

Living our Land Acknowledgements - Traditional Knowledge Holder Interview

In support of our theme of “Living Our Land Acknowledgements”, each month in this newsletter, we will feature an interview with a traditional knowledge holder from 1 of the 14 communities on whose territory we reside. We will explore with the knowledge holder resources that are harvested from the land during each month of the year. We have used QR code technology so that you can listen to parts of the interview delivered in a traditional language (scan the QR code with your camera and click on the link).

October’s Traditional Knowledge Holder:

Mary Ann West (Sats’inadeelee), a member of the Mountain/Cariboo clan of Lake Babine Nation. Her father clan is Lukh Jibu (Bear). He parents were Esther West (Maria and Matthew Alec) and William West (Nellie and Adanas West).



(Answers have been edited for clarity. Translations are not exact word for word, but we have tried to capture the essence of what was shared)

1. During the month of October, what are some of the traditional harvesting activities that are undertaken?

During October we harvest Coho and Moose. One of the best places to harvest Coho is in Fort Babine (Wit’at) at the Babine River and Nilkitkwa Lake/River.

2. What are the harvested goods used for?

Both Coho and Moose are harvested primarily for food. The moose hide is also used for making clothing, like moccasins and gloves. Fish head oil (sockeye) is used as part of the process of tanning moose hide.

3. How did you learn about these practices and who did you learn this from?

I primarily learned from my sister Beverly Michell. When we were younger, Beverly was sent to live in Fort Babine with my grandparents for a summer to learn these processes. After she returned she shared these teachings with me. I learned by observing and when I began to do the work, my sister made sure I did it right.

4. Nedut’en Vocabulary

Coho: Tesdlee
Bull Moose: Jayo
Knife: Liztiyh

She also shared how to say, this time of the year we are hunting moose and fishing for Coho.

5. QR code interview link. To hear May’s introduction and vocabulary, please use the QR code provided.

Nedut’en

Introduction



Nedut’en

Vocabulary

5th Annual Indigenous Education Conference

On September 22nd, our department hosted our 5th Annual Indigenous Education Conference. The theme for this year’s conference was “Land as Medicine.” We enjoyed presentations from Monique Gray Smith, Carla Lewis, Richard Van Camp and Leona Prince.

We were very pleased to be joined on this day by all SD 91 employees. The knowledge shared during the presentations and group discussions will be very valuable as we move forward as a team and work towards our strategic goals.

To watch our conference and view our previous years head on over to our web page.

<https://www.sd91indigenouseducation.com/educators>



SD 91 Traditional Welcome Posters Project

This year our Indigenous Education Council (IEC) has completed a wonderful project which supports our theme of, “Living our Land Acknowledgments.” The idea of this project is to move beyond the words spoken in a land acknowledgement and put them into action. Through a partnership with Livelt.Earth, we have been able to create, “Welcome Posters,” at each building in our district which feature a member of one of the local First Nations communities welcoming guests to the school in the language of the land. The posters ‘come to life’ using QR and AR technology. We were pleased to have many of the community members featured on the posters honoured at our schools during our district-wide TRC event.

You can view an interactive map with links to all of the welcome posters in our district by following this link:>>> [Home | Indigenous Education \(sd91indigenouseducation.com\)](#)



