



# ASSOCIATION OF YUKON SCHOOL COUNCILS, BOARDS & COMMITTEES

P.O. Box 20409, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 7A2

[www.ayscbc.org](http://www.ayscbc.org)

(867) 633-2692

[info@ayscbc.org](mailto:info@ayscbc.org)

## APRIL 2014 NEWSLETTER



### SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS THIS SPRING

The term of office of current School Council members will end this fall with the beginning of the new 2014-2015 school year and the new School Councils being elected/appointed this spring will take over the roles and responsibilities at that time.

**Nominations for these School Councils begin on April 14th and are open until 12 noon on April 24<sup>th</sup>**—papers will be available in school offices during this time and must be filed with the returning officer for the school **no later than noon** on April 24th. For those schools that have more nominations than seats on its Council, there will be an election, held on Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.



On our [RESOURCES](#) page you'll find some information that might be useful for you and your school community in preparation for this.

There is:

- a tip sheet about encouraging parents and other community members to run;
- a listing of a few reasons why School Councils are important to public education; and,
- a sample item for your school and/or School Council newsletter

If you're interested in how many seats there are on each School Council, we've posted the list [here](#).

***We hope many of the current members will run again along with some who will be new to the role. We know that strong School Councils are key players in Yukon education.***

For questions about School Councils, you are welcome to contact [Carol](#). For information specifically about nominations and elections, the person to contact is [Brenda McCain-Armour](#), Yukon Elections, 667-8683 or toll free 1-866-668-8683.

Towards the end of this newsletter you'll find a piece titled:

***On Being a School Council Member...the most important question we can ask...***

They are useful words to reflect on in carrying out the roles and responsibilities of a School Council.



## HOT OFF THE PRESS!!

**John Abbott**, Director of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Initiative's latest report:  
**["BATTLING FOR THE SOUL OF EDUCATION"](#)**

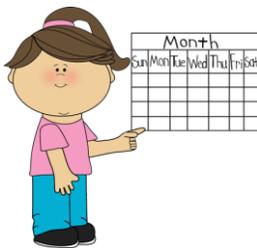
Many of you will remember our special guest speaker at the Fall 2013 School Councils' Conference and his passion for making education meaningful, relevant and engaging to our young people. We hope you will take some time to read this report and reflect on our shared responsibility for providing great learning opportunities for our Yukon students.

To get you started, here is a short excerpt from the introduction to the paper and its author:  
---*"The overwhelming sense I had upon first hearing John Abbott speak was one of relief. Finally, here was someone who could give substance and context to my concerns, not just about the kind of education we were giving our children, but the kind of world we were raising them in. It was at that short presentation (one of more than a thousand John has given around the world in the past twenty or so years) given at my daughter's school that I – and others in the room – understood that our niggling doubts were both valid and far more important than we'd imagined.*

*I suspect this is a sentiment shared by the many thousands of teachers, pedagogues, young people and parents who have attended John's lectures, read his books or listened to his blogs over the course of the last 25 years. After all, it is not enough simply to know that something is amiss – one needs to understand the what, how and why. That is what John's work – and this document – provides."*

## SCHOOL CALENDARS

The much awaited School Calendars for the next 3 years are now available. They are posted [here](#) along with letters from Education Minister Elaine Taylor.



## YAY! THEY GOT IT!!

Ever wonder what the success rate is on applying for grants that we circulate information about? Del Van Gorder School in Faro has successfully applied for and received funding from [MusiCounts](#). We'd be happy to hear of such successes from other schools as well, just drop a line and we'll share it.



## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR POST-SECONDARY STUDIES

Here are a few information sources when helping students plan post-secondary studies and financing:  
Yukon Education Financial Assistance [http://www.education.gov.yk.ca/continued/student\\_funding.html](http://www.education.gov.yk.ca/continued/student_funding.html)  
Student Awards <http://www.studentawards.com/>  
Scholarships Canada <http://www.scholarshipscanada.com/>



## UPCOMING EVENTS

☆AYSCBC Members might like to refer to the organization's policy on [Financial Support For AYSCBC Member School Councils To Attend Professional Development Events](#)

**Education Week** is **April 14-17<sup>th</sup>** and there will be lots of activities and events happening in schools to celebrate this. Some of these are listed on the [Yukon Education Week webpage](#). AYSCBC will be one of several participants with displays of information in the foyer at the main Yukon Government building during that week.

On **April 23<sup>rd</sup>** at 6:30pm, parents are invited to a speaking engagement with Dr. Gavin Read who is a renowned expert on **strategies for struggling readers**. The **Learning Disabilities Association of Yukon** is hosting the event and all interested are welcome. The session will take place at their new office located at **128A Copper Road in Whitehorse**. More information is available from Stephanie at [ed@ldayukon.com](mailto:ed@ldayukon.com)



**April 25 & 26<sup>th</sup>**, Westmark Whitehorse  
**"MILESTONES"**—Yukon Child Care Association Conference  
Information on guest speakers is [here](#).  
For registration details: [http://www.yukonchildcareassociation.org/#!/news\\_events/c4xp](http://www.yukonchildcareassociation.org/#!/news_events/c4xp)

**April 25 - 27<sup>th</sup>**, Edmonton, the Alberta School Councils Association will be having their Conference and AGM.  
The theme is **"GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP AND STUDENT SUCCESS—Considering the future of Education and the 3 E's: Engaged thinker, Ethical Citizen, Entrepreneurial spirit"**  
More information is available [here](#).

