

THE SOURDOUGH

Connecting Learners and Learning to People and Place

RSS STAFF 2019-2020

ADMINISTRATION

Brian Lewthwaite - Principal
Helen McCullough - Vice Principal
Melissa Flynn - Vice Principal
Sonja Stephenson - Administrative Assistant
Paulette Michaud - Receptionist

ELEMENTARY STAFF

Laurel Betts - Kindergarten
Donna Lozancic - Kindergarten/Grade 1
Laurie Berglund - Grade 1/2
Brenda Rear - Grade 2/3
Kathryn McDonald - Grade 4
Nianne Brophy - Grade 5
Angela Edmunds - Grade 6
Andrew Laviolette - Grade 7
Kristen Poenn - Music K-6, Art 7
David Rawlings - Phys Ed. K-4, 6
Melissa Flynn - Han Language
Allison Anderson - Han Language
Jennifer Fraser - LAT / Reading Recovery
Sandra Salt - LAT / Reading Recovery
Paula Chisholm - Counsellor

SECONDARY STAFF

Melissa Flynn - FN Studies 7-8
Emily Lacelle - English 9-12
Jaimie Hale - French 9-12, Foods 7-
Barbara Hinton - High school LAT
Nicholas Vienneau - ILC Teacher
Helen McCullough - Career Ed. 8-12, DL
Peter Menzies - Tech Ed, Woodwork, ICT
Kristen Poenn - Art 8, Art 11-12
David Rawlings - PE 8-12
Sara Stephens - Humanities 8 Socials 9-12,
Claus Vogel - Scimatics 8, Math 9-12, Photo
Bryan Laloge- Sciences 9-12, Art 9/10
Paula Chisholm - Counsellor

LIBRARY

Helen McCullough- Teacher-Librarian
Rose Lamb - Library Clerk

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS

Bridget Amos	Rebecca Beaudoin
Lindsay Bourgoin	Stefanie Cayen
Naomi Headdy	Nijen Holland
Devon Laing	Mindy Potoroka
Dawn Dyce	Brendaline De Guzman

TH EDUCATION

Ashley Bower-Bramadat - K-6 CELC
Aurora Knutson - 7-12 CELC

CUSTODIAL STAFF

Charlene Churches
Blad de Guzman Carol Michie

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Drin Hözö Bonjour Good-day

As the day length begins to stretch out, there's definitely a feel that spring is in the air. In Hän, the month is referred to as Jëje-in Sranän or People Month. Judging by the number of visitors and events we've had at the school, and in the community and Yukon over the past few weeks, this is an honest description of the month!

I continue to be amazed at the number of quality learning experiences and opportunities our students are provided at or through the school. Of note was our Grade 6s recently participating in the Polar Games. Our school curriculum focuses on 'connecting learners and learning to people and place' and the past month's events confirm this connecting is a reality. We are deeply fortunate to have a great range of resource people and facilities available to support our students' learning. For example, having scientific and conservation expertise through individuals such as Alice McCulley, Mike Suitor and Shaun Hughes, with Yukon Government, are greatly appreciated. I'd like to also acknowledge the supportive youth work done by Jennifer Kehoe, who has provided a variety of programming opportunities to our students. We cannot acknowledge enough the support we get from Tröndek Hwë'chin for their cultural inclusion efforts through Elders and other Knowledge Holders classroom and field-based learning. We also acknowledge their direct funding support, for example, through their financial support for supporting the purchase of Pro-Active Curriculum Materials used in our Detö program.

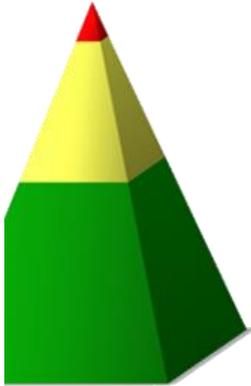
On Tuesday, March 10th at 1:00 p.m. we're holding a special Good News Assembly in the gym to honour our students participating in the Arctic Winter Games in Whitehorse during spring break. The names of those participating are listed later in this newsletter, and you'll see the contingent from Dawson this year is quite large. At this assembly we'd like to also honour the many people associated with our students' success, especially parents and coaches. The Assembly is open to the public, so please come along!

