

# IN Touch

NEWS FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM



THUNDER BAY CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MARCH 2018

## THE FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS, AND INUIT EDUCATION INITIATIVES

Superintendent, **Omer Belisle** introduced **Lyndsay Hupka** and **Kevin Kakegamic** to give an overview of the a brief update on the progress of the The First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education initiatives (FNMI) to the Board.

Lyndsay and Kevin explained the purpose behind the programming; to engage and empower Indigenous students and bring cultural awareness to our non-Indigenous students.

There are four strategic goals set out by the Ministry in regards to The First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education. The key areas are: Utilizing data to improve student achievement, supporting FNMI Students, engagement and awareness building and supporting educators. Program Initiatives include: Walking the path, self-defense, an Indigenous student leadership gathering and land based education initiatives.

The first three modules have been completed within 8 schools with 280 students participating. Kevin and Lyndsay are hoping all 15 schools will be able to receive the teachings. Our Board has been the recipient of a Grant to help fund the new Indigenous Student Leadership Gathering.



## ANIMIKII-WAJIW AND ST. ELIZABETH SCHOOL

**Anita Treesh** - Principal of St. Elizabeth, **Lila Cano** - Arts Educator with, Just Us Collective, and students **Danica** and **Avonlea** presented their Animikii-Wajiw project to the Board. The project was based on Animikii-Wajiw (Mount McKay), and connected to the FNMI Collaborative Inquiry.

In the Fall of 2017, Grade 5 & 6 learners worked with Lila Cano, **Tesa Fiddler**, their Elder and FWFN Mountain Keeper to investigate stories told about Anemki Wajiw (Mount McKay). Arts Educator Lila Cano guided the learners on this journey as they decided they needed to tell the real story of Anemki Wajiw (Mount McKay). The Theatrical production consisted of one class representing the mountain, and the other class representing white settlers. The project consisted of students playing various roles – telling the variations and theories on how Anemki Wajiw lost her name, suddenly becoming Mount McKay. A piece of the powerful production was played for the Board, with many Trustees thoroughly impacted.

Students **Avonlea** and **Danica** were proud to share their performance with the Board, and answer any questions from the Trustees and Superintendents. Both students were delighted to become authentic storytellers, and share their newfound knowledge on the true name, of the mount - **Anemki Wajiw**.



## HIGH SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

Secondary Schools employ a variety of special programs for students interested in experiential learning opportunities. The Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM), Dual Credit, Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP), Cooperative Education (CO-OP) and Reach Ahead programs provide creative and innovative programs for students to access. Secondary and International Education Coordinator, **Rob Murphy** highlighted various aspects of the programs and Alternative Education programs to the Trustees. Updates and information pertaining to a high success rate in: High Skills Major classes, Gateway, ESL, Credit Recovery, College Jumpstart and the All Year Math Class were presented.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE

Superintendent, **Allison Sargent** introduced Coordinator of Special Education, **Tina Corness** to give a report on the educational strategies and initiatives taking place within Special Education.

Key focuses centred on: Section 23 Day Treatment Program, FDK Intake Process, Supporting Educators - Information Sessions, Autism Pilot Project, Empower Reading initiative and the Kindergarten Transition Program.



A second Kindergarten transition program has been added to Our Lady of Charity, proving great success. TBCDSB currently has the programming offered at St. Vincent School, which now provides both a north and south side site. The programming provides the essential communication and motor skills required by this group of students. Success has been so great, Speech Language Pathologists indicated impressive results – students no longer need further speech or language interventions upon return to their home school/classroom.

## UPCOMING

- Palm Sunday - March 25<sup>th</sup>
- Holy Thursday - March 29<sup>th</sup>
- Good Friday - March 30<sup>th</sup>
- Easter Sunday - April 1<sup>st</sup>
- Easter Monday - April 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Footloose**  
**Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale!**

Saturday March 24th, 2018  
 between 8:00 am - 11:00 am  
 St. Patrick High School  
 \$5 per person

Come meet the cast & crew, enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast, and see a sneak preview of the play!

TICKETS FOR SALE AT THE MAIN OFFICE OR THE DAY OF THE EVENT AT THE DOOR