**April 25-26, 2014**, Richmond, BC  
At this year's conference, the **First Nations Schools Association (FNSEA)** welcomes special guest keynotes author of *"Indian Horse"* and *"Keeper'n Me"* **Richard Wagamese**, child development authority and best-selling author, **Dr. Gordon Neufeld**, and internationally recognized transformative learning consultant, **Anthony Muhammad**. More information is available [here](#).



On **May 10<sup>th</sup>**, an **ORIENTATION for SCHOOL COUNCILS** will be taking place for Whitehorse School Councils at the Beringia Centre to follow up the May 5th elections. Plans are well underway for orientation events in the rural communities as well and more information will be available shortly.

**May 13-15**, Winnipeg, **EARLY YEARS FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM** Research to Practice – Taking Action will aim at making Family and Community Engagement visible in all communities. Experts from the University of British Columbia; the University of Saskatchewan; the Canadian Council of Ministers of Education; the Dept. of Education and Early Childhood Development, PEI; the Institute of Child Studies, OISE/UT and, Healthy Child Manitoba will share their research and the actions taken to support the importance of Parent and Community Engagement. More information available [here](#).

**Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>** at **1pm Yukon time**, in the comfort of your home, office, school, etc-- There will be a **Webinar** on the topic of “[Defeating the Culture of Bullying in an age of Social Media](#)” Click on the topic to learn more and register. This is being hosted by [edWeb.net](#)

**July 7 & 8<sup>th</sup>**, Winnipeg, “**EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE AT THE HEART OF PUBLIC EDUCATION**”. This event is a Canadian Teachers’ Federation President’s Forum. More information is available [here](#).



### ON-LINE SAFETY

Following up on last month’s newsletter listing of information about this topic, we’ve learned of another one and wanted to share it:--[ConnectSafely.org](#)



*AYSCBC promotes School Council, Board and Committee service as a meaningful way to make long term contributions to your local community and society.*

## ***On Being a School Council Member***

The most important question we can ask...  
“IS IT GOOD FOR KIDS?”

To guide our work as School Council members:--

There must be a dynamic shared vision for education that reflects student needs and community priorities. We demonstrate our commitment to the shared vision by using it to guide decision making.

We are involved in the development of long and short term plans that are annually revised through a process involving extensive participation, information gathering, research and reflection.

We encourage and support innovative approaches to teaching, learning and the continuous renewal of education.

We celebrate achievements of students and accomplishments of others who contribute to education.

We advocate for children and families and establish and maintain relationships with parents and other mentors to help support students.

We support partnerships with individuals, groups and organizations to promote and expand the educational opportunities for ALL students while continually improving teamwork, problem solving and decision-making skills.

We perform in a fair and responsible manner for ALL students to promote School Council service as a meaningful way to make long term contributions to society.

We need to proactively identify and address issues affecting the education of ALL students.

We need to receive regular reports on student progress and needs based on a variety of assessments to evaluate the quality and equity of the educational program.

We need to evaluate our own performance in carrying out our responsibilities as a Council.

Adapted with permission by the  
***Association of Yukon School Councils, Boards & Committees (AYSCBC)***  
from 'Board Standards - A Framework for Alaska School Boards' by the  
***Association of Alaska School Boards***

Also posted online [here](#)



☆ **SCHOOL COUNCILS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF AYSCBC**

Nelnah Bessie John  
Chief Zzeh Gittlit  
Del Van Gorder  
Robert Service  
Eliza Van Bibber  
Selkirk Elementary  
Takhini Elementary

Ghuch Tla  
St. Elias  
Ross River  
Tantalus  
J. V. Clark  
Teslin  
Kluane Lake

Grey Mountain Primary  
Watson Lake  
Porter Creek Secondary  
F.H. Collins Secondary  
Hidden Valley Elementary  
Golden Horn Elementary  
Ecole Whitehorse Elementary

*Want to learn more about Membership, please [contact us](#) and we'd be glad to talk with you.*

If you'd like us to attend one of your meetings, or meet with you at another time,  
let us know—we'd be happy to do so.

**Members of the AYSCBC Executive**

Bob Laking, Chair (Dawson)  
993-5214 [bob.laking@ayscbc.org](mailto:bob.laking@ayscbc.org)

Neil Salvin, Vice-Chair (Whitehorse)  
667-6083 [neil.salvin@ayscbc.org](mailto:neil.salvin@ayscbc.org)

Chris Bookless, Sec/Treasurer  
633-4311 (Whitehorse)  
[chris.bookless@ayscbc.org](mailto:chris.bookless@ayscbc.org)

Rick Halladay (Carcross)  
821-4613 [rick.halladay@ayscbc.org](mailto:rick.halladay@ayscbc.org)

Sandra Henderson (Whitehorse)  
667-2059  
[sandra.henderson@ayscbc.org](mailto:sandra.henderson@ayscbc.org)

Ted Baker (Faro)  
994-2442 [ted.baker@ayscbc.org](mailto:ted.baker@ayscbc.org)

Carol Coote *Executive Director* (Whitehorse)  
633-2692 [exec.director@ayscbc.org](mailto:exec.director@ayscbc.org)