

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION REPORT

DECEMBER 2018 - JUNE 2019



**I Matter
At DSBN**



ANCESTRAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We begin this gathering by acknowledging the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples and acknowledging reminds us that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.

STUDENT VOICE & STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

K-12

- 679 elementary and 324 secondary students at the District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) are self-identified as First Nations, Métis and Inuit descent.
- DSBN elementary and secondary Parent Representatives are now attending IEAC meetings.
- A DSBN Student Representative has started attending IEAC meetings.
- Indigenous Week is acknowledged at DSBN with celebrations for students and a planned Sunrise Ceremony for staff and community, which will be led by Elder Jackie Labonte.
- Indigenous Peoples Day, in conjunction with our local communities, is being held at the Landscape of Nations in June.
- IEAC co-chair Gary Parker opened the Inaugural Board Meeting and we were honoured with Indigenous students dancing at the event.
- Niagara Region Native Centre (NRNC) monthly socials, hosted at St. Catharines Collegiate, started in February to encourage DSBN families and staff to attend.
- Youth and Elders Gathering, organized by Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre (FENFC) and facilitated by DSBN, was supported financially by DSBN Board of Trustees. 67 elementary students and 155 secondary students attended.



Students from Peace Bridge Public School at Inaugural Board meeting

- On November 15, students from Harriet Tubman, St.Catharines Collegiate and Thorold Secondary Schools participated in the Louis Riel Day flag raising ceremony. Derrick Pont (Niagara Regional Council President for the Métis Nation of Ontario) and Amanda Pont-Shanks (MNO K-12 Education Officer) were there to share lunch, speak to staff and students and to help raise the flag.
- Raising the flag of Nunavut at Education Centre in honour of Inuit Peoples Day
- Traditional smudging location signs are posted in Education Centre and Curriculum Support Services.

DSBN students participating in Thomas Brothers' Lacrosse Clinic at Youth and Elders Gathering at Scotiabank Convention Centre





ELEMENTARY

- Karl Dockstader, from FENFC, presented the Haudenosaunee Creation Story to the Grade 6/7 class at Valley Way.
- The Indigenous Education team helped three schools plan Indigenous full-day events and afterschool events for parents and communities.
- The Indigenous Education team assisted in hosting an afterschool Parent Council presentation on Indigenous Education. Karl Dockstader, from FENFC, presented to parents.
- On December 10, Early Learning Classes (ELKP) at Smithville School learned about Indigenous ways of knowing, our environment, sustainability, reciprocity and harvesting.



In November, Amanda Pont-Shank of the Métis Nation of Ontario worked with students at 6 schools across the district. The students learned to paint Dot Art and did this on the wooden boxes in the Places of Comfort at their schools.

- On an ongoing basis, our elementary Indigenous Consultants continue to work in schools with staff and students. In multiple schools, they provided leadership for classroom instruction in Indigenous Education for educators. They support educators to embed Indigenous perspectives across multiple curricular areas in order to meet the needs of our Indigenous self-identified and non-identified students.
- All elementary schools received a copy of the Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada as well as Lacrosse Books for their Learning Commons.

Our Indigenous Consultants support many schools, students and families on an ongoing basis. During the period of this report, they supported 18 elementary schools and 18 students.

SECONDARY

- Two Indigenous Youth Leadership Days were held in May for 50 students. Workshop options decided by Indigenous Student Voice feedback including: First Nations Games and Lacrosse with Dallas Squire, Traditional Dancing with Nikki Shawana, Anishinaabemowin Language with Nikki Shawana, and the Moccasin Project with Nancy Rowe.
- Students continue to be active participants in the Moccasin Project and learning about the over representation of Indigenous children in care. The Indigenous Education Team and Nancy Rowe have supported student learning about residential schools, the Sixties Scoop and now the Millennium scoop. To date, 336 students have participated in The Moccasin Project and have made moccasins for babies in care. Last year, 294 students participated and so far, this year 42 students have participated.
- A Water Gathering was hosted by Sandra Indian and Nancy Rowe for 75 Indigenous students, consultants and Geography and Environmental Science educators. Sandra Indian's workshop was "Using storytelling to understand our relationship with water" and Nancy Rowe's Workshop was "Understanding our Connection to Water".
- Seventy-five students (Indigenous students, NDW-Contemporary Indigenous Issues and Perspectives in a Global Context course students) attended a learning opportunity at Balls Falls with our Māori friends from New Zealand. Participants attended three workshops: Identity, Culture and Art with Hohepa Hei and Mitchell Hughes and Living by the Moon and Stars: The Māori Stellar-Lunar Calendar in a planetarium with Te Kahuratai Painting.



