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A special Holiday message from the Deputy Minister

This week marks the last edition of the Educator Update for the 2021 calendar year. As we head into the holiday season it is a time for connection, reflection and regeneration. For the coming days my wish for each of you is that your holiday season allows for you to connect with the things that hold greatest meaning to you, whether that's visiting friends and family, getting out on the land, or taking time for personal care and wellbeing. Whatever your interests, these connections are important experiences that allow us to make way to be present in our lives. To take account for that which we have experienced and to turn our minds towards the future with optimism so that we are more than surviving - we are thriving.

I look forward to 2022 and our work together to overcome this pandemic and realize the systemic changes we wish to see in our Yukon education system. Our commitments to reconciliation and learner-centred services across the learning continuum, from cradle to career, will guide us in our curiosity, our learning and our actions. Whether universal child care, communities of inquiry in the review of inclusive and special education, establishing a First Nation School Board or developing flexible adult learning programs, we have many exciting opportunities before us. I am optimistic that through our connections to one another we will forge relationships that will enable us to reflect on our lived experiences, seek to understand the experiences of others and begin to reimagine the possibilities of a future that shines bright for all Yukon communities.

Imagine a new Canada

The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation is inviting youth across the country to "Imagine a Canada" through the lens of reconciliation. Youth from kindergarten to grade 12 and CÉGEP can participate by submitting artwork, videos, songs, plans for community events, gatherings, workshops, permanent installations — the sky's the limit. This means we are encouraging dedicated teachers like yourself to challenge your students to think outside the box to Imagine a Canada reconciled.

12 pieces of art (by K-G5 youth) will be selected and featured in a special art book and 15 projects (by G6-12 & CÉGEP youth) will receive up to \$1500 in grant funding to make the projects happen.

You'll find more information about the [Imagine a Canada Program here](#). If you need to reach out about the program, please send an email to imagineacanada@umanitoba.ca. **Deadline to submit is December 17, 2021.**

FreshGrade to be Discontinued

In early 2021, FreshGrade was purchased by a new education provider, Higher Ground Education (HGE). HGE has chosen to move away from FreshGrade. As a result, they've made the decision to sunset both FreshGrade Classic and Connect at the end of the 2021-2022 school year. Please see the attached memo for more information on the [FreshGrade transition](#).

Updates from Technology and Student Information

Personal names vs. legal names update in Rapid ID

As of December 8, when a student logs into Rapid ID, the student's usual name will be displayed, instead of their legal name, as requested by students, parents and teachers. There will be no changes to login or passwords.

Past Microsoft training opportunities

Topic	Links to recorded sessions:
Teams for education K-12	You may watch this past presentation from the link
Teams channels & files	You may watch this past presentation from the link

Epson Brightlink Interactive whiteboard training

Are you looking for training to see how to better utilize your Epson interactive whiteboard in the classroom? Epson has developed some online training resources specifically for teachers. Check them out : <https://epson.com/brightlink-training-resources-for-teachers>

Email cutover from FirstClass to M365 Outlook - update

Please see the attached document (Email Cutover from FirstClass to M365 Outlook- Update Dec. 6_2021) and share with your colleagues.

Assessment and reporting

Please see linked memos in Teams outlining important information for the [Grade 10 and 12 literacy assessment](#), the [Grade 12 French language literacy assessment](#) and the [Grade 10 Numeracy Assessment](#), upcoming in January 2022. If you have any questions, please reach out to David.Schroeder@yukon.ca regarding the numeracy assessment, Marjorie.MacDonald@yukon.ca regarding the English literacy assessments, and Melissa.Halpenny@yukon.ca regarding the French literacy assessment

Professional learning opportunities

Mental health literacy

We all have mental health, just as we all have physical health. What is mental health and mental illness? Mental health literacy is important for children, adults and communities. Sessions will assist staff with: understanding mental health and mental illnesses, fostering good mental health and resiliency skills, decreasing stigma associated with mental health, and supporting children and their families in accessing help effectively.

If you are a teacher or EA responsible for teaching and/or supporting mental health curriculum for grade 9 and 10 students, [‘The Guide’ training](#) may be helpful to you. Please contact Brenda Jenner (Brenda.Jenner@yukon.ca or 867-456-6587) to register for the January 11 training.

Mental health strategies to support students

Are you interested in learning more about strategies to support your students with mental health? Please register for today’s after school session (if you have not already done so) to dig deeper into supporting students overall mental health and well-being:

- Thursday, Dec. 16 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (in-person in Whitehorse)

To register – or for more information – contact Nikki.Krocker@yukon.ca or 867-332-0631.

