Building Relations to Support First Nation Students

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Who are we?

- Lakehead District School Board is in Thunder Bay, ON
- City population of ~110,000
- 10,500 students
- 25 elementary schools (23 in Thunder Bay, 1 in Armstrong, ON and 1 in Collins, ON)
- 4 secondary schools
• 1 in 5 students voluntarily self identify as First Nation, Metis or Inuit students
• ~20 tuition agreements with 20 different First Nation communities
• Majority of tuition agreements are at the secondary school level
• Students come to school in Thunder Bay beginning in either grade 9 or grade 10
Why are we doing this work?
What supports are available?

Board Level

• Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee
• Elder Supports
• Transition committee
• Personnel – Aboriginal Community Liaison and Partnerships Officer
• Aboriginal Resource Teacher
• Professional Development
• Advocacy Program (support, translation)
• Orientation for new students
New Student Orientation
New Students Learning About Community
What supports are available?

School Level

• Welcome packages
• Strengths Based Timetabling
• Student and parent friendly communication (ie. timetables with Geography, not CGC 1P)
• Caring adult – Special Assignment Teacher
• Social activities within the school (ie Fall Harvest)
• Access to guidance counselors and school social workers
Our Welcoming Learning Environment!

Introduction
Environment
Practices and Attitudes
Resources and Materials
Outreach and Community
• Alternative programming to meet student learning needs
• Coop placements
• Food programs
• Transitions from High School to Post Secondary
• Curriculum that includes indigenous perspective
What are some of the supports that you have provided to help First Nations Students transition?
First Nation Travels

• Traveling began in Feb 2009
• Purpose: Building relations, outreaching, awareness, registrations and to ease transitions for First Nation student’s
• Communities traveled to:
  – Armstrong, Gull Bay, Whitesand, Fort Hope, Kingfisher Lake, Wunnumin, Wapekeka
Our Airline Provider
Arriving at Kingfisher Lake
Airport waiting area
Kingfisher Lake Band Office
Kingfisher Lake Band Office
Kingfisher Lake Restaurant
Kingfisher Lake Store
Food Prices –WOW!

EGGS

Family size
- $8.65

Dozen
- $5.55

Milk Prices

- 4 L Jugs - $17.95
- 4 L Bags - $17.95
- 2 L - $8.95
- 1 L - $4.15

Brown Bread - $5.95
White Bread - $5.25
Hot Cross Buns - $7.35
Texas Buns - $7.35
Hot dog / hamburger buns
- $7.35
Mary Ann Aganash Memorial School – Kingfisher Lake
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Community Radio Show – Kingfisher Lake
Arriving at Wapekeka
Rev. Eleazar Winter Memorial School - Wapekeka
Community Radio Show - Wapekeka
Arriving at Wunnumin
Gr. 7 /8 Students
Talking About LPS
Video that we left with the students
Welcome

Education is a journey and there is no finish line.

Hammarskjold High School
Lakehead Adult Education Centre
Sir Winston Churchill Collegiate & Vocational Institute
Superior Collegiate & Vocational Institute
Westgate Collegiate & Vocational Institute

Lakehead Public Schools

Your Children  Our Students  The Future

www.lakeheadschools.ca
• What is one new idea that you heard today that you can take away to implement within your district?
Our Partners

- Matawa First Nations Management
- Shibogama Tribal Council
- Keewaytinook Okimakanak
- Nishnawbe Aski Nation
- Whitesand First Nation
- Gull Bay First Nation
- Fort William First Nation
- Eabametoong (Fort Hope) First Nation

- Whitesand First Nation
- Kingfisher Lake First Nation
- Wapekeka First Nation
- Wunnumin First Nation
- City of Thunder Bay
- Many local community agencies
- Many local committee groups
Miigwech!!
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