Above and below: Indigenous Youth Leadership Days at Walker Living Campus





Indigenous
Knowledge
Star Gathering
Leadership
Camp



- Eleven secondary students and the elementary and secondary Indigenous Education Consultants attended a three day and three night Indigenous Star Knowledge Gathering in April with 24 Elders, Knowledge Keepers, NASA scientists, Indigenous artists and traditional storytellers.
 - Decolonizing STEM – Using Hájíínei Hane’ (Traditional Navajo Origin Stories) and NASA Astrobiology
 - Science with Daniella Scalice and Dana Desiderio from NASA and Navajo Nation Project
 - How the Stars Speak to Us with Tehehanteh Ratheseronnis.
 - The Celestial Bear - The Six Nations Night Sky with Robert Cockcroft from Western University
 - Indigenous Technologies and Design with Juan Carlos Chavez from Washington University and NASA
 - Medicine Pouch with Artist Naomi Smith
 - We Come From the Stars with Isaac Day
 - Living by the Moon and Stars: The Māori Stellar-Lunar Calendar by Te Kahuratai Painting from University of Auckland
 - Maori Identity, Culture and Art with Hohepa Hei and Mitchell Hughes from New Zealand
- In April, 16 high school graduates attended the Graduation Moccasin Making Workshop with Mandi Montour and made moccasins to wear across the stage for their graduation.
- 224 pairs of baby moccasins were made by 349 students and staff to take action and create awareness of the over representation of Indigenous children in care. The baby moccasins are distributed to several Indigenous organizations.



The Walker Living Campus hosted four Grade 9 Geography classes and Balls Falls hosted four Grade 11 Environmental Science classes sharing Indigenous Knowledge on sustainability and our connection to water.



Moccasin Making Workshop for graduates with Mandi Montour

- On April 30th, the Gay Straight Alliance Gathering at Laura Secord School included Dalton Bird, DSBN Alumni as a guest speaker.
- 18 Indigenous youth attended a Lunch and Learn and Lacrosse Clinic with Dallas Squire at Stamford Collegiate in March.
- A second drum making workshop was held with 22 Indigenous students making a 13 moon hand drum with Jackie and Oliver.
- On January 12, 2019 Hannah Walpole spoke to the Additional Qualification Course educators about honouring Indigenous student voice. The Grade 12 student from Greater Fort Erie Secondary School talked about what's important to students to the 19 educators taking the Secondary Indigenous Additional Qualification course.
- Indigenous community supported student and educator learning included: Gary Parker, Karl Dockstader, Nancy Rowe, Cindy Biancanello, Amanda Pont-Shanks, Jackie Labonte, Oliver Nobosin, Lance Logan Key, Rick McLean, David Labay, Michael Summers, Fran Hill, Kathleen Laforme, Rick Hill, Chandra Hill, Dallas Squire, Nikki Shawana, Jay Shawana and Mandi Montour.
- 24 First Nations, Métis and Inuit Courses ran this academic year, and 485 students were enrolled in total.
- Indigenous Advisor has attended 67 First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies classroom periods to support student learning.
- 78 DSBN Indigenous Education Studies students went to see Cottagers and Indians by Drew Hayden-Taylor at the First Ontario Performing Arts Center.

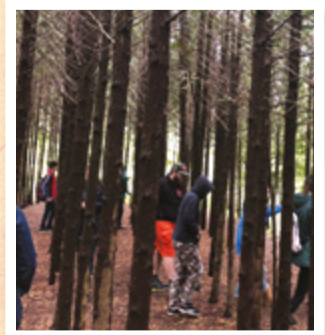


Students attended a day with our Maori friends from New Zealand at Balls Falls



Students participating in First Nations Games and Lacrosse clinics with Dallas Squire

- Mohawk language eLearning course ran with 24 students including Courage to Soar Students. Language Teacher and Language Elder Fran Hill attended in class sessions twice a week to support Courage to Soar students.
- Indigenous Studies Focused Classroom located in St. Catharines Collegiate has 19 students (including 8 Indigenous students).
- Indigenous Student Support Teacher has been supporting 116 Indigenous Students, including those in grade 9 and 10 classes and students that have been re-engaged to school.
- Indigenous Advisor has supported 32 students for social and emotional support, 13 students for status application support and 14 students for post-secondary information or funding application support.
- The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) lesson was created by Law Learning Team for Grade 11 and 12 Law courses.
- 1784 students participated in First Nations Games and Lacrosse Clinics with Dallas Squire. Workshops were offered in all 17 secondary schools and the Alternative Pathway Center through Health and Physical Education courses.
- 320 Indigenous Studies Course students attended workshops at Kana:ta Village to learn about Haudenosaunee people, hear residential school survivors and participate in First Nations Games and Lacrosse Clinics.
- 95 letters were mailed by the Indigenous Education team to students eligible for NPAAMB's stay in school initiative letters and 65 students successfully received funding.