Gather Learning Series With Richard Van Camp

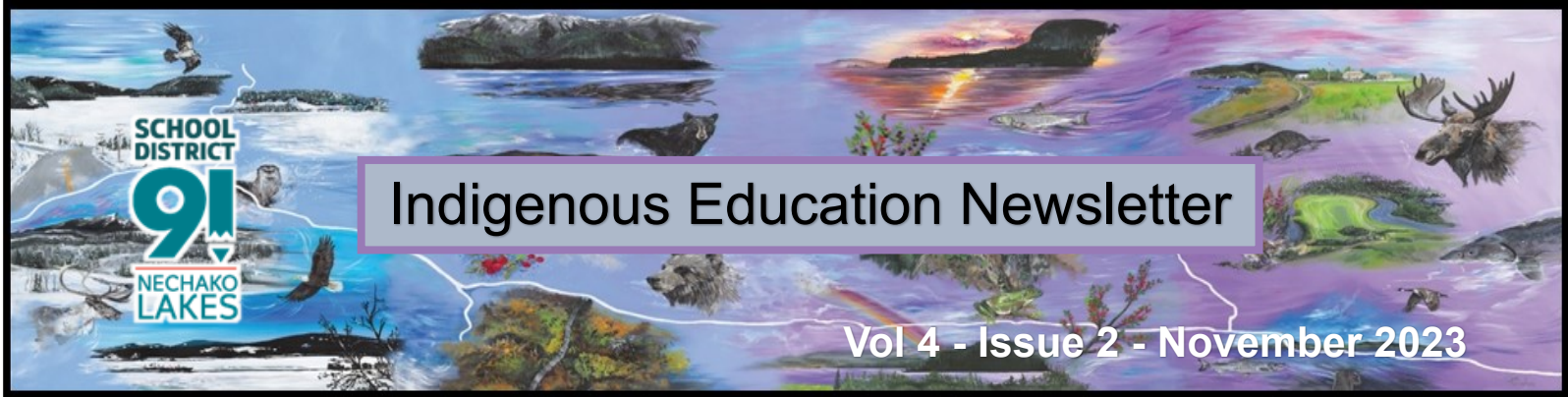


We are pleased to be working with Richard Van Camp with school year to offer professional learning opportunities for teachers throughout the school year. For more information and to register for sessions with Richard, please visit:

[Educators | Aboriginal Education \(sd91indigenouseducation.com\)](#)

Thank you to David Hoy Elementary and WL McLeod for sharing images of learning on the land and TRC events at their school.





Indigenous Education Newsletter

Vol 4 - Issue 2 - November 2023

Living our Land Acknowledgements - Traditional Knowledge Holder Interview

In support of our theme of “Living Our Land Acknowledgements”, each month in this newsletter, we will feature an interview with a traditional knowledge holder from 1 of the 14 communities on whose territory we reside. We will explore with the knowledge holder resources that are harvested from the land during each month of the year. We have used QR code technology so that you can listen to parts of the interview delivered in a traditional language (scan the QR code with your camera and click on the link).

This month we spoke with Nak’azdli elder Louise Thomas. Louise lives in Fort St. James and is a member of the Frog clan. We asked Louise about things that are traditionally harvested in November, and Louise shared a story about an elder showing them a great fishing spot on Stuart Lake, after they had helped her take her net out on a windy day. Louise wrote out her story for us, and we also recorded what she shared. You can hear Louise tell the story in both English and Dakelh by clicking on the links below.

Story about fishing on Stuart Lake shared by Louise Thomas (shared with permission)

“We helped an elderly lady, Sarah Leon to take out net for char in October. She thanked us for helping her. While we were helping her she told us to remember, on Remembrance Day, to set net on Camp Morice Point and we would catch every species of fish. We tried setting net around that time and it was very true!”

