

# DSBN Indigenous Education Update

April 2023  
HIGHLIGHTS

## Indigenous Student Leadership Circle (ISLC)

- Kya Steinbach-Parker – Indigenous Student Trustee, will be connecting with student reps from each secondary school to bring a collective voice to the work she is doing. Virtual monthly circles will connect First Nations, Métis, and Inuit secondary students from across the board with the support of the Indigenous Education team.

## PD Sessions – May 2023

- We are looking forward to hosting author Monique Gray-Smith. Monique adapted Robin Wall-Kimmerer's book *Braiding Sweetgrass* for a young adult audience. This new edition reinforces how wider ecological understanding stems from listening to the earth's oldest teachers: the plants around us. Monique will be hosting three days of professional learning for students and educators in May.

## Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Voices (NBE3 Grade 11 English) Initiative

- The need to support teachers teaching NBE courses in place of ENG 3U has been identified. Teachers will benefit from professional development and new resources to teach grade 11 NBE courses.
- Working with the Indigenous Education Secondary team – all schools have at least one educator attending a session 1 day a week for 5 weeks, identifying goals and areas requiring development, as well as supporting course material.

## Board Action Plan (BAP) 2022-23

- We had our first BAP sub-committee meeting February 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss initiatives and seek input. As this school year's BAP was released at the end of January, the committee spoke about ongoing initiatives and looking to set short- and long-term goals, for consistency. We are currently working from last year initiatives, as they were not started due to pandemic related restrictions.

## Upcoming events:

- Please stay tuned for the next Parent/caregiver Engagement session in May in Fort Erie. Information on initiatives and events can be found on the DSBN webpage as well as on the Indigenous Education Instagram @dsbn\_indigenous\_ed

**INDIGENOUS  
SELF ID STUDENT  
UPDATE**  
(As of April 3, 2023)

Elementary **705 Students**  
Secondary **346 Students**

## Indigenous Secondary School Student Reps

- The first in-person meeting of the Indigenous student Reps was held at White Oaks on March 30<sup>th</sup>
- We are excited to be working alongside these students with the goal of bringing their voices, and those of their peers, to the work we are doing and looking towards the nomination of next year's Indigenous Student Trustee, carrying on the work of Kya Steinbach-Parker
- These students will be attending a retreat at the end of April, working together to discuss plans for this year and next around initiatives, events, and professional development opportunities that would benefit both students and staff.



## DSBN Indigenous Education Team

**Georgie Groat** – Student Achievement Leader and Lead for Indigenous Education (Principal K-12)

**Feather Kearns** – Interim Elementary Consultant (K-8)

**Kirsty Howie** – Acting Secondary Consultant (9-12)

**Sheila Maracle** - Indigenous Supports Advisor (K-12)

**Kursten Ransom** - Re-engagement and Graduation Coach (9-12)

**Rebekah Carlsson** – Acting Instructional Coach - First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies (9-12)

**Ashley Buck** – Social Worker – Indigenous Students K-12

**Ann Gilmore** - Superintendent of Curriculum and Student Achievement (9-12)

**Marian Reimer Friesen** - Superintendent of Curriculum and Student Achievement (K-8)



For more information, please contact Georgie Groat at [Georgia.Groat@dsbn.org](mailto:Georgia.Groat@dsbn.org) or visit our website at [www.dsb.org/programs-services/indigenous-education](http://www.dsb.org/programs-services/indigenous-education)