



ACHIMOWIN

April/May 2013

NORTHLAND SCHOOL DIVISION NO.61

Gift Lake Learning Centre Sod Turning Ceremony

A sod-turning ceremony took place on Monday April 29th for the new Gift Lake Learning Centre. The \$15.5 million facility was made possible through a partnership between Northland School Division, Northern Lakes College, Gift Lake Métis Settlement and the Government of Alberta. The facility has been in the works since June 2011 and will be the new home for Early Child Studies (ECS) to grade 9 students, a Head Start Program, Daycare, Northern Lakes College Outreach Campus, multi-purpose section and an extended family area.

"The Gift Lake Learning Centre will have a community sense especially since we will be housing all the pertinent programs of Gift Lake in

one building. I am especially proud of the colours that were chosen for the school and the highlighting of the Métis symbol at the front of the school," said Barb Laderoute, Principal, Gift Lake School.

The colours chosen are from the Métis Sash. The colour variations include; Red, which is the historical depicted colour for the Métis Sash; Blue and White symbolizing the colours of the Métis Nation flag; Green signifying fertility, growth and prosperity and; Black, symbolizing the dark period in which the Métis people had to endure dispossession and repression. Marshall-Lee Construction Corporation is the hired contractor for this project and Group 2 Architecture Interior De-



Gift Lake Students participating in the sod turning event.

sign Ltd is involved in the design process. Construction is underway and the projected completion date is December, 2014.

Superintendents Message



The April/May Newsletter contains many examples of the great things that can be accomplished when schools work closely with the communities they serve. The Gift Lake Learning Centre, artists visiting classes, dual credit programs, literacy nights and curriculum weaving projects are all examples of how learning is enriched through community engagement. Thank you parents, staff and community members for your support and commitment to the success of our students.

Sincerely,

Donna Barrett, Superintendent of Schools

Inside this issue:

Long Service Awards	2
Mistassiniy Student Recognized for Welding Skills	3
Conklin Students Help Fund a School in Ghana	3
Spelling Bee at Bishop Routhier School	4
Novel Learning on Display at Father R. Perin	4
Literacy Night at Athabasca Delta Community School	5
Music Monday at Kateri School	5
George Littlechild Visits Fort McKay School	5
Science Olympics in Grouard	6
Curriculum Weaving in Peerless Lake	6
Mother's Day at Hillview School	7
Gift Lake Students Travel to Ottawa	7
Important Dates and Contact information	8

Long Service Awards

Northland School Division hosted the Long Service Awards on May 2nd. The event is held every year to recognize teachers, principals and support staff for special achievements and for years of service.



Joshua Smith, Teacher, Pelican Mountain School, Linda Foster, Principal, Pelican Mountain School



Albina Alook (right), Donna Barrett, Superintendent of Schools (middle) and Audrey Anderson, Principal, Peerless Lake School



Linda Laboucan (left) and De-lores Pruden-Barrie, Supervisor of Aboriginal Programming.



Cynthia Dinstel, Teacher (left) and Maggie Auger (right).

<p><i>Excellence in Teaching Award</i></p> <p>Joshua Smith, Teacher, Pelican Mountain School</p> <p>Michael Maciach, Teacher, J.F. Dion School</p>	<p><i>25 years of Service</i></p> <p>Maggie Auger, Special Assistant, Little Buffalo School</p> <p>Ruth Ryan, Principal, Fort McKay School</p>
<p><i>Edwin Parr Teacher Award</i></p> <p>Elizabeth Chant, Teacher, Grouard Northland School</p>	<p><i>30 years of Service</i></p> <p>Lillian Whitehead, School Community Liaison Worker, Little Buffalo School</p>
<p><i>Prime Ministers Award</i></p> <p>Carla Halcrow, Teacher, Gift Lake School</p>	<p><i>35 years of Service</i></p> <p>Aline Auger, Teacher Assistant, Mistassiniy School</p> <p>Beatrice Davidson, Family Community Liaison Advisor, St. Theresa School</p>
<p><i>20 years of Service</i></p> <p>Albina Alook, Native Language Instructor, Peerless Lake School</p> <p>William Courtoreille, Bus Drive, Hillview School</p> <p>Linda Foster, Principal, Pelican Mountain School</p> <p>Linda Laboucan, Assistant Supervisor of Aboriginal Programs</p> <p>Barb Laderoute, Principal, Gift Lake School</p> <p>Donna Young Auger, Head Cook, St. Theresa</p>	<p><i>Retirement</i></p> <p>Rick Baier</p>



Lillian Whitehead is presented with her 30 year service award!



Aline Auger (right), Dafydd Thomas, Principal, Mistassiniy School (middle) and Donna Barrett (left).



Beatrice Davidson (left) and Shelly Stevenson, Acting Principal, St. Theresa School (right).