Indigenous Studies students visit Kana:ta Village in Brantford to learn about Haudenosaunee people.

- Graduation letters were mailed to 70 students with information on bursaries and scholarships. Eleven students/families connected with the Indigenous Education team for support.
- Sergeant Raymond Starkes from the Canadian Armed Forces presented at 11 schools on possible Indigenous Entry Programs into the Forces, with 3 students applying to programs.
- 68 students attend Niagara Peninsula Aboriginal Area Management Board's (NPAAMB) Opportunity Knocks event in December. The Indigenous Education Team attended and chaperoned the event.
- In order to stay connected with students, families and community the DSBN Secondary Indigenous Education team promoted all events through social media outlets, for example, Facebook and Twitter.

Indigenous Youth Student Leader Hannah W. was recognized with Director's award for her leadership in student voice work representing Indigenous Youth.



- For May, we planned for 100 students to have the opportunity to build a traditional birch bark canoe through an apprenticeship model with Master Canoe Builder Chuck Commanda, Algonquin, through Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP). Due to weather and not being able to harvest the materials, this initiative has been postponed until September 2019.
- Brock Indigenous Youth Career Fair including Aboriginal Post-Secondary Information Program (APSiS) was attended by 67 DSBN Secondary Indigenous Youth representing all 17 secondary schools.

DSBN Indigenous students Kiara Kalenuik and Drewcilla Aaron participated in the Indigenous cultural, community and technological ways of knowing focused project at Brock University's Maker Challenge





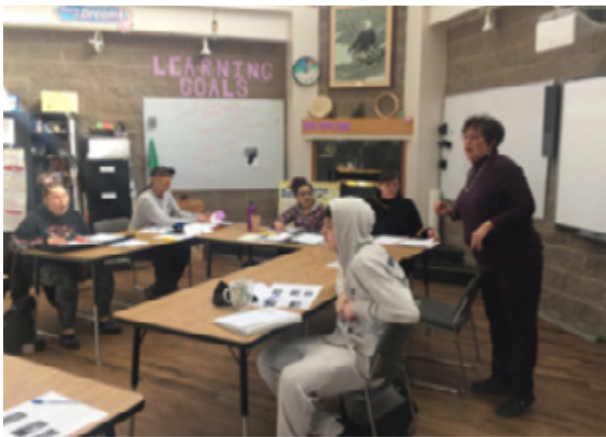
INDIGENOUS EDUCATION REPORT

- Indigenous students and talented artists Caden Lane and Ness Griffin's artwork were on display at the "Off the Wall Art Show". Both students were part of the planning of this incredible student led event.
- Art created by local Métis artist and community partner Amanda Pont-Shanks is now on display at every secondary school, Adult Education Centre and the Alternative Pathway Center.
- #IKNOW Ignite Knowledge & Nurturing Our Wellness Gathering, organized and facilitated by Courage to Soar Class, was attended by 99 participants in December.
- Each secondary library received Two Row Wampum labels for the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Book Collections they received in the fall so students can identify Indigenous authored books.



Indigenous Mural Celebration at Governor Simcoe Secondary.

Mohawk Language Course at Courage to Soar Program with additional support from language elder Fran Hill and language teacher Rhonda Maracle-Gerritsen.



Now on display at all DSNB Secondary Schools created by Métis Artist Amanda Pont-Shanks.



Proud student Delilah is pictured with her Mishoomis Rick McLean. Rick came in to share some Indigenous knowledge with his granddaughter's NBE3U English class at Governor Simcoe Secondary.



Drum Making workshop with secondary Indigenous students, Jackie and Oliver.



Indigenous student Ness Griffin's artwork on display at Off the Wall Art Show. This student was part of the planning of this incredible student led event.



- Final Project of Heart tile project was created by Laura Secord Students as part of their Anthropology, Psychology and Sociology Course as they learned about the impacts of Residential Schools.
- Mohawk eLearning Language Course with Six Nations Grand River Mohawk dialect continues to run annually. Course co-created with Fran Hill and continues to be supported by Fran
- Courage to Soar Students with teacher Chris Reed and FENFC Wasa Nabin worker Shannon Cotter participated in learning and living off the land for overnight camping.



