

January 24, 2023

Educator Update this week

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Yukon First Nations

Indigenous Academy at F.H. Collins Secondary School

The Indigenous Academy is in its second year and Vernon Asp is excited to be leading the grade 10 Dashaw K'e-way as an all-day full semester program. The students are starting the semester off full swing with carving, drum making that is intertwined with an oral language presence with Vernon and Sean Smith.

The program is fortunate enough to again have the support of YFNED advocates Gus Morberg, Lauren Wallingham and Elder Andy Carlick. Alyce Johnson and Flora Asp having been the curriculum planning team behind the scenes and we are very appreciative of their support in this planning. We look forward to seeing what the student leaders do throughout the semester through their land based experiential learning opportunities. (submitted by Jodi Tutton)

Changes at the Department

New Deputy Minister

Join us in welcoming Mary Cameron as our new Deputy Minister. Mary began her career in the Yukon ten years ago as a director with the Carcross/Tagish First Nation, she then moved to the Yukon Housing Corporation where she worked as both a director and vice-president, and for the last three years as president. Prior to working in the Yukon, she was in education and worked in both the public and independent school systems as a teacher, department head, vice-principal and principal in Victoria, British Columbia. Cameron has a bachelor of arts and a bachelor of education from the University of Victoria, a certificate in risk management from the University of Toronto, and a master in administration and supervision from the University of Phoenix.

Student Support Services

Alison George has returned from her leave and is back in the role of Positive Behaviour Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Coach in Student Support Services. Her position is responsible for assisting K-12 school staff throughout the Yukon in training, developing, and implementing Positive Behaviour Interventions and

Supports to meet the needs of each unique school, and to support behaviour and academic achievement of all students. She is available to support schools on a school-wide basis as well as provide individual student support.

To access her supports for your school, you can contact her directly at alison.george@yukon.ca”

Leslie Peters is the new Manager Student Support Services and started on January 16th. Leslie entered the field of special education over 20 years ago, starting with the Child Development Centre here in Whitehorse as an ECTA. Since then she has worked as a research assistant for Handle with Care and for over eight years total with Autism Yukon. While her daughter was receiving treatment at BC Children’s, Leslie moved to BC for a couple of years and gained experience working with PACE, an organization that specializes in working with children diagnosed with attachment disorders and trauma. Most recently she has completed her Masters of Special Education with a focus on behaviour disorders at UBC. During this time, she gained practical experience designing positive behaviour support (PBIS) plans for a BC high school, and also spent one semester at the PALS school for children with autism. Leslie has also served for four years on the National board for the Canadian Autism Alliance.

Please join me in welcoming Alison back and welcome Leslie to the team. Shanna Epp remains the Director of Reimagining Inclusive and Special Education and as of end of November added Director of Student Support Services.

Professional Learning Opportunities

Webinar on “Practical Strategies for Increasing Student Engagement”

Learn how to increase student engagement by reducing anxiety and increasing executive functioning skills.

Two days of learning:

- Wednesday, January 25
- Tuesday, January 31

3:30 to 5:30 pm EST

[Increasing Student Engagement Live and Recorded Webinar \(constantcontact.com\)](https://constantcontact.com)

Resources for Educators

Canada Games Catch the Spirit Program

The 2023 Canada Winter Games is pleased to launch the PEI 2023 edition of the Canada Games Catch the Spirit Program - a free teaching resource for educators and students in Grades K-9 across the country. The Catch the Spirit Program was originally designed and launched in 2003. It is an inclusive and engaging educational resource developed by teachers, for teachers, to inspire children about the Canada Games movement and the many benefits of physical activity and sport. The newly revamped program is designed to assist curriculum in a fun and engaging way and can be integrated into classrooms through five overarching themes: Arts and Culture, Goal Setting & Leadership, Healthy Living & Sport, Official Languages of Canada, and Unifying Canada.

The 2023 edition of the Catch the Spirit Program was developed in cooperation with volunteers in our Youth and Education Subcommittee and the PEI Department of Education and Lifelong Learning.

We invite teachers and students from coast to coast to coast to “Catch the Spirit” of the Canada Games by joining us on the journey to the 2023 Canada Winter Games in PEI and using the resources that can be found at <https://sites.google.com/cloud.edu.pe.ca/canadagames2023/home>

Lego Robotics Challenge

Interested in having your students meet the Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies (ADST) goals in a fun and interesting way?

The Yukon Robotics Challenge provides an opportunity for students to meet the curriculum goals. Students are given specific tasks to program an EV3 robot to complete. In teams, students work together to complete as many of the 5 tasks as they can prior to evaluation day. Students are then asked to show a panel of judges/evaluators how they completed the tasks. As well, students meet with judges/evaluators to discuss some of the ideas and challenges faced in building and programming the robot. This learning has culminated in a half day Challenge event.

The event will take place in late April or early May with arrangements made with individual schools about days and times.

While this was designed to target students in grade 6, students from grade 4 to 7 (rural areas, this is more flexible) are welcome to take part. Help can be provided to teachers and students in programming and understanding the tasks.

For further information please feel free to contact Glenna at gHoward@northwestel.net. If teachers want to know how this works in a classroom, as a club, or the benefits of doing this with students, please feel free to contact Jill Potter or David Michayluk at jill.potter@yesnet.yk.ca or david.michayluk@yesnet.yk.ca

Please indicate your interest to Glenna Howard at gHoward@northwestel.net.

Community Booklets [can be downloaded here.](#)

Learning Resource [can be downloaded here.](#)

Quick Links

- Check [Teams](#) for the PD opportunities
- [School health and safety during COVID-19](#)
- [Mental health and wellness supports](#)
- [Can your child go to school, daycare or return to regular activities?](#)
- [Yukon Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education Recovery Plan](#)
- [Wellness Together Canada free resources and support](#)
- [Yukon information on COVID-19](#)
- [Practice the Safe 6](#)
- [Non-medical masks in the workplace](#)
- [Canada response and Health Canada information](#)
- [Council of Yukon First Nations COVID-19 info hub](#)

- [Yukon vaccination clinics and information about the vaccine](#)
- [Yukon First Nation School Board](#)