

# Nelna Bessie John School Monthly Newsletter

November, 2015

Hi again!

***November seemed to fly by with so many school & community events occurring:***

- On November 2<sup>nd</sup> we had our Annual General Meeting and the monthly School Council Meeting. We are so pleased that Miss Tristian and Miss Marilyn have joined School Council.
- Our area French Monitor ~ Miss Catherine Bolduc – Gagnon visited us from November 3<sup>rd</sup> ~ 5<sup>th</sup>. The kids especially loved the different French Canadian foods she taught them to make! Please see the pictures from her visit on in the Photo Gallery on our school website: <http://nbj.yukonschools.ca/>.
- On November 6<sup>th</sup> while Mister Dan was at conferences in Whitehorse, Miss Shasta & Miss Sarah had to close the school for the day due to diesel fumes. Thankfully no one was seriously injured and the school was safe for classes on Monday. Thank you Miss Shasta, Miss Sarah, the RCMP and the Health Centre for dealing so well with this situation!
- The students absolutely loved D.J.'s November 9<sup>th</sup> morning class on computer coding! They learned so much about the uses of math in computer programming. Thanks again D.J.!
- Everyone who participated in the November 11<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Day ceremony did an awesome job! It was a solemn occasion, but also a chance for the community to come together. Many thanks to the RCMP and the Community Club for sponsoring this important annual event!
- November 16<sup>th</sup> was an incredibly busy but fun day for us!
  - i) In the morning, we enjoyed various musical performances in the CC by Vanier Catholic Secondary School students. Many had never been this far up the Alaska Highway before. They also liked the quick tour of our school.
  - ii) We then helped prepare an evening meal for the entire community that same afternoon.

iii) Finally, we all came back for a yummy dinner that night. Phew, it was a long but rewarding day!

You can see many pictures from November 16<sup>th</sup> posted in the Photo Gallery sections of our school website: <http://nbj.yukonschools.ca/>.

- Ms. Ruth & Miss Jolenda were back at Yukon College for most of the week of November 16<sup>th</sup>. I am sure that students will really profit from what they learned when applied in their First Nation language classes!
- The students greatly benefitted from Miss Kate coming in to read and work with them. I hope that more members of the community can substitute teach or volunteer at the school. The children would love to hear about the interesting hobbies and lives of our community members. Anyone is welcome to contact me to read to the students, give a class on something they are good at or enjoy (arts & crafts, music, technical areas, etc.), or become involved in some other meaningful way. All they need to do is to get an RCMP criminal check done first and then email me at [Dan.Ritco@gov.yk.ca](mailto:Dan.Ritco@gov.yk.ca).
- Mister Dan attended the monthly community Inter-Agency Meeting on November 24<sup>th</sup>, and discussed how the students can help get ready for next month's Xmas dinner. Please see **Upcoming Events** below.
- On November 27<sup>th</sup> Miss Mia and Mister Jeremy from Sport Yukon gave students valuable health and sport classes and information. The kids were amazed at how tall Jeremy ~ a skilled basketball player ~ is! Please see the pictures from their visit on in the Photo Gallery on our school website: <http://nbj.yukonschools.ca/>. We are hoping they will be back in a few months for a longer stay.
- As parents know from my November 23<sup>rd</sup> letter home, we had a Yukon Education required lockdown drill on November 27th. Students and staff performed very well and I am confident that in a real emergency, they will do the same.
- We had a number of other important government visitors to the school and community this month. We are very fortunate to have this kind of support even though we are so far from Whitehorse.
- As I mentioned during the November 11<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Day ceremony, there are many people in our own community who care and give so much each day of their personal and professional lives to others. For instance, Mister Ralph takes great care in making sure the building is very clean and the pathways are free of snow and ice. The next time you see him kids, give him a hearty "Thank You". Miss Rita makes sure that we have everything that we need at school. Please

also thank her the next time you see her. I would also like to once again sincerely thank *The 1202* for continuing to make fresh and healthy food donations to the students. Your kindness and generosity are very much appreciated as I can see every time a student enjoys the foods that you prepare for them! Thank you!

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>: Monthly School Council Meeting at 7 PM. Kindly email items to be placed on the agenda to Kate Todd, SC Chair at [lilacs\\_2009@yahoo.com](mailto:lilacs_2009@yahoo.com).
- Mister Dan will be attending conferences in Whitehorse from December 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ 4<sup>th</sup>. However, students will be in great hands with Miss Sarah and Miss Shasta until he returns!
- On December 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> we'll have Miss Wendy Thompson teaching the students how to paint classic themes such as van Gogh's "Starry Night." Wendy is a member of the wonderful Artists in the School program. Like all of our substitute teachers and volunteers, she has passed a criminal check and is a competent person.
- December 4<sup>th</sup>: Your teachers are working hard to ensure that they upload all Term I report card information on our new ASPEN computer system. We ask all parents to be patient if they do not receive mailed report cards before the scheduled December 8<sup>th</sup> parent teacher interviews.
- December 8<sup>th</sup>: Parents, please speak to Mister Dan when you bring in / pick up your child (ren) about what times you are available to meet with him between 3:30 ~ 8 P.M. that night for parent teacher interviews. If this date / time slot doesn't work for you, please suggest an alternate day / time (including weekends) as Mister Dan knows you are all incredibly busy. Parents please remember that you can come in any time to see your children learning or their projects!
- December 15<sup>th</sup>: Unless parents inform me otherwise, we are planning on going directly to the Health Centre at 12:00 noon for their Xmas Open House luncheon. We will be back at school in time for the 1:20 P.M. First Nation language class.
- December 16<sup>th</sup>: In the afternoon, we will help prepare a community Xmas dinner hosted by White River First Nation at the Community Club as part of our civic social responsibility duties. Then we'll join together with the rest of the community that evening from 5:30 ~ 7:30 P.M. to enjoy it! Miss Jane from the Band Office will also help us give presents to Elders and members of the community. Please

remember to bring your cake for the cakewalk. Thank you WRFN for hosting this festive event!

- December 18<sup>th</sup>: Last day of school.
- December 19<sup>th</sup> 2015 ~ January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016: Winter break (no school).
- January 4<sup>th</sup>: First day of school ~ please don't be late students!
- January 5<sup>th</sup>: School Council Meeting at 7 P.M.
- Please make sure you get lots of sleep, eat properly and take vitamins to make sure you grow properly and stay healthy. The cold and flu season is here and we don't want any of you to get sick!
- Parents, when you can, please give me a USB ("memory stick") with your name on it. I will put all of the pictures we've taken from September 2015 to June 2016, and give it back to you before we leave on summer break.

Wishing everyone a fun and safe holiday season,

Dan Ritco, M.Ed  
Principal NBSJ