

Educator Update

October 9, 2020

Educator Update this week

[FAQ for school staff](#)

[Supporting mental health and wellness](#)

[Singing and Playing Music at School](#)

[Halloween Guidelines](#)

[Privacy Corner: Access to Information](#)

[Reporting and Assessments](#)

[Resources for Educators](#)

[Professional Learning Opportunities](#)

[Other Opportunities for Schools](#)

[Action Items for Consideration](#)

[Some Reminders from Last Time](#)

[Quick Links to Resources on COVID-19 Related Topics](#)

[For General Updates and Health Information on COVID-19](#)



FAQ for School Staff

Please see the attached FAQ for school staff for answers to common questions. This will be updated and attached each week. If you have any questions about health and safety, human resources or learning programming this school year, please contact your principal first. Any updates are highlighted.

Supporting mental health and wellness

We recognize that this is a challenging time for everyone, including for school staff as we adjust to a very different school year. The Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health sponsors [Mental Illness Awareness Week](#), October 4th to 10th, 2020. The theme this year highlights that there is no health without mental health.

We would like to thank all of you for the support you offer to your colleagues and your students during this challenging time. We also want to remind you that it is important to acknowledge your own emotions during this time and make sure to take breaks and ensure you are taking care of your own mental health and wellbeing. School staff are reminded they can access mental wellness supports through the Government of Yukon, including:

- The Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP) for counselling supports for you and your family.
- LifeSpeak – a digital wellness platform, which includes videos and live chats on a variety of wellness topics, including managing stress and anxiety. You can access LifeSpeak by visiting: yukongov.lifespeak.com and using the password “yukongov”.

For more information, visit the [Yukonnect page on mental health supports for employees](#).

Singing and Playing Music at School

On September 30, 2020, the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health released [health and safety guidelines for singing and playing music](#), which provide guidance on how these activities can go forward while ensuring health and safety. With these new guidelines in place, music teachers can work with their school administration to determine how music programming at their school may be adjusted, and if additional musical opportunities can be offered while meeting these guidelines and outlining updates in their operational plans. Contact your school administrator if you have any questions.

Access to Information and protecting privacy

An overview of why it is important to provide access to information and how to do so: [IPC reiterates concerns regarding access to information during Right to Know Week](#)

Reporting and Assessments

Yukon Foundation Skills Assessment (YFSA) Postponed:

Does this mean SWW and DART are mandatory for grades 4 and 7 now too?

No, despite the recent announcement of the YFSAs postponement to mid-January, schools may continue to optionally use the SWW and DART at grades 4 and 7 as outlined in the assessment matrix in [Appendix D](#) and [Appendix E](#) of [Communicating Student Learning Resource and Professional Development Tool](#).

Continue to visit the [Foundation Skills Assessment web page](#) for the updated calendar of important YFSA dates. If you need help, contact Nikki.Krocker@gov.yk.ca.

School Wide Write (SWW) and District Assessment of Reading Team (DART)

As of today, the Fall DART and SWW should be completed including data entry. Instead of entering the data into the AMS portal, it will be entered into Aspen this year. Please use the Aspen – [Entering Data Instructions](#). Spring DART and SWW should be completed, including [data entry](#), by the Friday before Victoria Day. If you have any general questions please contact Nikki Krocker: Nikki.Krocker@gov.yk.ca .

Resources for Educators

Yukon Educator Teams

Teams have been created and are spaces for educators to connect and collaborate. You will also find information on professional development and resources. [Read the instructions for logging into Rapid Identity](#) if you have not already done so. Educators have been added to the teams but if you are not a member yet or were somehow missed, then you can join now:

- Primary Educators, click [Yukon Primary Educators](#) to join. For help: Betty.Burns@gov.yk.ca
- Intermediate Educators, click [Yukon Intermediate Educators](#) to join. For help: Nikki.Krocker@gov.yk.ca
- Secondary Educators, click [Yukon Secondary Educators](#) to join. For help: Tanya.Lewis@gov.yk.ca or Mark.Connell@gov.yk.ca.

Over the next few weeks Mark and Tanya will be creating class notebooks, offering after school training sessions and adding items to the Team.



Science 8-10 Teachers

Please login to Secondary Teachers Team to view the memos outlining the details for digital access to Science 8, 9, and 10 student and teacher resources. For help, contact: Tanya.Lewis@gov.yk.ca or 867-332-0491

ShareEDBC: Where do I find the Activate ShareEdBC button?

You need to click on the "Activate ShareEdBC" button in the email within 21 days.

If you are having difficulty finding the button and activating your ShareEDBC account, click the yellow bar at the top of your screen that reads "Images have been blocked for your safety and privacy. Click here to display them".

From:  ShareEdBc <invitation@shareedbc.ca>
Subject: Ministry of Education - ShareEdBC Access
To:  Tanya Lewis

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Professional Learning Opportunities

Fountas & Pennell Literacy Resource Webinars

Pearson Canada is offering Fountas & Pennell Literacy webinars at 4 PM and 6 PM EST Oct. 14, Nov. 12, and Dec. 9 geared towards both new and existing resource users. Sign up: [Literacy Webinars](#)

Other opportunities for schools

Survey on Integrating Environmental Issues in Primary and Secondary Education

The Council of Ministries of Education Canada (CMEC) is requesting your consideration with respect to the completion of a UNESCO survey for teachers. To access the survey please see the link below:

albany.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6xLrFBzBwwmgYW1. Deadline: Friday, October 23, 2020.

Action items for consideration

- Check out the updated attached FAQ for school staff.
- Reconsider your Arts Education plans with the updated [health and safety guidelines for singing and playing music](#) in mind.
- Learn more about [how to prepare safer Halloween activities this year](#).
- [Learn more](#) about why it is important to provide access to information and how to do so.
- Connect and collaborate with colleagues in one of the Yukon Educator Teams.
- Watch one of the Fountas & Pennell [Literacy Webinars](#) at 4 PM or 6 PM EST Oct. 14, Nov. 12, and Dec. 9
- Take part in the UNESCO survey on integrating environmental issues in primary and secondary education at albany.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6xLrFBzBwwmgYW1 by Oct. 23.
- For resources and support check out the websites built for you including the; [Educator Update Archive](#), [Educators' Place](#), and [YESNet Portal](#)

Some reminders from previous updates

- Register for Aurora Workshop “[Turning Setbacks into Success](#)”
- Explore the [Connect2Learning Courses](#)
- Submit registrations for the [Grade 10 graduation assessments](#) through a TRAX data transfer by October 16.
- Activate your access to ShareEDBC within 21 days to access curated curriculum aligned resources.
- Check out the updated list of [Department Authorized Courses](#) for Grades 10-12.
- Watch for the Kindergarten Boehm and the Early Years Evaluation (EYE) testing materials.
- MacBride Museum is taking [bookings](#) for tours and Yukon-themed programs for K-12.
- Involve your grades 1-12 students in a [climate action project](#).

Quick links to resources on COVID-19 related topics

- [COVID-19 Self-Assessment](#)
- [Talking and Sharing with Kids and Families on COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 and teenagers: Supporting Youth Mental Wellness](#)
- [COVID-19 counselling and crisis support](#)

For general updates and health information on COVID-19

- [Yukon information on COVID-19: yukon.ca/en/covid-19-information](#)
- [Canada response and Health Canada information: canada.ca/coronavirus](#)
- [Council of Yukon First Nations: information and downloadable resources: cyfn.ca/covid-19/](#)