NBE English course students at Welland Centennial participated in The Moccasin Project workshop with Nancy Rowe.

First Nations Games and Lacrosse Clinics with Dallas Squire at all secondary schools.





Thorold Indigenous students led a loom beading workshop with peers in NAC10 class.



- Six Lunch and Learns were held in secondary schools with NPAAMB Youth Service Officers, meeting with 67 students about events and work opportunities/programs.
- Student exemplar of UNDRIP lesson activity was created and shared with Grade 10 History, Grade 11/12 Law, and Indigenous Studies teachers

Students at NPAAMB Opportunity Knocks Gathering at White Oaks.



Beamsville District Secondary School Art Students used wood burning as a medium to learn about Indigenous Education at a workshop by Indigenous Artist Doug Maracle in the fall.



Indigenous Students at Brock Aboriginal Career Fair learned more about Programs through Aboriginal Post-Secondary Information Program (APSIP).



Kathleen LaForme from the Indigenous Diabetes Health Circle shared a new perspective on our relationship to food and the impact of the Five White Gifts to our Grade 10 Foods Class at Grimsby Secondary School.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT K-12

- After-School Speakers Series included over 160 educators participating. Speakers included: Dr. Susan Dion, Larry McDermott, Nancy Rowe and Tim Johnson.

On January 24, Dr. Susan Dion shared Indigenous Digital Stories from her research. Dr. Dion came back the next day to meet with educators who were part of the presentation, to gather feedback about what they had learned.

On February 28, Nancy Rowe, of the Mississaugas of the Credit, shared the Anishinaabe historical perspective with 21 educators.

On March 28, twenty-four educators listened to guest speaker Larry McDermott focus on highlights of Canada's Western/Indigenous shared history and why Canadians need to know this history to effectively honour our international, domestic and local obligations in contemporary terms.

Tim Johnson, Co-Chair of Landscape of Nations and former Associate Director for Museum Programs at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian presented on the Aesthetics of Story, using examples of narratives, music, exhibitions and public artwork.

- Indigenous Education team and several educators attended the FENFC Mid-Winter POW WOW in March.
- 28 DSBN elementary and secondary educators and administrators attended a Tanya Talaga talk in Niagara-on-the-Lake in February.
- Indigenous Education Team and educators attended performances at the First Ontario Performing Arts Centre: Rumble Concert, Trace-RED Sky Performance, Tribe Called Red, and Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack Legacy Concert.



Speaker series with Dr. Susan Dion.



Speaker series with Nancy Rowe.



ELEMENTARY

- 15 Elementary educators learned how to embed Indigenous learning into their physical education practice at a PD session on November 16.
- On November 29, DSBN coaches and consultants learned about the Mohawk Institute Residential school, and heard survivors Roberta Hill and Dawn Hill tell their stories of their experience there.
- 18 elementary administrators and consultants received training from the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres on December 4th.



Seventeen elementary educators and 1 administrator completed the FNMI Part 1 course on December 18. Educators completed the course having achieved a greater understanding of Indigenous histories and perspectives. The purpose of the course was to help educators gain a greater understanding of treaties, residential schools, 60s scoop, truth and reconciliation and other actions initiated by the government affecting Indigenous people. Educators have an enhanced ability to convey this knowledge to their students using culturally responsive and relevant pedagogy.



17 elementary educators learned how to use the *Visions and Voices Indigenous Arts Resource* at a PD session on November 16.



Elementary AQ session at the Fort Erie Friendship Centre with Gary Parker

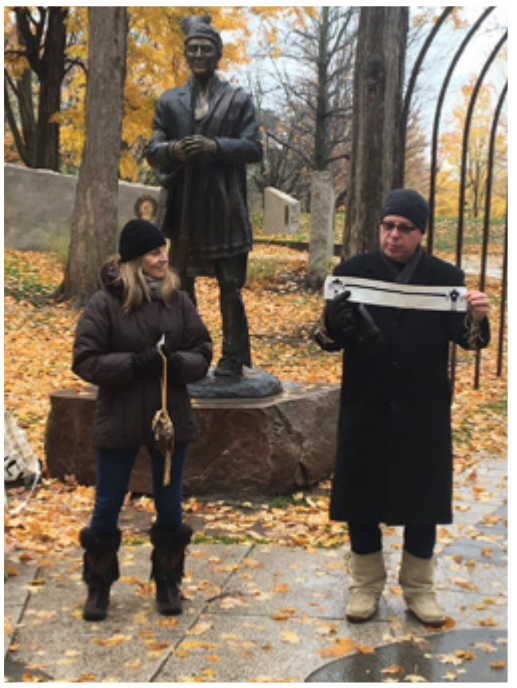
- On January 30, 48 classroom teachers learned about the Mohawk Institute Residential school, and heard survivors Roberta Hill and Dawn Hill tell their stories of their experience there.
- On February 15, 28 students participated in an Indigenous music workshop. Jackie Labonte and Oliver Nobosin taught about the significance of music and the instruments used. Each participant had the opportunity to make a traditional rattle.