K'änächa

Brian Lewthwaite

Positive Learning Environments

We have been consistently placing emphasis on maintaining positive learning environments. Since the beginning of the year, we have enacted a rather simple school-wide system to (1) collect individual and class data on behavior incidents and (2) both congratulate and adjust student behavior as it impacts on student learning. This process we are using has been recently reviewed by the Student Council, Robert Service Staff and, this month, now approved by School Council as a Behaviour Support Policy (Policy 19-01). The full details of this policy can be viewed on our website. I want to emphasize that students and caregivers have the right to see the incident data. Contact me if this is something you'd like to do. If it is a red incident (described below), there is typically an immediate response to student and parents involved. Typically, this'll mean the offender will be removed from class or the school. Most of the red incidents are associated with outside the classroom incidents, such as aggressive student behaviour on the playground, resisting to comply with and smoking or vaping on school property. It's our responsibility to ensure a course of action is place within two days of the incident.



We have now completed the sixth month of documenting student behaviour across the school. Again, in the majority of grades from K-12 there have been few, if any, reported incidents. The yellow and red incidents from the past five weeks were the lowest since the start of the school year. In all, there were 32 yellow incidents (approximately one per day) and 3 red incidents. On a weekly basis, Paula Chisholm, our Counsellor, and I meet to look at the incidents. What we are seeing clear evidence of is the difference that is noted in fewer incidents of student misbehaviour when co-ordinated supports are put in place, such as meetings with parents and CELCs (Aurora and Ashley), School Counsellor Paula Chisholm, our Learning Assistance Teachers (Sandra Salt, Jennifer Fraser, and Basia Hinton) and external support workers such as Alexa Mitchell and Shauna Kormendy (Mental Wellness), Savannah McKenzie and Adam Wicke (Social Services) and, now, Maria Nyland (Community Health Nurse).

The most common 'red' incident since the start of the year has been aggressive behaviour in Kindergarten to Grade in less-structured environments such as playground and transitions. This has dropped significantly as the K-4 teachers focus on inappropriate behaviours by ensuring these are communicated to parents and there are consequences around these behaviours, usually a loss of privilege from or closer supervision in these environments.

At our monthly Good News Assembly, we are continuing to honor patterns of Congratulatory Incidents. These assemblies are held the first or second Tuesday of every month. Although there are several aspects of life at RSS to celebrate, it's hard to rival the honoring of students that demonstrate the principles of Trë'hude.

Green (Congratulatory) Incident Form:

Positive, constructive behaviour contributes to a positive outcome for the student, learning and the social environment. Principles of Trë'hude evidenced as others benefit from the action.

Yellow (Cautionary) Incident Form:

Negative behavior that contradicts Trë'hude, often ongoing despite repeated warnings, causes risk to self and learning or others or property or interferes with the learning of others. With some thought and adjustment, the behavior is likely to not occur again. Repeated incidents will involve parent/carer contact and cautionary monitoring and support for change.

Red (Critical) Incident Form:

Destructive, aggressive or abusive behaviour that causes harm to the well-being of self, others or their property. Includes illegal activity, refusal to comply, the verbal or physical abuse of a peer, staff or community member or the abuse of property. Likely removal from school for the day or longer along with privilege loss related to the offense. For example, Parent/ Carer contact and re-entry restorative action is required and behavior closely monitored and support for change. There is zero tolerance for such behaviours.

MusiCounts Awards \$6500 to Robert Service School



We are pleased to announce that we are receiving \$6500 in funding from MusiCounts, which will most likely go towards a 17-piece set of instruments, including xylophones, glockenspiels, metallophones and drums. In addition, we will probably buy a new keyboard and amps for the rock band program.