Louise Thomas

Dakelh Introduction



Louise Thomas

Dakelh Story



Louise Thomas

English Story

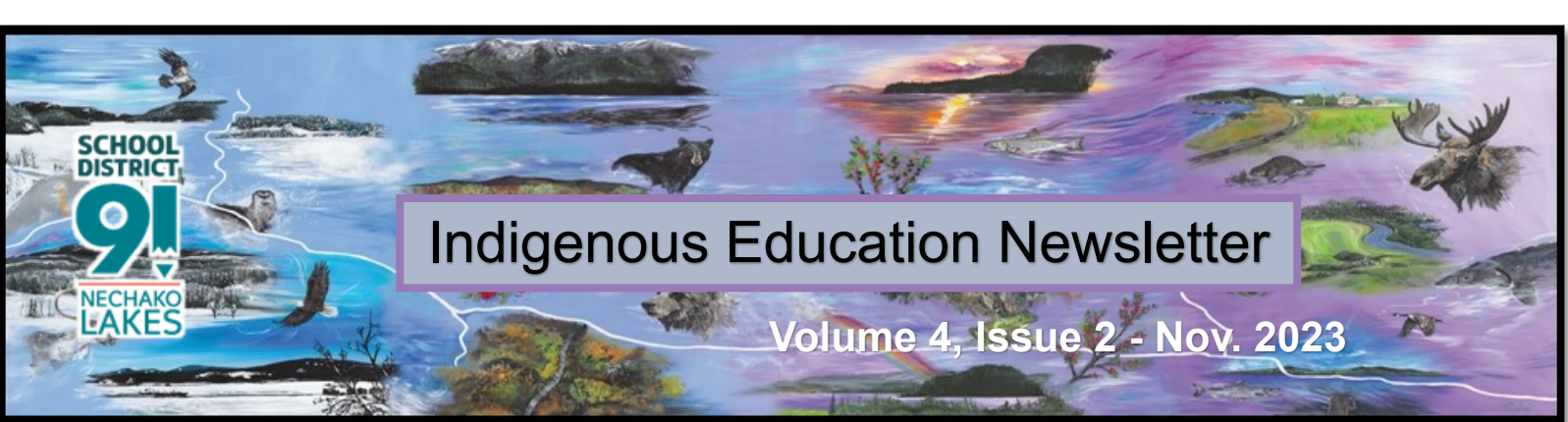


Grease Trails Collaboration: Cheslatta Carrier Nation, SD 91, Live It Earth

“Did you know that there are hundreds of trail networks in Canada that are at least ten thousand years old? In this program, we will be exploring the trail systems of the Cheslatta Carrier Nation, how they became known as Grease Trails and how their nation has identified with trails as part of their culture.” (From LiveIt Earth Website)

We are excited to announce the release of this new video, a resource that brings forward Indigenous voice and history. We look forward to this video supporting learning in our District for many years to come.





Cultural Safety Course

We have launched our cultural safety course! This course will always be in development as we add more content over the coming years, but we feel we have an excellent start. This is a self-directed course and is open to any member of our staff to complete at your discretion. Please visit the following page on our site and scroll down to the Professional Development Opportunities:

<https://www.sd91indigenouseducation.com/educators>

We would like to thank the members of the Indigenous Education Council (IEC) for your continuous support. Again, thank you to the BLNTU current and past presidents for your ongoing support, as well. A special thank you to PattiAnn Plowman, Lara Hartman, Elizabeth Bennett and Marina Saulig for your valuable contributions to this project.

Indigenous Language Teachers Planning and Sharing Day

On September 24, 2023, our Indigenous Education Council (IEC) and Nadleh Whut'en co-hosted an Indigenous Language Teachers Planning and Sharing Day. During this gathering, language teachers and others who support language revitalization in our communities came together to share resources, discuss opportunities for collaboration, and network.

The event was very well attended and all involved found the sessions to be uplifting and valuable. We were fortunate to be joined virtually by Dr. Lorna Williams, who shared stories about language revitalization efforts in BC and around the world, and shared an uplifting message about the important work of teaching, sharing, and revitalizing our languages.



More information about BC Indigenous languages can be found at:

The First Peoples' Cultural Council:

<https://fpcc.ca/>

First Voices:

<https://www.firstvoices.com/>

September 2023 Role Models



Noah—Grade 8

Nadleh Whut'en

Noah is a hard working, pleasant student. He is always kind and does his best!



Hailey—Grade 12

Lake Babine Nation

Hailey shows tremendous work ethic consistently. Hailey is both friendly, caring and works hard at any task that is set in



Nevaeh—Grade 12

Saik'uz First Nation

Nevaeh strives for success. She is hardworking, always cheery with a smile and respectful. She is a role

October 2023 Role Models



Ezekiel—Grade 10

Non Status

He is a polite, helpful student. Zeke's attendance is excellent. He works diligently towards completing his academic courses. Zeke participates in class activities. He is part of the Student Council and Student Voice. Zeke attended the BC Student Leadership Conference in Kelowna which has empowered him to be a leader



Perry—Grade 12

Lake Babine Nation

Perry has had an outstanding start to the semester. His attendance, engagement, effort, and focus in class has been exemplary. Perry is a quiet leader among his peers and sets a strong academic example for them. Additionally, Perry has



Jada—Grade 11

Nak'azdli

She is a honour role student and has good attendance. Jada is pleasant and gets along with her peers. Jada is a hockey player and excels at the sport. She is very involved in her culture.