SECONDARY

- 19 Secondary educators successfully completed the Additional Qualifications (AQ) Course First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples Understanding Traditional Teachings, Histories, Current Issues and Cultures, Part I AQ Course. Guests included: Gary Parker, Amanda Pont-Shanks, Hannah Walpole, Sheila Maracle, Gail Stup, Nancy Rowe, Jodielynn Harrison and Cindy Biancaniello.
- DSBN Math Consultant attended a three day Math Workshop, Relationships and Reciprocity: Indigenous Education & Math Conference through Lakehead University.
- Secondary principals and vice principals will be attending a field trip to Akinomaagaye Gaamik - Lodge of Learning in July, located at Mississauga of the Credit First Nation. Nancy Rowe will host the group with a robust day of learning including a talk with Geronimo Henry Mohawk Institute Residential school survivor and traditional lunch. The participants will learn about being good stewards of the land by using feast bundles. Participants will be given a choice of Indigenous authored and focused books for summer reading.
- Professional Development continued to increase teacher capacity with Indigenous Education and perspectives in Secondary Learning Community. Meetings took place with educators for Geography, Social Studies and Humanities, History, Physical Education, Visual arts and Math.
- Law Learning team created nine Grade 11 and 12 Law Lessons with an Indigenous focus and perspective and the team attended an Indigenous Court in St. Catharines in May. Lessons include: Jury of your Peers, Indigenous Perspective of Justice (Sentencing Circles), Gladue Reports, The TRC and the Legacy of Residential Schools, Charter of Rights and Freedoms & Human Rights Legislation: Do they apply equally to all?, Jury of Peers: A Necessary Perspective?, Positive and Natural Law, Human Rights at the International Level: UNDRIP, We are all Treaty People.



In March, Cindy Biancaniello presented an Inuit presentation to Geography educators and the Geography Consultant introduced an Inuit lesson that DSBN co-created with Cindy.



Ontario Association for Geography Environmental Education (OAGEE) The Language of Geography gathering for Geography educators included Indigenous Perspectives with opening and workshops with Karl Dockstader and a field trip to explore the Landscape of Nations.



Teachers participating in Indigenous AQ course with Colinda Clyne

- A Métis Historical Timeline assignment exemplar was created for grade 10 History lesson by Amanda Pont-Shanks and will be displayed at every secondary school.
- Michael Martin, Onondaga of the Beaver Clan Faith Keeper From Six Nations of the Grand River Territory Executive Director Native American Community Services (NACS), shared some of his Indigenous knowledge to 36 First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies Teachers and History educators in March.
- NACS Native American Community Services “All Our Relations” workshops was attended by Secondary Indigenous Education team and CWS consultant.
- Curriculum Consultants of Literacy and Indigenous Education attended the ELAN conference “Decolonizing the Canon and were honoured to have the opportunity to hear Connie Walker, Okanese First Nation, CBC investigative reporter speak about her podcasts Missing and Murdered - Finding Cleo. These podcasts have been used in our Grade 11 and 12 English classes over the last few years to include these trauma informed approach podcasts in our classrooms.
- Canadian World Studies and Indigenous Education Consultants attended the Human Rights Symposium Indigenous Realities at Halton DSB with Susan Aglukark, Jesse Went, Isaac Murdoch (Indigenous Rights: The Power of Art) and Susan Methot (Decolonizing and Indigenous Human Rights). Reflecting on actions to take toward reconciliation and the 94 Calls to Action as we continue our journey embedding Indigenous histories, cultures, perspectives and realities into our secondary curriculum.



DSBN INDIGENOUS TEAM

K-12

Indigenous Advisor—Sheila Maracle

ELEMENTARY

Indigenous Education Lead, Consultant—Ronda Menard

Indigenous Education Consultant—Jamie Groat

Principal—Lorraine Giroux

Superintendent—JoAnna Roberto

SECONDARY

Indigenous Education Consultant—Erica Zombolas

Indigenous Education Re-Engagement Teacher—Marcia Malloy

Principal—Paul Taylor

Superintendent—Helen McGregor





Photo above: DSBN Secondary students participating in a sunrise ceremony on the Grand River.



**I Matter
At DSBN**