This award to RSS, through Kristen Poenn our music teacher, is a part of a total of \$900,000 in musical instruments and equipment will be distributed to 90 schools across Canada through the MusiCounts Band Aid Program. The MusiCounts Band Aid Program provides up to \$15,000 worth of musical instruments and equipment to schools in need. These instruments will enable schools to grow their existing music programs or help schools build a brand-new music program for students.

This year, the roster of recipient schools is the most regionally diverse yet, with an unprecedented number of schools supported in the Territories, the Atlantic provinces, and the western provinces. The MusiCounts Band Aid Program is also proud to equip schools with traditional instruments that will enable youth to celebrate and explore their cultural identity. Some schools will also receive adaptive musical instruments, allowing for students with exceptionalities to participate in music class.

“MusiCounts is proud to support 90 recipient schools this year – congratulations to all the music programs!” said Kristy Fletcher, Executive Director, MusiCounts. “However, there is still a lot of work to be done, and reading through many applications we received this year was heartbreaking. Whether schools have no instruments at all, or are struggling with collections of instruments that are in disrepair; students deserve to experience the benefits of music education in their school.”

70% of 2020 recipient schools currently receive \$500 or less for their music program, meaning \$15,000 in equipment via the MusiCounts Band Aid Program is the equivalent of 30 years of typical funding all at once. Each year, the need for musical instruments in schools grows, and applications to the MusiCounts Band Aid Program continue to sharply increase. In 2020 MusiCounts is only able to help 1 in 7 schools that applied to receive support.



Off to the Nationals!

On February 27th, students from around the territory competed in the Skills Yukon Culinary Arts and Photography competition held at RSS. Logan Graf, who has been training all year with chefs Driss Adrio and Brian Phelan, plated two beautiful versions of the provided recipes. He made a Green Thai Curry and a Rhubarb Streusel Tart. Way to go Logan, your hard work paid off. In the Photography competition RSS had 3 participants, Vanessa Oliverio, Lochlan Hnetka and Jude Paraluman. Jude finished 2nd overall, and Vanessa in 1st place. Both Logan and Vanessa have earned a chance to compete at the National competition in Vancouver this May. Skills Yukon and RSS would like to thank our local judges: Ross Cockburn, Jen Migliorini, Lucy Welsh, Nate Jones and Devon Burquist for taking the day to work with our students. Thanks, especially, our teachers Jaimie Hale, Peter Menzies and Claus Vogel, encouraging and supporting this experience for our students.





Arctic Winter Games Good News Assembly

March 10 at 1:00 p.m.
Everyone is welcome!

Please join us to celebrate the following Robert Service School Athletes Participating in the Arctic Winter Games March 15-21:

Archery:

- Emma Tom Tom (alternate)

Dene:

- Devin Forester

Futsal:

- Beez Duncan
- Paige Forester
- Sydka Perucho
- Teagan Ewing
- Tigoni Nunan (alternate)
- Maze Clemente (alternate)

Hockey:

- Jaden Ezzard
- Rachel Kormendy

Snowshoe Racing:

- Jesse Amos
- Tess Crocker
- Vivianne Brousseau

Volley Ball:

- David Joseph
- Austin Franks (alternate)



Student Assessment Survey - Feb. 17 to March 15

The Government of Yukon is surveying parents at schools who started following new requirements for assessing and reporting on student learning during the 2018-19 school year. Our school is one of the schools being surveyed. The survey will be open on Monday, February 17 to Sunday, March 15. We will provide the link to the survey by e-mail, in our newsletters and on our website once the survey opens. We will also have a hard copy available to fill out at the school. We encourage you to take the time to fill out the survey, which will support our school in providing you valuable information about your child's learning.

Why is this survey being completed?

