Keewatin-Patricia District
School Board’s Environmental
Stewardship Mandate

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Keewatin-Patricia District School Board

**Location** - Between the town of Ignace and the Ontario-Manitoba border. North of the TransCanada Hwy and up to Red Lake.
Continued....

**Geography of KPDSB**

- Wealth of natural spaces (rivers, forests, lakes).
- Widespread population.
- High susceptibility to climate change.
Continued....again?

**Student Body**

- 5446 students enrolled (2008).
- The majority of the students come from aboriginal, or western European, or share ancestral heritage between these two groups.
Cont.

**Economy**
- Forestry
- Mining
- Tourism
- Transportation
Conception

- The Environmental Stewardship Council will be established in order to help develop a plan or strategy to integrate environmental issues including an Aboriginal focus into the K-12 program and Board Operations.
Conception cont.

• The goal of the Environmental Stewardship Council is to develop environmental school resources and materials that will increase our student’s awareness, understanding and appreciation of environmental issues and ecological processes and to encourage Environmental Stewardship actions. Students will adopt a global mindset about the environment and gain an understanding of the Aboriginal land-based approach to living and the Seven Grandfather teachings.
Key Moves

- Introduce more experiential learning environments and activities.
- Include more environmental learning into the classroom.
- Expand the outdoor education program at the secondary level.
- Encourage a conservation ethic within schools.
Strategy

- Implementing Ontario EcoSchools as a template for change in the Board.
- Fund Secondary Outdoor Education Courses and increase P.D. for Teachers.
- Develop The Keewatin-Patricia Secondary Outdoor Education Guidelines
- Develop KPDSB website as an environmental resource for students and teachers.
- Increase environmental communication.
- Develop partnerships within the community.
Problems Encountered

- Prior knowledge of staff on the environment.
- Fitting the environment into the day.
- Cultural-Human resistance to change.
Looking Forward

- Turn our attention to K-8
- Focus on improving the general knowledge of teachers and staff on environmental issues and science.
- Change the culture of the KPDSB in regards to environmental issues.
OUTDOOR ED AT QUEEN ELIZABETH
A NATURAL CHOICE
Curriculum Framework

- **Respect**: Begin to gain a respect for all living and non-living creatures. Whole community.
- **Relationship**: Begin to develop a relationship between all living and non-living creatures and develop a deeper relationship with themselves.
- **Reciprocity**: Learn to give back to their community. All levels of community.
- **Responsibility**: Gain a deeper sense of responsibility to the land.
Traditional Curriculum Model
Goals and Objectives

- The goal of the program is to provide experiential learning so that students may develop self confidence through a variety of hands-on, land based experiences.
- The belief of this vision is that the program will encourage students to observe and understand the human relationships and influences in the natural world.
Building A Community
(Respecting each other and building relationships)
Land Based Teaching (respecting the land and building relationship with it)
Reciprocity: Giving back to our community
Responsibility: Through respect and relationships built students have a sense of....
Educational Links and exposure for students

- Environmental Stewardship
- Character Education
- Aboriginal Education
- Cooperative and Experiential Education
- High Skills Major/ Environment
- Transferable skills/Certification Opportunities

Partnerships
Wetland Center of Excellence(DU), Brock University, Wawatay Communication, Cedar Bay, Local Elementary Schools, Confederation College.
Thank you for the opportunity to Share - Miigwech