

## Educator Update this week

Summer Break

Computer Training Program for Yukon First Nations Citizens

Fresh Grade Discontinued

Resources and Professional Learning

Numeracy Masters

Action items for consideration

Quick links to resources related to our COVID-19 response



### Summer Break

This year has been challenging for all of us as we approached an expected “near normal” year that was even less normal than the previous year.

We recognize and acknowledge the resiliency and strength that was demonstrated by all of you. Your work has been more demanding than usual, and we want to thank you for your commitment and flexibility this year especially.

As you and your students leave your classrooms for the summer, we hope that you will take time to recharge, relax, and connect with your families and friends while enjoying the vast and beautiful landscapes Yukon has to offer. Enjoy the time away from work!

### Computer Coding training for Yukon First Nations Citizens

Please see attached the poster for details on a computer training program for Yukon First Nations Citizens. This is a free program for YFN citizens aged 15 or older. To be eligible, you must self-identify as Indigenous, be 15 years or older, possess basic digital literacy skills, have access to a computer and the internet, and have the ability to be available 8 hours/week. Register by June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 by emailing [innovation@yukon.ca](mailto:innovation@yukon.ca) or with any questions.

### Fresh Grade Discontinued

#### Fresh Grade Portfolio discontinued

Further to previous messaging about FreshGrade's discontinuation, we wish to provide you an update. Higher Ground (the company that purchased FreshGrade) has made the choice to discontinue the product.

#### What this means for Yukon teachers, students and parents:

- As of Aug. 31, 2022 FreshGrade will no longer be available.

- A working group of Yukon Educators and Central Administration staff have been evaluating alternatives and will make a recommendation for replacement in the coming weeks.
- We hope to have an alternative product available for teachers' use in the fall of 2022.

### Plan for Wrap-Up

- **Communicate to Parents**

Teachers that are using FreshGrade may choose to communicate to parents that the product will be going offline Aug. 31, 2022.

- **Review Portfolio Posts**

Teachers using FreshGrade should review posts to ensure that photos and images comply with district guidelines, i.e., no student images where parental/guardian permission has not been granted. This is because families can download images and videos posted in their child's portfolio, which may include other students in the classroom.

- **Save Teacher Created Materials**

If you have teacher-created materials you wish to keep, copy and paste them into another format.

### Data Extraction

Without the FreshGrade application, there is no 'portfolio' look and experience. The data consists of individual documents, images, and videos which lose their relationship (i.e., association with a student) and which are not easily searchable. The data becomes unusable for practical purposes without further technical development by a district, and a means to display and share the data.

Yukon Department of Education will request that **all data and personal information from account holders be deleted**, and to be provided with written confirmation from Higher Ground when this is complete.

For more information, please contact David McInnes [david.mcinnnes@yukon.ca](mailto:david.mcinnnes@yukon.ca) or 867-667-5871

## Resources and Professional Learning

### MediaSmarts

Licensing for MediaSmarts resources is available for all Yukon classrooms. To access resources, teachers should create an account at the following link:

- [MyMediaSmarts](#)
- ACTIVATION CODE: 199056900

To protect the privacy of personal student information, please use pseudonyms rather than real student names for student logins.

### Be a Better Digital Citizen!

As students consume troubling news it is clear that many issues in our digital world have real life impacts: the spread of misinformation and conspiracy theories, the proliferation of racist stereotypes, online hate and prejudice, and the attacks on journalists and freedom of the press.

Learning about, practising and encouraging good digital citizenship is a good place to start in addressing these issues. [MediaSmarts](#) resources assist educators to guide students and initiate conversations about these topics. We all have the opportunity to make a difference now.

Here are some resources that MediaSmarts recommends to help guide these important discussions:

### Digital citizenship

- [Do the right thing: How to be a good digital citizen](#) - Tip sheet
- [Behaving ethically online: Ethics and empathy](#) – Lesson plan for grades 4 to 6
- [Behaving ethically online: Ethics and values](#) – Lesson plan for grades 7 to 8

### Online hate

- [Just a joke? Helping youth respond to casual prejudice](#) – Lesson plan for grades 6 to 8
- [Online propaganda and the proliferation of hate](#) – Lesson plan for grades 10 to 12
- [Challenging hate online](#) – Lesson plan for grades 10 to 12
- [Free speech and the internet](#) – Lesson plan for grades 10 to 12

### Misinformation

- [Break the Fake: How to tell what's true online](#) – Portal page
- [Check First, Share After: Tackling COVID-19 misinformation](#) – Portal page
- [Know It or Not? Increasing resiliency to health and science misinformation](#) (MediaSmarts is looking for teachers to test this new resource)

### Journalism and news

- [Talking to kids about the news](#) – Tip sheet
- [Talking to kids about hate in media](#) – Tip sheet
- [Digital Literacy 101](#)

### Math Circle Opportunity

The BCAMT is hosting our first Math Circle in North Vancouver between 5:30 and 7:30 pm on June 22. Math Circles are for all math enthusiasts - elementary and secondary teachers are welcome. Come and enjoy some appetizers and good conversation with colleagues; and most importantly, let's have some fun solving problems in a social setting. If you're interested in participating in this inaugural Math Circle, please sign up on this [google form](#).

### Let's build a library

The technical minds are meeting to get the online e-library system up and running for us using Sora. Sora provides access to e-books and audiobooks from the department library. It has built-in tools such as bookmarks, define words, making notes and highlights. There are read-alongs available and reading settings (including dyslexic font).

We would like to start testing the library so that the materials are available and the system is ready to use in the fall. We are currently building the library and will have more selection at the end of June.

You can use your YESNET account to log into Sora [soraapp.com/welcome](https://soraapp.com/welcome). To get started, there are some helpful instructions and videos at [help.soraapp.com/en-us/home.htm](https://help.soraapp.com/en-us/home.htm).

If you would like to be a part of this exciting opportunity, please email [tracey.hutton@yukon.ca](mailto:tracey.hutton@yukon.ca).

## Numeracy Masters Approved

### Numeracy Masters in Education

The “[Curriculum & Instruction: Innovations in Mathematics Education, MEd](#)” program at Yukon University via Simon Fraser University has been approved to begin in September, 2022. They are still accepting late applications for the limited seats remaining. Classes for the 2-year program are held on weekends, four times per term, in Whitehorse.

To apply, please contact Trina Zindler, Program Assistant, [cpmed@sfu.ca](mailto:cpmed@sfu.ca), 778-782-8120. Please contact [David Schroeder](#) if you have any questions.

### Action items for consideration

- [Register for Numeracy Masters](#)

### 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 COVID-19 information](#)
- [COVID-19 self-assessment](#)
- [Practice the Safe 6 plus 1](#)
- [Non-medical masks in the workplace](#)
- [Canada's response and Health Canada information](#)
- [Council of Yukon First Nations COVID-19 info hub](#)