In June 2017, changes were introduced to the way schools assess and report to parents on student learning, including how report cards look and how schools informally update parents through phone calls, e-mails and in-person meetings. Schools were given the option to implement the changes over the 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 school years. Some schools started in 2017-18, some in 2018-19 and some in 2019-20. All schools are now following the new requirements. The assessment and reporting practices were finalized for the 2019-20 school year. However, we are asking for feedback from parents to ensure we continue to provide valuable and timely information about their child's learning as we follow these practices. Last year, schools who started following the new assessment and reporting practices in 2017-18 were surveyed. You can read more about the survey and look at the results from last year on the Engage Yukon website at:

<https://engageyukon.ca/en/2020/student-assessment-survey>



Above Image: Grade 6s – Edna, Kyla, Airha, Tigoni, Aimee, at the Polar Games

**From the
Office.....**

March 16-21 Spring Break
Enjoy the great outdoors!



**UPCOMING EMERGENCY DRILL:
MARCH 5 FIRE DRILL**

**Anytime your child is absent from the school,
please notify the school at 993-5435 or by email to
both School Administrative Assistants Paulette
Michaud and Sonja Stephenson**

paulette.michaud@yesnet.yk.ca **and**
sonja.stephenson@yesnet.yk.ca

Office sign in/out

Late arrivals must check in at the office.
If your child leaves during the school day, please be sure to sign
them out at the office.

Effective Feb.17, 2020
All doors into the school,
except the main entrance, will
be locked from
(9 a.m.-3 p.m.)

**Arctic Winter Games
Good News Assembly
March 10, 2020
@ 1:00 p.m.
Everyone Welcome!**

Professional Development Activities: Administration and Staff

Participant(s)	Date	Type of Activity
E. Lacelle	Feb 6-7	Learning Networks
S. Stephens	Feb 10-12	SS9 Policies Work Group
J. Fraser	Feb 11-12	Jane Wilson, RR Teacher Leader, was here to observe.
L. Betts	Feb 11	Jane Wilson creating a short educational video on using 'Bib Books'.
L. Berglund	Feb 11-12	Learning Networks
S. Stephens	Feb 13	YTA sponsored visitation with Tamara Schaefer at VCS.
EAs	Feb 18	Lana Demers followed-up on how our speech programs were going. Questions, issues, what is working, strategies, etc.
K-3 teachers and EAs	Feb 20	Lana Demers and Jessica Masson Guerette facilitated a workshop in the areas of importance of phonological awareness in learning to read/spell, the developmental sequence of phonological awareness, and practical strategies for the classroom. As well, the use of multisensory strategies & materials to teach pencil grip, letter formation and the literacy skills that are needed for handwriting.
4-12 teachers and EAs	Feb 20 via conference	Krista Strand facilitated a workshop in the areas of becoming a trauma informed school and wellness.
N. Headdy, R. Beaudoin, D. Dyce, B. De Guzman, S. Cayen, L. Bourgoin, B. Hinton, S. Salt, J. Fraser, D. Lozancic, N. Holland, B. Lewthwaite	Feb 26	NCI training with Krista Stand and Fiona West. Also attended TOCs Duncan Hillhouse and Terry Brown.
S. Salt	Feb 27-28	Reading Recovery in Whitehorse.

Student Activities and Field Trips:

Type of Activity	Date	Description	Grades
Skating	various	During PE class, students went skating at the COD Arena	K-12
Skiing	various	During PE class, students went cross country skiing	K-12
Visitor in the School	Feb 3, 6-7	Dan Brow-Hozjan, Artist in the School, assisted art classes with screen printing.	11-12
Visitor in the School	Feb 5	Georgette McLeod Visited the YFNS class to talk about language.	11-12
Local FT	Feb 6	Photography class visited the Visitor's Reception Centre to take photos of the Yukon Quest.	11-12
Visitor in the School	Feb 10	Katie Fraser, Dawson Land Use Planning visited the YFN class.	11-12
Local FT	Feb 10-13	Class visited the Danoja Cultural Centre to work on valentines	various
Visitor in the School	Feb 11	Jane Wilson asked the class and teacher to participate in the creation of a short educational video on using 'Big Books'. The video will be used for educational purposes such as professional development sessions, workshops, and conference presentations.	K
Visitors in the School	Feb 11-13	Jody Beaumont, Phyllis Vittrekwa and Angie Joseph Rear visited the YFN class to talk about their experiences with story - what it means to them and what it tells them about cultural values. The class will also work through the laws/values that a story holds. Phyllis and Angie will also share their experiences with growing up on the land and what it means to them.	11-12