Mistassiniy Student Recognized for Welding Skills

A grade 12 student in Wabasca is demonstrating the benefits of a new dual credit welding program at Mistassiniy School. On April 29th, Rocky Auger won a bronze medal at the Northeast Regional Skills Canada Competition at Portage College in Lac La Biche. Auger was competing against about a dozen competitors. Competitors were being judged on specific techniques such as fillet and groove welds.

“I was happy but not too happy because I wanted to win silver or gold,” said Auger. “The ability to practice in the Career and Technology Studies (CTS) lab and outside of school helped me feel more confident leading up to the event.”

This is the first time that Northland School Division No. 61 (NSD61) and Northern Lakes College (NLC) are working together to introduce programs like dual credit welding in Wabasca. Students are able to earn high school credits as well as hours towards their trade ticket and the ability to write their first period trade exam.

Eric McCutchen, Welding Instructor, NLC, says he was extremely proud to see Rocky perform so well. He also says he’s excited to see Rocky and the students grow with more practice through the dual credit program.

“When I came up through the ranks, I had instructors, friends and journeymen that took the interest in me and showed me the way,” said McCutchen. “I enjoy teaching, I enjoy helping young people. When you have students that have the will to get better, then you help them. I’ve been opening the shop on Saturday’s and the kids are showing up that’s a positive.”

“This is a positive step for Rocky, for Mistassiniy, other NSD61 schools and the partnership between NSD61 and NLC,” said Randy Chernipeski, CTS School/Industry Partnership Administrator . “The positive news and the word of mouth by students, principals, teachers and support staff will help us introduce more of these programs across our division and help us receive more industry support.”



Front row: Ben Auger, Austin Vadnais

Back Row: Danika Mannybears, Eric McCutchen, Rocky Auger, Kendal Orr



Rock Auger running a vertical bead with a MIG welder.

Conklin Students Help Fund a School in Ghana

Over the past month, the junior high students at Conklin Community School took on a fund raising project that focused on assisting a school in Ghana. This is the second time these students have assisted others through a fund raising project. The school in Ghana is really just a roof structure that does not have walls. The students took on the task of raising enough money to build one of the walls of

the school. This was a project that required the students to make all the decisions on what to do to achieve their objective.

They decided to run a canteen at a local bingo and held a couple of bake sales at the school. Over a period of about three weeks they were able to raise close to \$600. Along with donated seed money of \$500, the total amount of their contribution to the school project

in Ghana was about \$1100! This was truly an exercise that demonstrated these students’ commitment to assist less fortunate students where they can.



Here is Ghana located on a map.

Regional Spelling Bee at Bishop Routhier



Grade 1

First place: Jacob Dunham, St. Thesesa (left)
 Second place: Keegan Gauthier, Bishop Routhier (middle)
 Third place: Keisha Grey, Atikameg (right)

Bishop Routhier School in the Peavine Métis Settlement hosted the Regional Spelling Bee on Tuesday May 7th. A total of 70 students from 7 schools participated in the event; 6 from Northland School Division (NSD61) and 1 from the Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council (KTC). The six Northland schools in attendance included St. Theresa School in Wabasca, Grouard Northland School, Gift Lake School, Bishop Routhier

School, Peerless Lake School and Hillview School in East Prairie. Atikameg School represented KTC. Congratulations to all the participants, organizers and winners!



Grade 2

First place: Autumn Tulloch, Bishop Routhier (left)
 Second place: Naomi Sawan, Gift Lake (middle)
 Third place: Eddie Cardinal, St. Theresa (right)



Grade 3

First place: Madison Cardinal, Peerless Lake (left)
 Second place: Mitchell Laboucan, Peerless Lake (middle)
 Third place: Nikesha Lamouche, Gift Lake (right)



Grade 4

First place: Caige Anderson, Gift Lake (left)
 Second place: Alex Dunham, St. Theresa (middle)
 Third place: Zareka Gauthier, Bishop Routhier (right)



Grade 5

First place: Aaliah Gladue, Grouard (left)
 Second place: T.J Day, St. Theresa (middle)
 Third place: Emma Anderson, Gift Lake (right)



Grade 6

First place: Samantha Ward, Grouard (left)
 Second place: Destin Willer, Grouard (middle)
 Third place: Kennedy Alook, St. Theresa (right)

Novel Learning on Display at Father R. Perin

Recently the Grade 8/9 class finished reading a novel they were really into – *Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief*. One of their culminating activities was to create a plasticine cabin using evidence from the novel and their imaginations as their only sources. They also each created a trading card featuring one of the characters in their novel. They celebrated the completion of their unit by having a “Blue Party” where all the food and drinks were blue (-- blue food being a favourite of the main character). Student work was put on display for Parent/Teacher night.



