



October 2011 Report

Director of Instruction
Maxine Ruzicka

Aboriginal Education

- October 5: Boundary Aboriginal Education Advisory Council (BAEAC) meeting was held at GFSS – Aboriginal Education room. Thank you to Aboriginal Education Enhancement Worker, Victoria Forrester, at GFSS for hosting our meeting. We reviewed the BAEAC Terms of Reference and Vision, Mission and Values statements. This year, SD No. 51 and our Aboriginal Education partners – Boundary Métis Community Association and BANAC will be renewing our Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement with the Ministry of Education. We have agreed that we will be using the Medicine Wheel to frame our next Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement. Colleen Hanna, Aboriginal Education Branch consultant, has recommended a team from SD No. 23, Central Okanagan, to facilitate or consult with regarding the use of the Medicine Wheel in Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreements. I will be meeting with them in early November.
- October 17: Meeting with Ted Calwallader from AB ED branch was postponed until December due to his flight cancellation in Castlegar.
- October 24 to 27: Bev Lambert, Métis jigger and historical story teller, in elementary schools around the Boundary. To the right, Perley Elementary students greatly enjoyed dressing up and participating in a “Métis Kitchen Party”.



Early Years

- October 5: Kindergarten Assessment teleconference with Maureen Dockendorf and Janet Powell (Min. of Ed.)– official invitation for me to be a member of the Provincial Steering Committee that will be developing Kindergarten Performance Standards.
- October 13 & 14: Early Years Fairs at Midway & Hutton Elementary schools. Attendance was similar to that of last year – with 31 families in the East Boundary and 8 families in the West Boundary attending. These Fairs’ are part of school based Ready Set Learn events and gives parents of preschool children a chance to come into the school to meet Kindergarten teachers and our Early Years community partners.



- Picture to left: Ardena Elliott Strong Start facilitator at GES, MES, WBES and BES in the West Boundary; picture to the right is Baby’s Best Chance facilitator Cynthia Garnett (right) and Nandini Menon (left) CAPC and Strong Start facilitator and BEYAC member; picture below at bottom highlights some of the fun activities that were available during the Fair for preschool children.



- October 18: BEYAC/CYSN meeting followed by Human Early Learning Partnership webinar on establishing the statistical difference in EDI neighbourhood results. Each neighbourhood has a different variance depending of their sample size. In Wave 4 of EDI, the vulnerable children in the Boundary continues to be close to 30 %. (February 2010 and 2011 data combined)
- October 26: HELP webinar option hosted by SD 51. Six members of the BEYAC attended some or all of the 10 years of Early Years research – HELP/UBC webinar of actual event from 1 to 7 p.m. There were a variety of presenters – presentations will be on the HELP website soon.

Special Education

- A number of meetings and sessions were held to launch the use of the Kurzweil program for students with assessed print impairments – this can be in reading, writing or both. These students have been issued a small laptop/notebook from the District and are being trained on using this program, where in the past, an Education Assistant would read or scribe for them. The Ministry of Education had put all districts on notice several years ago, that students who are print impaired will need to be using technology to support their impairments when participating in provincial examinations as of this year. The focus is for students to know how to utilize technology as a life-long tool, not just in school. A big thank you to our SET BC consultant Rob Plaskett for all of the work he has done with our teachers and education assistants this year.
- October District Vice Principal/School Psychologist:
 - District VP Student Support**
 - Adjudication applications for BCSS / GFSS
 - Community Literacy
 - BEYAC / CYSN
 - Early Years HELP webinar
 - WDC/ BWCS / BCSS Moodle proposal
 - New student designation
 - ARC - confirmation of registered users
 - District Psychologist**
 - 9 - Assessment consultations
 - 6 - Level B Transition Assessments - staff in-service and implementation
 - 2 - Adaptive Functioning / CLBC Referral Assessments
 - 6 - POPARD assessment case review
 - 2 - Pre-assessment case preparations
 - 360 Training with Maples and community partners

Community and Regional Partnership

- October 19: Rural Education Advisory illuminate meeting
- October 19: Community LINK provincial teleconference – reporting out is about to change – year 2 of the plan introduced last year has been changed.
- October 25: Meeting with Sheila Dobie to prepare agenda for community adult literacy meeting in November.
- October 20: BCSSA Kootenay/Boundary Regional teleconference meeting
- October 28: CYSN/ECD Interior Region Alliance meeting