



ASSOCIATION OF YUKON SCHOOL COUNCILS, BOARDS & COMMITTEES

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DECEMBER 2012 NEWSLETTER



SCHOOL COUNCIL TRAINING WORKSHOP---2ND OFFERING

The first of two all day Saturday Workshop Sessions for **all members** of all School Councils took place on December 1st. The next one, for those who could not participate in the first one, will be this Saturday, Dec 8th. We encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to share discussion, to learn and work together. More information and registration is available on the [Yukon Education website](#). Contact [Lori](#) at the Dept for registration and more details.

AYSCBC will be hosting supper for any participating Member School Councils who wish to join us after the workshops on December 8th. Contact [Carol](#) if you wish to have a seat saved for you! Not sure if your School Council is a Member? Check the list at the end of this newsletter. If yours is not listed but you want to know more about the Association, please get in touch with us and we'll fill you in.

2013-2014 SCHOOL CALENDAR & SCHOOL YEAR

Minister of Education Scott Kent and Deputy Minister Valerie Royle addressed the attendees at the December 1st School Council Training Workshop on the topics of lengthening the number of days in the 2013-14 school year, determining a common school calendar as well as whether the terms of office for School Councils should be staggered as well as extended for an additional year. Questions and comments from delegates were welcomed as will be the case again at the Training session on Dec 8th. A package of information and suggestions will be circulated by the Department of Education to all School Councils on December 10th and your feedback is being requested by January 11th. We hope all will take the time to engage in this call for discussion and input.

Follow up on the 18th Annual Conference on Aboriginal Education

The First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) held their 18th Annual conference on Aboriginal Education in Vancouver, November 22-24th. The theme was "**Reconciliation Through Education**" and sessions focussed on improving outcomes for Aboriginal learners and building understanding and relationships between all Canadians. Some of the presentations have been posted on the [FNESC website](#), including:

- The Keynote Address by the Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair,
Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- A Panel Presentation on "*How Can We Achieve Reconciliation Through Education?*"
- A PowerPoint Presentation by Grand Chief Edward John

The event was a powerful learning experience and another step in the process of supporting success for all learners. We will be sharing more information and materials from the workshops that were presented as we receive the electronic copies of same.



VISION SCREENING WORKSHOP

There will be a workshop on Wednesday, January 9th 6:30-9pm in Room 1 at the Department of Education Building for those interested in learning more about the process of doing vision screening of students in elementary schools. This is an important preliminary step in determining whether a vision concern might be interfering with a student's learning. Training and support is provided to all volunteers. For more information, contact ruth.ferguson@yesnet.yk.ca and to register contact Shirley Loo at 667-8000.



Supporting Students who are LGBTQ*

In October, the Department of Education hosted workshop sessions on Creating LGBTQ Safer & Inclusive Schools (*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Tran-sexual, Questioning). These were presented by [Egale Canada](#) to educators from many Yukon schools and follow up has included the sharing many resources available on their website as well as the [Gay Straight Alliance](#) one.

One of several documents that are available is: *How to Handle Harassment in the Hallways in 3 minutes*: <http://www.mygsa.ca/educators/creating-inclusive-school>

A Yukon Education policy for implementation in our schools was recently developed on the subject of [Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity](#). This policy accompanies the [Safe and Caring Schools Policy](#) and is aimed at ensuring that schools are welcoming inclusive learning places for all students.



A GOOD BOOK TO READ

As the daylight grows shorter and the temperatures cooler, spending time with a good book can be an inviting pastime. **“Lost At School”** by Ross W Greene is one book that I’d highly recommend to all parents, educators and others who are keen to increase their understanding about how we can help children and students with challenging behaviours that affect their learning:

A couple of excerpts:

“The wasted human potential is tragic. In so many schools, kids with social, emotional, and behavioral challenges are still poorly understood and treated in a way that is completely at odds with what is now known about how they came to be challenging in the first place.” p. ix

“Three massive shifts are required: (1) a dramatic improvement in understanding the factors that set the stage for challenging behavior in kids; (2) creating mechanisms for helping these kids that are predominantly proactive instead of reactive; and (3) creating processes so people can work on problems collaboratively.” p. xii

Members of AYSCBC can borrow this book from our holdings by sending [Carol](#) an email request. We suggested that the Whitehorse Public Library order a copy and it is now available from them as well.



WEBSITE RESOURCES to CHECK OUT

Here are some useful links from [our website](#) as students look into applying for post secondary:

www.SchoolFinder.com

<http://www.scholarshipscanada.com>

www.yukonfoundation.com

www.education.gov.yk.ca/advanceded/sfa/index.html



Let us know about your School Council meeting dates and we’ll add them to our online, always being updated, [Calendar of Events](#). We’ll help you spread the word!

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

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

Want to learn more about Membership, please contact us and we'd be glad to talk with you.



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)
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