

DSBN Indigenous Education Update

February 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.

Parent/Caregiver Engagement Session

- We held our second parent engagement session on December 14th at the NRNC, with 14 parents/children.
- This session hosted a service fair with tables from Brock, Niagara College, NRNC, FENFC and NPAAMB providing information on the community services they provide.

Grade 4 Social Studies Unit - Heritage and Identity: Early Societies to 1500 CE

- Rick Hill has been working with the Indigenous Ed team and Social Studies consultant to create a resource that will support grade 4 teachers in delivering accurate and authentic lessons.
- This resource is in its last editing phase – with final feedback from Rick - and will be released to teachers in late February.
- Accurate First Nations and Inuit pre-contact knowledge is difficult to access for teachers. This resource does this, while focusing on the Haudenosaunee, one of our Treaty partners in Niagara.

Board Action Plan (BAP) 2022-23

- This year's BAP was released from the ministry the week of January 16th. Looking forward to the creation of a IEAC BAP sub-committee at the February 9th meeting to set dates to discuss initiatives and seek input.

Upcoming events:

- Our next parent/caregiver engagement session will be on March 8th at Greater Fort Erie Secondary School from 5-7 and will include dinner. Posters with registration information will be sent out to IEAC member organizations the week of February 20th, 2023 and will be posted to Instagram along with the DSBN webpage.

**INDIGENOUS
SELF ID STUDENT
UPDATE**
(As of January 30, 2023)

Elementary **697 Students**
Secondary **353 Students**

Indigenous Secondary School Student Reps

- We put out a call in December and had responses from 18 Indigenous youth from 11 secondary schools who have shown interest in becoming an Indigenous Students Reps.
- Our first meeting will be virtual on Thursday, February 23rd with an in person in March and a 3-day retreat in April.
- Looking for feedback from this group and to discuss opportunities to build leadership skills, as well as discussing and supporting leadership opportunities for Indigenous youth system wide, school wide and within community.



DSBN Indigenous Education Team

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

Feather Kearns – Interim Elementary Consultant (K-8)

Gail Lafleur – Secondary Consultant (9-12)

Sheila Maracle - Indigenous Supports Advisor (K-12)

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

Kirsty Howie – Instructional Coach - First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies (9-12)

Ashley Buck – Interim 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 or visit our website at www.dsbns.org/programs-services/indigenous-education

