



# ASSOCIATION OF YUKON SCHOOL COUNCILS, BOARDS & COMMITTEES

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## 'BACK TO SCHOOL' 2012 NEWSLETTER



### IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN....

We hope you had a good summer and that you look forward to the many upcoming activities, events and discussions in your schools and communities. We send a special **welcome** to all new students, families, teachers, principals and other support staff.

School Councils will be having their **Annual General Meetings** within this next month and that is always a great opportunity to look back over the work that was done last year. Sometimes we lose sight of the planning and good decisions we've made as we are so busy with day-to-day, month-to-month items. We hope you will take heart in the energy and time you have committed to your work on School Council that has had a positive impact on your school community and most importantly, our students.



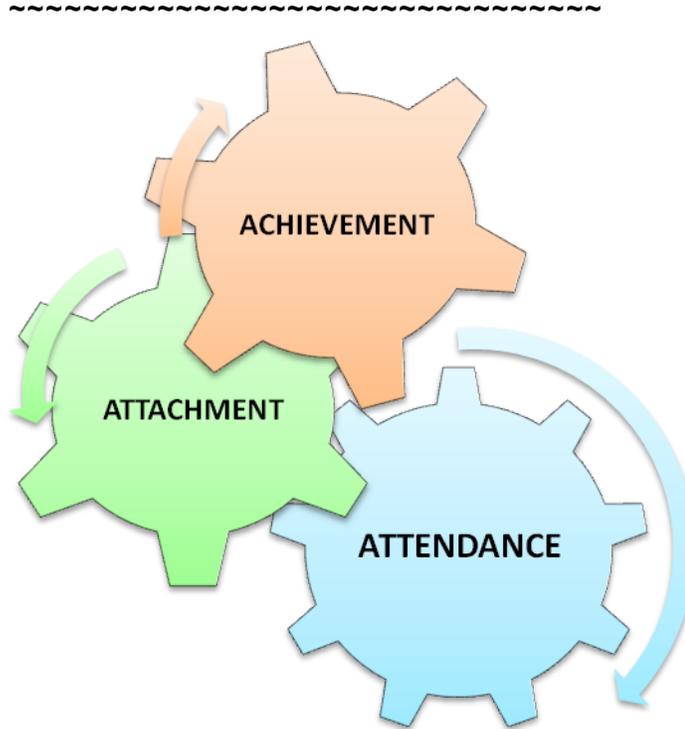
### SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

If you haven't done so already, now is a great time to ask your fellow School Council colleagues, who is interested in sitting as a SC member for the next 2 year term. While it is always a good practice to have some new faces at the table, there is merit in having some continuity as well. Make sure you have this discussion and that you also spread the word to your community about the upcoming elections.

There are some documents posted on our [website](#) that can help you in this raising awareness about School Councils, the role they play as well as the legal requirements to be met in order to be eligible for nomination.

Nomination papers will be in school offices as of **September 10<sup>th</sup>** and **need to be filed with your returning officer by September 20<sup>th</sup> before noon.** For those schools where the number of nominations exceeds the number of available seats, School Council elections will be taking place this fall on **October 1<sup>st</sup>**.

We will continue to promote these elections as part of our work and if there is something we can do to assist you in doing so, **please let us know.**



There is a strong connection between the 3 words above—each one motivating the other, working together like cogs in a gear.

As the new school year begins, we'd like to shine a light on the **importance of attendance.**

Attached to this newsletter and posted on our website, you'll find a [one-pager on this topic](#) and we hope you will read and share with other parents and community members.

**We all have a role to play in supporting student attendance.**

### **A FEW UPCOMING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES...**

#### ***'Conversations in Education 2012-2013'***

Yukon Education will be involved in a series of workshops held over this school year on different topics of relevance to learning.

***All presentations are open to the public at no cost – everyone is welcome.***

The first one is presented as a partnership between Learning Disabilities Association of Yukon and Yukon Education, and features guest: **Angie de Marco, Community Outreach worker from Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury.**

**Location: Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre, Whitehorse**

**Time: Monday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:00-9:00pm**

**Title: Energize Your Abilities / Address Anxiety**

*A stressed person, (staff or student) cannot think (process information) effectively.*

Anxiety impedes cognitive function. This workshop introduces energy balancing techniques that facilitate the integration of the brains hemispheres, balancing the body, relaxing the mind. A calm, balanced brain supports efficient cognitive abilities with improved personal and professional lives being the outcome.

