



Educating for Life!
Une éducation pour la vie!
Hòt'áìòò Hoghàgoetòò

LEARNING ON THE LAND

Language and Culture Based Education

Yellowknife Education District No. 1

Northern Health and
Learning Symposium
Whitehorse, YK
Sept 24 & 25, 2008



YELLOWKNIFE Education District No. 1



NWT pop 45,000

Yellowknife pop 18,000

8 schools (12 total)

YK1 - 2000 students

KDS/KTW – 100% Aboriginal
(Yellowknives Dene First Nation)

MHS – 60% Aboriginal

Other Schools – 25% Aboriginal

NWT Aboriginal Language Groups

(11 Official Languages)

- **DENE**
 - Dogrib, Chipewyan, North Slavey, South Slavey, Gwich'in
 - **INUIT**
 - Inuvialuktun, Inuinnaqtun, Inuktitut
 - **CREE**
- *Students in our schools come from Aboriginal communities throughout the NWT and from many Aboriginal communities throughout Canada*



YELLOWKNIFE Education District No. 1

Strategic Plan

“To ensure that students and staff are engaged in, and value Aboriginal language and culture based education”



YK1 Aboriginal Language and Culture Based Education

- *To develop awareness, self-esteem, & sense of identity*
- *To create an environment for success and learning*
- **Classroom Education**
 - Dene Kede Integration (K-9)
 - Aboriginal Perspective (10-12)
- **On the Land Learning**
 - District Culture Camps (ACE Program)
 - MHS ALC Program and School Camps
 - **School Initiated Cultural Activities**



YK1 - ON THE LAND LEARNING

ACE Program – Aboriginal Cultural Experience

- Dene Kede Facilitator – coordinates camps
- Grade by grade camps related to specific Dene Kede themes
- Follow Dene Seasonal calendar
- Use of elders and local resource people
- Unit and Lesson plans for teachers
 - Pre-activities
 - On the land activities - overview
 - Post-activities
 - Emphasis on safety



- Must we always teach our children with books? Let them look at the mountains and the stars up above. Let them look at the beauty of the waters and the trees and flowers on earth. They will then begin to think, and to think is the beginning of a real education.
- Carl Sagan
- Now I see the secret of making the best persons, it is to grow in the open air and to eat and sleep with the earth.
- Walt Whitman
- That which ought and can best be taught inside the classroom should there be taught, and that which can best be learned through experience dealing directly with native materials and real life situations outside the school should there be learned.
- Julian Smith, 1943, Outside the Classroom, The Educational Forum, 7(4), 363

- Walk into the woods. Keep walking. Walk off tracks. Do not plan where you are going. Take whatever directions appeal in the moment. Keep walking. When (without realizing) you are lost, look into the eyes of the dragon, then your adventure begins.
- Allan Bloom
- Never let formal EDUCATION get in the way of your learning.
-Mark Twain
- It is a miracle that curiosity survives formal EDUCATION.
-Albert Einstein
- When I really want to give thought to a subject I find it best to walk where I feel our earth. To be one with nature gives me thought than cannot be attained indoors. My mind is fresh and alive outside these doors.
-Lhamo Döndrub, the 14th [Dalai Lama](#)

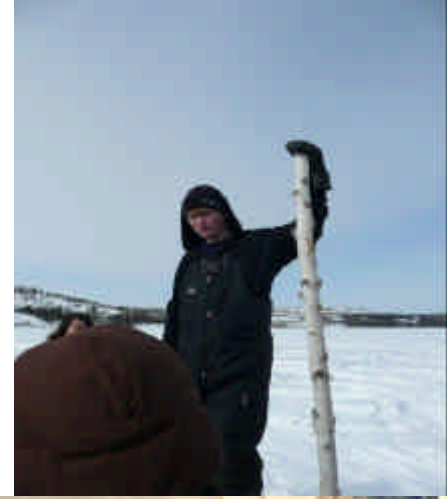
September - Grade 7 Fall Fish Camp



September - Grade 1 Nature Camp (Berries and Plants)



October - Grade 8 Leadership Camp



November - Kindergarten Drum Dance



December – Grade 6 Caribou Camp



January/February - Grades 9-12 “TAKE A KID TRAPPING” Program”



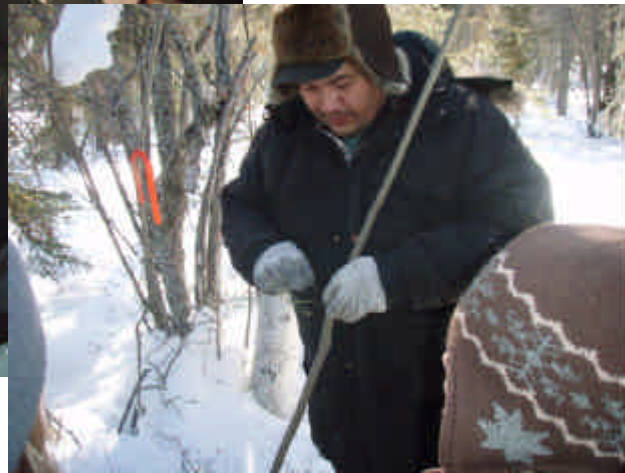
February - Grade 9 Winter Camp



March – Grade 2 Family Feast



April - Grade 4 Trapping Camp



May - Grade 3 Traditional Games Camp



May/June – Grade 5 Earth Medicine Camp



Additional Camps/Activities

- MHS School Fall Camp
- MHS School Spring Camp
- Rites of Passage - Manhood/Womanhood
- Camp Akaitcho – Traditional Outdoor Education Program
- Feeding the Fire-school opening ceremonies
- Moosehide Tanning Camp
- Birchbark Canoe Project
- School Duck Camp and Feast
- School Feasts and Canoe Trips
- Community Camps (ie ALCIP)... ETC!



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MAHSI CHO!

Questions?

