Learning Together for Student Success

Strong Aboriginal/School Board Partnerships for Full-Day Kindergarten

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Lakehead Public Schools
Early Learning at McKellar Park Central Public School

1 full-time JK and 1 full-time SK class

1 teacher/early childhood educator team in each class

37 students

15 students are self-identified First Nations, Metis or Inuit
Welcome to Kindergarten!

The goal of Lakehead Public Schools is to build an Aboriginal cultural awareness in every school that promotes sensitivity to educational needs, a welcoming school climate and active parental involvement.
We work with a variety of community partners so that each and every child can enjoy a great start to a wonderful education experience, full of excitement, challenges and possibilities where families and schools work together to ensure student success.
Inviting Aboriginal role models, like Elders and Senators, into our schools is an opportunity for the sharing of cultural beliefs and traditional Practices with students and staff. The inclusion of Aboriginal perspectives and presence fosters Aboriginal student self-esteem and confidence, while promoting an inclusive and respectful environment for all of our students.
Elder Support in the Classroom
Family Connections

A weekly program for parents who want to help their children be successful at school. Supports include help with homework, talking to the teacher, understanding school councils, what to ask at a parent/teacher interview, family literacy, etc.

This program helps parents be involved in their children's education - parents participate in cultural activities at the school; transportation tickets and free child care are provided. It is run by Lakehead Adult Education Centre and this facilitates parents working on high school credits.

Partner organizations: The Thunder Bay Indian Friendship Centre, Ontario Works, and the Aboriginal Interagency Council.
Good Start

- Provided to new students and families from Northern communities

- Students are set up for success through academic testing, buddying up, school tours, classroom tours, strength-based inventory, and a formal welcoming to our school and community

- Parents are informed of available resources in the school and community, and are made to feel comfortable in the school setting

Lakehead Public Schools
Urban Aboriginal Strategy
Neighbourhood Capacity Building Project

A culturally-designed program delivered by an Aboriginal Youth Outreach Worker in the school

Provides a link to parents and caregivers

In-class cultural presentations and other cultural activities

Positive role-modeling

Roots of Empathy

Food security

Lakehead Public Schools
Urban Aboriginal Strategy
Neighbourhood Capacity Building Project
OLA – Oral Language Assessment

Sponsored by the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat, involving all 8 School Boards in North Western Ontario

The project combined the Self-Identification Process with oral language and looked at how strong oral language skills impact on literacy skills. Specific strategies were developed to close the achievement gap for Aboriginal Learners.

All Junior Kindergarten and Senior Kindergarten teachers use the assessment and teaching strategies.
Our Most Important Community Connections –
Our Parents and Guardians