There will also be an additional session with Angie:

**Time: Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>**

*(Check [www.ldayukon.com](http://www.ldayukon.com) for up to date information on exact time and location)*

**Title: Constructing Advocates**

**(2 hr. orientation for Gr. 5 – 8 Students & Parents)**

This is a fun filled, interactive evening intended for **students and their parents.**

This self-awareness workshop focuses on your child's strength and will provide attendees with the tools that support success. Participants will come away with a better understanding of how each student learns as well as an appreciation of the fact that we all learn differently. Through the construction of a learning profile we will explore aspects of an individual learning profile:

Their learning style, type of intelligence, learning strategies, self-advocacy skills and an understanding of their IEP.

Also, there will be a DVD Presentation: **“Read Me Differently”**

Location: Family Literacy Centre (Canada Games Centre), Whitehorse

Time: Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00-8:30pm

*Read Me Differently* paints a portrait of three women bound by blood, but divided by a lack of understanding. It tells the story of a family whose complicated relationships stem from misunderstanding unidentified learning disabilities.

*And another great learning opportunity---*

**Dr. Stuart Shanker**, a well-known researcher and speaker on brain development and enhancing the potential of children, will be in Whitehorse on October 16<sup>th</sup> to give a presentation on **‘Self-Regulation’** at 6:30pm at the Beringia Centre. This is being sponsored by **Autism Yukon** and the **Child Development Centre**. More details to follow.....

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***The solution to adult problems tomorrow  
depends in large measure upon  
how our children grow up today.***

Margaret Mead



## SOME IMPORTANT DATES

**Sept 10<sup>th</sup>** - Nomination papers available in school offices

**September 20<sup>th</sup>** - Nominations close at noon

**October 1<sup>st</sup>** - Elections for all School Councils where nominations exceed the number of seats.

Information available at [Elections Yukon](#)

**August 27<sup>th</sup> - September 30<sup>th</sup>** – School Councils AGMs to take place

## SCHOOL COUNCILS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF AYSCBC

Nelna 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

**Together**  
**we can make a difference**

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)

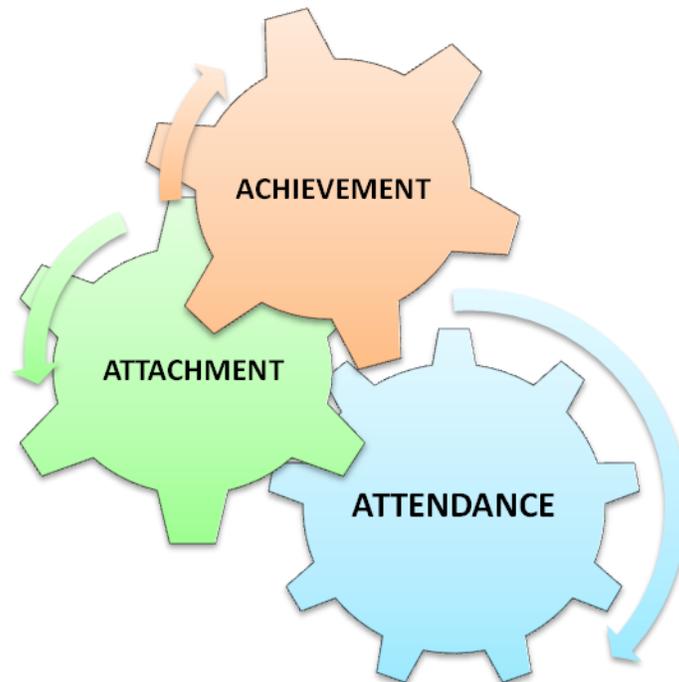
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Carol Coote *Executive Director* (Whitehorse)  
633-2692 [exec.director@ayscbc.org](mailto:exec.director@ayscbc.org)



The 3 A's are strongly connected, each aspect contributes to the whole experience of our students as they move through the grades. Concerns about attendance often begin in the early school years.

### **Attendance**

- Absence can create gaps in learning which may affect a young person's self-esteem and confidence.
- Arriving at school on time gives students time to greet their friends before class.
- Regular attendance is essential to make sure learning is continuous and not disrupted.
- Getting to school and class on time teaches students the importance of being organized, managing time and a routine.

### **Attachment**

- When students are in school and involved in learning activities, they have an opportunity to develop relationships with staff, peer students and feel connected to, and part of the school community.
- School staff can help young people develop important social skills such as developing friendships, teamwork, communication skills, healthy self-esteem, leadership.

### **Achievement**

- Frequent and/or lengthy absences can have a negative effect on a student's achievement which can lead to frustration and inappropriate behaviour.
- Feedback on a student's learning is ongoing in school—steady progress is reported and any concerns or learning difficulties can be supported.

**Parents and other adults play an important role** in influencing the behaviour of children and youth. Show them you value their education so they will as well--by ensuring they attend regularly, making their appointments outside of school hours, asking them about what they are doing in school, participating in school events, reading with and to your children, making sure they have a time and space to work on projects, staying in touch with their teachers.