Holiday—Grade 7

Non Status

This student always try's her best. She is cheery, and always has a contagious smile. Very quiet and



Indigenous Education Newsletter

Vol 4 - Issue 3 - January 2024

In this month's newsletter, we are going to highlight and bring forward the amazing work being done by our staff and students at our afterschool Indigenous Girls and Boys groups. This year we have 3 Indigenous Girls Groups and 1 Indigenous Young Men's Group operating at the high school level:

Hundiyyin Program – LDSS

Ntsoo okw'un'a 'int'oh Program – FSJSS

NVSS Girl's Group

LDSS Indigenous Young Men's Group

These programs have arisen out of research conducted by the district that included surveys and interviews with Indigenous students. At the start of the school year we meet with the students at the secondary schools and have a sign up to attend these groups.

Hundiyyin Program – LDSS

Facilitated by Leona Prince and Chrystal Vanderwijk

Hundiyyin translates to “sharp like a knife”, which is the traditional phrase used to acknowledge brilliant women. The group was created to empower Indigenous girls to connect with their identity and embody the role of the matriarch. The program has focused on building skills through creating and doing through process-oriented learning. Through hands-on teachings and ongoing support, these girls will be mentored to embrace their Indigenous femininity and power, the true state of Hundiyyin. Through mentoring we will be working towards growing their knowledge of the matriarchy that is the tradition of our Peoples.

This is our 2nd year for this program. This year our group consists of 21 young ladies in grades 8-12 who meet every Tuesday and Wednesday from 3:30 – 5:00 pm. Each session of the group begins with a check-in and sharing circle.

The girls have complete some wonderful projects including moccasins, beaded ornaments, had lessons on fine arts with Kobe Antoine. We will be starting ribbon skirts/vests and other projects including language.

We are in the final planning stages to attend the Gathering of Nations PowWow in Albuquerque, New Mexico in April of 2024.

We will be holding our 2nd Annual Rematriation Gala Fundraiser on May 3rd, 2024. The girls will be planning, setting up and decorating for our Gala. This is an opportunity to showcase and give the public a chance to purchase some of the projects that we made together. All funds that are raised will then go towards future trips and expenses. We will be advertising closer to the date when tickets will be available to purchase. Mesiy.



Ntsoo okw'un'a 'int'oh Program – FSJSS

Facilitated by Carla Martin

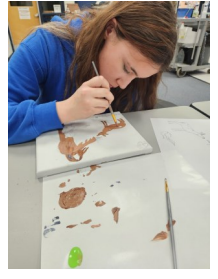
Our Ntsoo okw'un'a 'int'oh (follow your grandmothers' foot steps) program has been created to empower the girls to connect with their Dakelh identity and embody the role of the matriarch. The pillars of our program are empowering voice, identity, purpose, positive mental health supports, and improving physical literacy. Through mentoring, the girls will be working towards growing the knowledge of the matriarchy that is the tradition of our Peoples.

Our Group consists of 10 young women grades 8-12 that attend from 3:15-5:30PM every Monday from October 2023 to April 2024. Each Monday we start off by sharing a full meal together, then we gather with smudging and reflecting about the topic of choice, then we identify our feelings in the moment and list 3 things we are grateful for, then we gather for the last hour and a half with our activities and guests.

We invite a variety of guests such as matriarchs, elders, mentors, leaders to come in and share knowledge about a topic of choice around the 4 pillars listed above.

So far we have learned about the importance to have voice for ourselves and others and learning how to introduce ourselves in the Dakelh language, embracing the importance of Art and each student completed a painting, we made a ribbon skirt and learned the importance of regalia and the respect around the teachings of a ribbon skirt.

Currently, in addition to our weekly meetings, we are planning a trip to the Albuquerque, New Mexico Gathering of Nations Pow Wow in April 2024. We are actively fundraising for an experience of a life time with a **Fundraiser Gala happening February 24th** along with many other fundraising opportunities within our community of Fort St. James.