Student trading cards:



“Poseidon’s Cabin”

Literacy Night in Athabasca Delta Community School

Athabasca Delta Community School (ADCS) hosted a Reading Night on April 24th with Aboriginal stories as the theme. Everyone in attendance got to choose three out five stations to attend.

Station 1: *Niko' Twasik Kesikaw Atoskewin (Saturday's Chores)* hosted by the Elementary Cree Teacher Georgina Cardinal. Everyone had the opportunity to write down Georgina's famous

bannock recipe on an index card and enjoy bite size bannock as she read the book. **Station 2:** *Turtle's Race with Beaver* hosted by Lake Athabasca Youth Council. After the story was read participants got to make their own mini tipi to take home. **Station 3:** *The Loon's Necklace* hosted by High School Cree instructor Helena Welsh and student teacher Mackenzie. Mac read the book with a loon

hat on and Loon music playing softly in the background. After the story everyone got to make a Mother Earth necklace. **Station 4:** *Oral Story about Wesakechak* the *trickster* character hosted by Fort McMurray Public Library. **Station 5:** *Kiwiwiki* hosted by Helping Hands to Success. After the story all the children got a bag of play dough and could make their own sled dog just like the ones in the story.



Parent enjoying the evening with her son.

Music Monday at Kateri School

Students at Kateri School participated in Music Monday 2013 on May 6th! They were singing the official Music Monday theme song, "ISS-Is Somebody Singing" with other schools and communities coast to coast at the exact same time through a live stream. The theme song was originally written by Astronaut Chris Hadfield and Barenaked Ladies frontman Ed Robert-

son. The event was very unique because a number of schools and communities were singing in different languages.

Kateri School sang the entire song in Cree. Earlier this year, The Coalition for Music Education selected Bill and Emily Sewepagaham's daughter Sherryl to help translate and perform "Is Somebody Singing" to Cree.

Sherryl had help with the translation from her parents and Darlene Auger from the Bigstone Cree Nation.

Check out this link to view the script. Sherryl's audio version is there as well!

www.musicmonday.ca



Music Monday participants from Kateri School

George Littlechild Visits Fort McKay School

Grade 5, 6 and 7 students at the Fort McKay School were very excited to spend three days working and painting with George Littlechild. Imperial Oil sponsored a book project with the communities of Fort Chipewyan and Fort McKay. Richard Van Camp worked with the elders of the two communities to write the book and

George Littlechild worked with the students of Fort Chipewyan and Fort McKay to illustrate the book. The students are excited about the project and they are looking forward for the book to be published.



George Littlechild is helping students with painting

Science Olympics in Grouard



Heated competition at the Science Olympics

Given a challenge, expect students to come up with some very creative ideas. And that they did during the Grouard Northland School Science Olympics on April 24th. Students were given five categories to compete in, and a weird variety of materials to construct their projects. They were as follows:

peted to see how accurately they could toss their Frisbees into targets. In Floating Tower, students were given one bag of plastic straws, one bag of elastic bands and one roll of scotch tape and four sheets of paper. Each tower had to float in water to be eligible. In Electro Magnet, students were given a 20 m copper wire, one d cell and various spools on which to wind the wire. The magnet that supported the largest weight was declared the winner.

And in the Catapult Satellite Launch, students were challenged to launch as many satellites onto planets as possible in a selected time period. Science Olympics are held to test students' skills and knowledge in science by using materials taught in class. This hands-on way of teaching gets students engaged in learning and how science can be applied to everyday things we use.

Chris Clegg, The South Peace News



Randy Chernipeski (left) is sharing his knowledge with a student

In the Disposable Plate Toss students had two plates, scissors and masking tape. This was the first and easiest project. They then com-

Curriculum Weaving in Peerless Lake

About a year ago, Peerless Lake School started the Curriculum Weaving Project. Audrey Anderson, Peerless Lake School Principal, Elders and representatives from Alberta Education, FMNI Field Services Branch and FMNI Curriculum Branch spoke to Northland School Division staff about the project on May 2nd. The presentation highlighted progress since the project began in June, 2012. Lorraine Cardinal-Roy from Alberta Education spoke about the Northland Community Engagement Framework and how important it's been in developing this project. The 14 step framework includes key components like consulting with community members and Elders, collecting advice, developing a plan for action, understanding community and cultural protocol, community validation and continuous community engagement.

The project team consisting of teachers, Elders, community members, parents and Alberta Education developed a values circle and incorporated these values into specific units such as Wetlands and Ecosystems. This unit uses the following Cree Values: 1. Wahohtowin (kinship) 2. Kiskanowapahkiwin (keen sense of observation). Students use the values to investigate more about wetlands and ecosystems in Peerless Lake and Trout Lake. Louise Houle is teaching the class in Peerless Lake and is an Aboriginal Teachers Education Program (ATEP) student.

