immediate crisis counselling when you call to about 10 days wait for non-urgent counselling.

What if I have a compliment or concern to share?

- If you would like to share your experience related to the EFAP process or a specific service, contact EFAP and request to speak to someone directly and confidentially. They will assign a neutral worker to collect the specific details needed in order to fully review, record and report back to the Yukon government while maintaining your confidentiality.
- Sharing the details of your experience with EFAP will help to address and improve service delivery and processes. If you are not comfortable sharing your experience with the provider, an HR representative can work with you to gather the details about your experience that are needed to address your complaint.