NVSS Indigenous Girls Leadership Group

Facilitated by Nikki Arnold

The primary goals of the NVSS Indigenous Girls Group are to instill pride in the students about who they are and where they come from and to support the building of confidence. Our group also provides lessons about women's health issues.

This is the first year for this program and our group consists of 7 young ladies. We start with a check in with what our week looks like on Mondays after school. Then we have our regular meeting on Tuesdays from 3:15—4:45 pm where we get to know each other while working on projects and enjoy the food provided.

Our group has completed a number of hands-on learning activities, including beading lanyards.

We are currently planning and fundraising for a trip to attend the SOARing Indigenous Youth Conference in Ottawa this spring.



LDSS Indigenous Young Men's Group

Facilitated by Jesse Fairley

The primary goals of our group are to:

- Connect students with their language and culture.
- Connect students with on-the-land learning opportunities.
- Support student confidence and connections at school.

Our group has just begun meeting regularly, and we really wanted to focus on activities that most interested the young men. During our planning meeting, the young men identified learning about traditional practices and approaches with regards to hunting and trapping. They also indicated that they would like an opportunity to play sports together.

Our group meets every Wednesday from 3:30 – 5:00pm at LDSS. We open our session with a circle and a Carrier language lesson. We will do a team building activity and then we go to the gym to play sports (most often it is floor hockey). We have also had guest speakers, including a local indigenous hunter/trapper and a visit from our local conservation officer.

We are looking forward to having opportunities to learn about hunting and trapping on the land, and to expand our knowledge of traditional practices and values when it comes to our interactions with nature.

Our group is planning a trip to Prince George in February, which will include a visit to UNBC and a Cougar's hockey game.



Mesiya, to our staff and students for making these groups happen. In the coming years, we are hoping to have both Young Women and Young Men's groups in each community for our Indigenous Youth in Grades 8-12.

Coming up in February

Wednesday February 28, 2024

Pink Shirt Day

Build each other up...don't tear them down!

Be kind!



November 2023 Role Models



Nyah—Grade 11

Non Status

Nyah is outstanding in guitar this semester. She works diligently at learning her instrument and is very passionate about her playing, not to mention she is a great role model for her classmates. Nyah and a friend were courageous enough to do a guitar performance during the Remembrance Day ceremony.



Audrey—Grade 9

Stellat'en

Her attendance is great. Audrey is a hard working and motivated learner. She always has a positive attitude, a great sense of humor, and is very friendly with both her peers and adults. She strives to do well in her courses and works hard to stay caught up on her assignments. She works very well with all her peers and is consistently encouraging those around her.



Avery—Grade 10

New Aiyansh

Avery is a quiet and thoughtful student in class. He always does his best and is willing to put effort in. He is involved in the NVSS Band and has been active in many sports.



Skye—Grade 8

Nadleh Whut'en

Skye is a super pleasant young lady. She is talented in art! She shows leadership and is a good friend to her classmates. Way to be Skye!



Alexis—Grade 6

Inuit

Alexis has dedicated herself to improving her reading skills. She has grown tremendously in this first term!

December 2023 Role Models



Kierra—Grade 9

Skawahlook Band

Kierra is very outgoing, always on time going to class she would help anyone who would ask. She works hard at accomplishing her tasks in class. She is very friendly to classmates and staff.



Aiden—Grade 9

Inuit

Aiden has been a dedicated member of our Student Council since joining EBUS Academy. He is kind, helpful, innovative and works cooperatively to plan and initiate activities and events for the student body.



Judy—Grade 11

Nadleh Whut'en

Judy is a Cheerful, kind, generous and conscience young lady. She has exemplary attendance, and a very positive attitude. Keep up the good work Judy!



Trew—Grade 8

Nak'azdli

Trew has great attendance and she does very well academically. She is involved in school sports. Trew is well liked by her peers and is an active participant in her school community. She is a dedicated student athlete and works hard in all her classes. Trew is a kind student with an excellent sense of humor.