Resources for educators

Early kindergarten policy

Please see linked [early kindergarten policy](#) for all rural schools offering early kindergarten. Should you have any questions regarding the contents of this policy, please reach out to Tanya Lewis (Tanya.Lewis@yukon.ca)

Education Recovery Plan

[Yukon’s Education Recovery Plan](#) document has been updated. You will find more information and resources on supporting mental health and well being for your students. Please reach out to Tanya.Lewis@yukon.ca if you have any questions regarding the updates.

Coast-to-Coast Connections

Coast-to-Coast Connections, a platform created to connect people and communities all over the country and educate them with mental health resources, and founded by Canadian high school students from British Columbia, Newfoundland and Ontario are hosting a TEDxYouth event and a mental health conference from December 19-20. If interested, please fill out the [Google form](#) (please note, a Google account is required).

Celebrate the 2022 Olympic Winter Games in your classroom

As the nation turns its gaze to Team Canada’s performance at the 2022 Olympic Winter Games, we are thrilled to provide you with a new educational series filled with engaging Olympian stories and cross-curricular classroom activities. The free 2022 Olympic Winter Games curriculum features collections of resources to offer learning activities for students of all ages in a variety of subjects.

Visit <https://olympic.ca/education/> for more information and to download the free resources.

Other opportunities

Educational Leadership program

Applications for the [Educational Leadership: Leading for Educational Change in the Yukon Doctor of Education](#) are now open!

The Leading for Educational Change in the Yukon Doctor of Education program meets the needs of educators who occupy positions of influence in schools, colleges, universities and health and community services. The class schedule accommodates the demanding schedules and lifestyles of practicing education professionals.

The EdD program provides a blend of rigorous coursework and original research. The program focuses on integrating education and leadership theory with practice and drawing on the Yukon's unique socio-political-cultural-environmental context. Preparing students to understand the current educational landscape, think for change, and enact change is fundamental to the program's intent. The program offered will emphasize integrating theory with practice.

This program is intended for instructors, senior administrators and professional staff in the public education and other related sectors (e.g., health), community leaders, researchers and policy analysts.

Classes meet every second or third week on Friday evenings and Saturdays in Whitehorse.

[APPLY NOW](#)

Inclusive and Special Education Communities of Inquiry

The November 12 Department of Education Summit on Inclusive and Special Education launched eight communities of inquiry that will engage in a collaborative inquiry process to address Inclusive and Special Education in the Yukon. All eight communities of inquiry have had at least one meeting and all will have had two by the end of December. It is not too late to become involved. Please email Kendra.Black@yukon.ca or Tanya.Lewis@yukon.ca if you are interested in becoming involved or have any questions.

UBC French language offerings

UBC is offering a summer 3-week immersion program in Quebec City for French language teachers in July 2022. See this [link](#) for more information.

UBC is offering a hybrid MEd in Modern Languages: French beginning in July 2022. This program will include three-week summer sessions in Montreal and online courses during the school year. The program is intended for teachers in French Immersion, Francophone, Core French and Intensive French programs. See this [link](#) for more information.

Prime Minister's Awards

The 2022 Prime Minister's Awards competition is open!

Educators play an important role in helping to build the next generation of Canadians. We all remember an educator that changed our lives. The Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence, Teaching Excellence in STEM, and Excellence in Early Childhood Education honour exemplary teachers and early childhood educators who are preparing youth for the innovation economy.

Prime Minister's Awards recipients can receive:

- A certificate from the Prime Minister

- National recognition and promotion of their best teaching practices

Consider nominating an educator for a 2022 Prime Minister's Award! Download your nomination package and poster today by clicking on the image above or visiting our [website](#).

Looking for inspiration? Check out some previous [teaching](#) and [early childhood education](#) award recipients.

Action items for consideration

- Check out the [Professional Learning Opportunities](#) featured in this update.
- Check out the featured [resources](#) this week.
- Check out [other opportunities](#) featured in this update.

Reminders from past Educator Updates

- Book a session with [Connected North](#) or reach out to bsherry@takingitglobal.org

Quick links to resources related to our COVID-19 response

- [K-12 School Guidelines for 2021-22: COVID-19](#)
- [Yukon Education Recovery Document: Guidelines for K-12 Schools](#)
- [Can your child go to school or return to regular activities?](#)
- [Education updates and supports on COVID-19](#)
- [Talking and Sharing with Kids and Families on COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 and teenagers: Supporting Youth Mental Wellness](#)
- [Mental health and wellness support during COVID-19](#)
- [Wellness Together Canada free resources and support](#)
- [Yukon information on COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 Self-Assessment](#)
- [Practice the Safe 6 plus 1](#)
- [Non-medical masks in the workplace](#)
- [Canada response and Health Canada information](#)
- [Council of Yukon First Nations COVID-19 info hub](#)