"The first couple of classes, students shared stories about what they knew about the wetlands and ecosystem in relation to Peerless Lake," said Houle. "One day we walked over to my mother's place, she's one of the Elders and she shared her stories about Peerless Lake. She reinforced the importance of preserving some of our ecosystems including berry patches."

Students were also able to gather information about fish population and water levels from a Fish and Wildlife Officer. Audrey Anderson says she believes the project is keeping students in school and the community support is growing. She also says they're finding ways to improve by preserving knowledge from Elders and community members for future reference, making sure goals are communicated and hosting more public meetings. Anderson added that other schools should adapt this project because they will see improvements in students, parent and community engagement.



Peerless Lake Values



Northland Community Engagement Framework

Mother's Day at Hillview School

Hillview School celebrated Mother's Day on Friday May 10th. The event was held in conjunction with Education Week. The celebration included a tea party, students reading poetry, stories and stories about their mother's. They also enjoyed strawberry shortcake!



Mother and son together!



Gift Lake Students Travel to Ottawa

Students from Gift Lake School recently returned from a week at Encounters with Canada in Ottawa where they visited Parliament Hill, toured museums and participated in activities and workshops along with over 90 other students from all across Canada. It was a trip of a lifetime with a focus on Canadian politics. After going through all the security procedures, stu-

dents were invited into the House of Commons for "Question Period", where they had the opportunity to see and listen to the Prime Minister Stephen Harper, NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair and Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau.

The group, headed by grade 9 teacher, Mrs. Stevens, met and worked with other 14 to 17 year old Canadian

students, young Parliamentarians, a former Canadian Ambassador to Guatemala & Chile and the mayor of Ottawa while they explored the beautiful city of Ottawa.

Mrs. Stevens and the students would like to thank the community, parents and other students who supported the experience. We also want to acknowledge and thank the following persons, organizations and companies for their support, valuable contributions and funding. Together, they made this trip possible and also the huge success that it was.

- Barb Laderoute, Principal, Gift Lake School*
- Bob Heyde, Vice-Principal, Gift Lake School*
- Northern Lakes College Staff, Grouard Campus*
- Mr. Gerry Peardon and the Gift Lake Settlement Council*
- Mr. Blaine Favel, CEO, One Earth Oil and Gas Inc.*
- Curtis Walty, Northland School Division*
- Mr. Dave Lamouche*
- Mr. Inier Cardinal*
- Ms. Cassie Flett*
- Town of High Prairie*
- Municipal District of Big Lakes*
- Dawna Baird, Encounters with Canada Regional Coordinator*
- Chariot Charters of Grande Prairie*



Back row from left to right: Cole Lamouche, Gabrielle Laderoute, Aurora Loonskin, Larissa Boskoyous, Destiny Anderson, Brendan Lamouche, Mrs. Stevens. Front row left to right: Wallace Calliou, Nikita Tallman, Darren Jr. Auger, Tanner Grey, Alanis Anderson.

"Every student is a lifelong learner and successful in life"

Important Dates

Contact Us:
Phone: 1-780-624-2060
Email: central.office@northland61.ab.ca
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/northland61>

May 20th	Victoria Day (No School)
May 22nd	Advisory Committee Meeting
May 23rd	Board Meeting
June 11th	Provincial Achievement Tests (PAT) 9:00-10:00 AM
June 12th	Diploma Exams (DE) 9:00-11:30 AM ELA 30-1 & 30-2 Part A
June 13th	PAT 9:00-10:00 AM Grade 3 Math DE 9:00-11:00 AM Social Studies 30-2 Part A 9:00-11:30 AM Social Studies 30-1 Part A
June 16th	Father's Day
June 17th	PAT 9:00-10:AM Grade 6 ELA Part B 9:00-10:15 AM Grade 9 Science DE 9:00-11:30 AM ELA 30-1 & 30-2 Part B
June 18th	Committee Meetings & Agenda Review PAT 9:00-10:15 Grade 6 Math 9:00-10:30 AM Grade 9 Math DE 9:00-11:00 AM Social Studies 30-1, 30-2 Part B
June 19th	PAT 9:00-10:00 AM Grade 6 Science 9:00-10:15 AM Grade 9 ELA Part B
June 20th	PAT 9:00-10:00 Grade 6 Social Studies 9:00-10:20 Grade 9 Social Studies DE 9:00-11:00AM Biology 30
June 21st	Aboriginal Day
June 24th	DE 9:00-11:00 AM Chemistry 30
June 25th	DE 9:00-11:00 AM Pure Math & Applied Math 30, Math 30-1 & 2
June 26th	Advisory Committee Meeting DE 9:00-11:00 AM Physics 30
June 27th	Board Meeting DE 9:00-11:00 AM Social Science 30
June 28th	Central Office Closed