



## December 2011 Report

Director of Instruction  
Maxine Ruzicka

### Aboriginal Education

- December 2 – I and other Aboriginal Education staff were invited to attend an Aboriginal Elders dinner. This was a nice setting to meet others in the Aboriginal community and a great opportunity to have informal discussions.
- Culture planning committees continue to meet to plan Aboriginal culture learnings across the district. Russell Podgurny will be establishing/instructing two Aboriginal Drumming Groups (in the East and West Boundary (BCSS)). Sessions will be held every 2 weeks, after school, from the middle of January until spring break.
- December 14, Aboriginal Education Advisory meeting with Ministry of Education Aboriginal Education coordinator, Ted Cadwallader, regarding our Aboriginal Education enhancement Agreement renewal process and what have we learned since we embarked on our first Agreement 6 years ago. The following are some of the questions that he discussed with the group that meet with him.
  - How has the district changed to better support the academic success of Aboriginal students?
  - What have you put in place to increase the academic success of Aboriginal students?
  - What other indicators do you use to track success and what trends are you seeing there?

### Early Years

- It is confirmed that School District 51 Kindergarten teachers will participate in the annual EDI (Early Development Inventory) survey. Thanks to the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) and UBC for working with the BCTF to gain their support for Kindergarten teachers to continue is this very valuable work.
- Infant Mental Health Interior Region webinar was postponed until January. Penticton, Kamloops and the Boundary have established some innovative programming that is being shared with the Regional ECD/CYSN Alliance.

### Special Education

- CONNECT parenting program working group continues to move ahead with establishing sessions in the east and west Boundary.
- December 8 – reviewed progress on the Rural Grant Initiative that Linda Dolezsar is working on. The UBC research assistant working with her project is very impressed with what has been done so far and is working with Linda on the research part of this initiative. The work should be completed sometime in mid spring.
- An Art of Balance refresher course for a number of teachers and EA's who had previously completed level 1 and/or level 2 was organized. Sage Barrett will be facilitating this session in January in Rock Creek.