Visitor in the School	Feb 13	Lucy Welsh led a workshop on making bagels in the Foods class.	9-10
Visitor in the School	various	Dolores Scheffen worked with the Textiles class on making mitts.	7
Visitor in the School	various	Jennifer Kehoe was in to teach a program 'Yoga to Youth'	5
Visitors in the School	Feb 17	Jody Beaumont, Victor Henry and Angie Joseph Rear visited the YFN class to talk about wolverines.	11-12
Visitor in the School	Feb 17	Alice McCulley, Fish & Wildlife, visited the class to talk about how to feed/care for salmon.	K/1 & 6
Visitor in the School	Feb 17	Mike Suito, biologist, visited the class to facilitate a lesson on animal dissection.	6
Visitor in the School	Feb 19	Shawn Hughes, Conservation Officer, visited the class with regards to the HEED program.	7
Visitors in the School	Feb 24	Jennifer Kehoe and Donnie visited classes to talk about the National 'Rising Youth' program. There is grant money for youth to do anything community based.	11-12
Visitor in the School	Feb 24- Mar 24	Constable Josh Tower was here to read with students as part of the 'Top Cop' reading program.	K-4
Visitor in the School	Feb 24-25	Dan Reynolds talked with classes about trapping.	K-7
Health	Feb 25	Maria Nyland, Public Health nurse visited classes to talk about plans for a 'nurse clinic'.	K-12
Visitor in the School	Feb 27	Kluane Adamek, Assembly of First Nations Yukon Regional Chief, was here to speak with students about leadership, government and residential schools.	5, 6 & 8
FT	Feb 27-28	The class went to Whitehorse to ski on Mount Sima with chaperones K. Poenn, A. Laviolette and D. Rawlings.	7
Local FT	Feb 28	Grade 5 and SS classes visited the DZCC to view the residential schools' exhibition and videos.	5, 8-10

Special School Events and Special Days (i.e. Parent/Teacher Interviews):

Date	Event/Day
Feb 11	Good News Assembly
Feb 12	Dennis Shorty, Fire Art & Dena Zagi Music performance
Feb 18	Student-led conferences from 1:00-7:00 p.m.
Feb 26	Pink Shirt Day – students and staff were encouraged to practice kindness and wear pink to symbolize that we do not tolerate bullying.
Feb 27	RSS hosted a Skills Canada competition with Skills Canada personnel. Competition events in cooking, and photography. Demos in cabinetry and welding. Guest judges were: Ross Cockburn, Jen Migliorini, Lucy Welsh, Devon Bergqvist and Nate Jones.
Feb 27	4 th Annual Try a Trade for grades K-6. Students were encouraged to observe, ask questions and try activities with help from grade 11/12 students, staff and volunteers. Possible activities: T-shirt printing, woodworking, wood burning, soap stone carving, drumming, 3D & 2D printing, metal & welding, soldering, sound recording and live radio.

ROBERT SERVICE SCHOOL						
March 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5 Fire drill	6	7
8	9	10 AWG Good News Assembly @ 1:00	11	12	13	14
15	16 Spring break	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	Good luck to the Arctic Winter Games Athletes! Enjoy your Spring Break!			

ROBERT SERVICE SCHOOL						
April 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 RSS Showcase 6 p.m.	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 Good Friday Stat - No school	11
12	13 Easter Monday - No school	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Fire drill	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		