



Letter from the Interim Executive Director

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Drin Hozo! We hope you are enjoying the slow return of the sun and the beautiful winter weather we've had that has allowed so many of us to be comfortable outside. January was a busy and productive month for many of us as we all continue to work so hard for our kids.

We are so excited to be gradually implementing our full literacy plan. Many people ask us, "Why is the First Nation School Board investing so much time and money on literacy, instead of things like First Nations cultural programming?" As many of you know, the Yukon has some of the lowest literacy rates in the country – and our First Nations students are even farther behind. Learning to read is a human right and the basic building block needed to succeed in life. We want the kids in our schools to get the very best literacy instruction possible and prove that Yukon students can become literacy superstars! The methods and approaches we are rolling out across our 8 schools have been proven through a vast body of research and we are confident things are going to start turning around.

An important value to the First Nation School Board is involving families. We want to ensure you understand what's going on with your child's literacy learning and will be sending home updates throughout the school year. A letter will be coming to you this February. We will be sharing with you our methods and are always available to answer any of your questions.

Oh, and increased local First Nations cultural programming is coming. As the Community Committees are developed over the following months, and as we receive our core funding from Government of Yukon, each school community will be able to start working with us to develop localized cultural resources and programming. We look forward to the exciting developments the coming months and years will bring.

Hqzq Łėk'ătr'ėnòcha (We take good care of one another – Han language),

Melissa Flynn | ed@fnsb.ca



Ross River School's grade 3-5 teacher, Khaganeë, explores geometry in nature with her students.

Math Advocates Update

Since the winter break came to an end, the YFNED Numeracy Team and their Math Advocates have been busy visiting communities and supporting students and teachers at FNSB Schools. They spent a couple days in Haines Junction visiting classrooms and introducing Mathology to the staff at St. Elias Community School. They were excited to visit Ross River School and see that the intermediate class had started a unit of Geometry. Khaganeë (their grade 3-5 teacher) took her class for a walk in the bush to photograph geometrical shapes they saw in nature. What an opportunity to turn math class into a lesson on respect for the land and reinforcing ideas the Math Advocates had discussed in class.



Oh, look! A cylinder and a few triangles!

Math Advocates February Schedule

Jan. 31 - Feb.3	Johnson Elementary and Watson Lake High School
Feb. 9	St. Elias Community School
Feb. 14 - Feb. 17	Ross River School
Feb 21	St. Elias Community School
Feb. 28 - Mar 3	Johnson Elementary and Watson Lake High School



Update from our Literacy Coach

January was a very action-packed, word-learning, literacy-loving month for Literacy Coach Megan Norris as she made the rounds of our 8 FNSB Schools.

In early January, Megan went up to Old Crow and presented a full-day PD for K-6 teachers about how children learn to read. The Literacy Coach presented with Terri Gordon, a Speech and Language Pathologist with YFNED. Topics included the Science of Reading, Structured Literacy, and the 5 pillars of reading instruction. The next two days were spent in the classrooms supporting teachers in implementing the material discussed in training. Mahsi Cho for all the smiles and laughter!!

Throughout the month, Megan met with primary grade teachers about the Literacy Screener results. They had meaningful conversations about students' strengths and areas for growth, and discussed plans for support moving forward. The Literacy Coach will continue meeting with teachers in February.

In February, the Literacy Coach will be on the road:

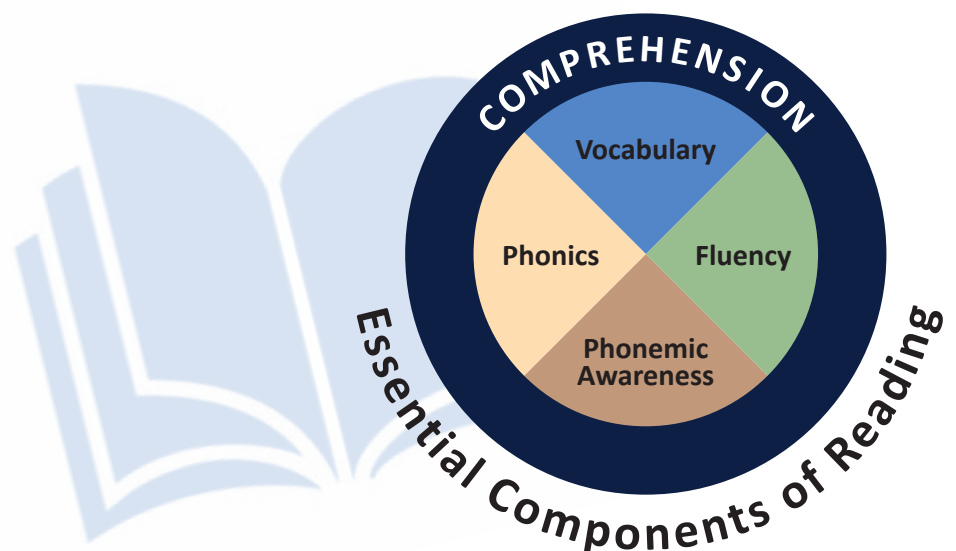
- Continuing to meet with teachers about the Literacy Screener results.
- Feb. 13-16: Visiting Ross River to continue supporting reading instruction in the classroom.
- Feb. 23: Providing a half-day literacy PD for primary grade teachers at St. Elias Community School in Haines Junction including the team from Nelna Bessie John School of Beaver Creek.

Science of Reading Webinar

The Right to Read program is offering a fantastic 7-part webinar covering various subjects within the Science of Reading. There are three sessions left in the series, taking place in 1.5 hour evening sessions in March, April and May. FNSB will reimburse tuition fees. Please contact megan.norris@fnsb.ca for more info.

Please visit: <https://righttoread.ca/workshops/science-reading>

We have educators already participating: Mahsi cho for your openness to learn.



First Nation School Board Logo Project

We are excited to begin the work of designing a beautiful new FNSB logo. We will be working with the amazing creative duo of Michael and Bianca Ericsson at MBDC Inc. They will be visiting a range of our classrooms to engage with students in a workshop-style session that introduces students to the career of graphic design and gives students an opportunity to contribute design ideas for the logo!



Michael Ericsson



Bianca Ericsson

Phrase of the Month

Every month we will introduce you to a common word or phrase in all 7 active Yukon First Nation languages. Choose the phrase(s) for the Traditional Territory where you live and try to use this as often as you can in your speaking and writing. **Check www.ynlc.ca** for sound clips and more resources.

English	<i>How are you?</i>
Southern Tutchone	<i>Dànnch'e?</i>
Northern Tutchone	<i>Dánninch'i?</i>
Gwich'in	<i>Neenjit dàgòonch'uu?</i>
Tlingit	<i>Mâ sá iyatì?</i>
Kaska	<i>Dénht'ā?</i>
Hän	<i>Nänjit dähònch'e?</i>
Upper Tanana	<i>Nts'àtdjìt'eh?</i>



If you have photos or stories to share in future FNSB newsletters or on our new Facebook and Instagram pages, please email communications@fnsb.ca