



## Donation to Cancer Clinic from students at Nip-Rock High

Mrs. Kim Mannila, teacher at Nipigon Red Rock District High School and one of her students, Brooke McLeod, were honoured to donate 112 chemo bags to the Thunder Bay Regional Cancer Clinic in memory of one of our staff members, and Brooke's mother, Cheryl McLeod, who lost a short battle with cancer in February 2015.

Students in Mrs. Mannila's Grade 11 Understanding Fashion class spent 3 weeks cutting and sewing chemo bags which are used by patients at the Regional Cancer Clinic. Our class became aware of the need for the chemo bags when Brooke's mother was going through treatment and she noticed the Cancer Clinic was running low of them. This was a difficult project for our class as it was personal to many involved. The late Ms. McLeod was a teacher at our school for 14 years and had taught many of the students sewing the chemo bags. Hopefully this project inspires others to use their skills or time to share with those who may need extra support in their lives.

Every year, Mrs. Mannila has her students choose a community project to sew and donate to our local communities in an effort to teach her students the importance of being global citizens. "Giving back to our communities helps students understand that our learning in the classroom extends beyond the walls of our school. We can make an impact in someone's life simply by using our talent and skills," states Kim Mannila.

## Students from MRHS Participate in Leadership Camp

Eight students from Marathon High School and two teacher chaperones headed down to the FNMI leadership camp in Parry Sound, Ontario. The Student Success division of the Ministry of Education in partnership with the Tim Horton's Children's Foundation are hosting a leadership camp for FNMI students from Northwestern Ontario. The students are enjoying a variety of cultural and leadership experiences while enjoying the sunny weather in southern Ontario this week.



SGDSB

Director's Newsletter

May 2015

"Small Schools Make a Difference"



### **Assistant Deputy Minister Jim Grieves Visits SGDSB**

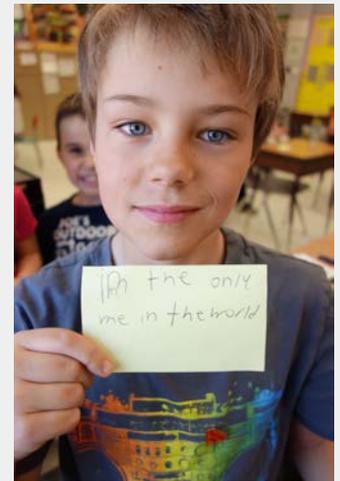
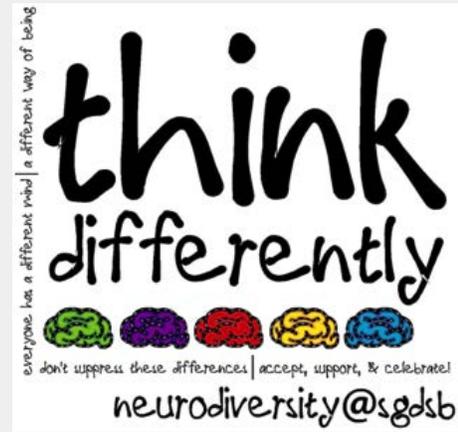
On April 8<sup>th</sup> Assistant Deputy Minister – Early Years Branch Jim Grieve fulfilled his promise to visit SGDSB. The first stop of the two day visit was at the Nipigon Hub (George O'Neill Public School and Best Start/The Family Place Child Care) where he was met by Superintendent of Education – Early Years Lead, Nicole Morden Cormier who introduced the ADM to staff, parents and students at the hub. He was given a warm welcome by the school's Girls Drumming Group and was also able to take part in the Trapping Presentation by Mr. Dupuis. At the close of his short visit to the Nipigon site the ADM commented about the nature of this Hub as the school, child care and Best Start are all working together to meet the needs of children and families. That evening Jim Grieve met over diner with representatives from Best Start Child Care, Superior North Catholic and SGDSB. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss with the ADM funding concerns, enrolment benchmarks and future expansion of the Early Years program. The following day I accompanied the ADM to Margaret Twomey Public School to meet with the staff of the Best Start Hub. The ADM had the opportunity to visit the Child Care as well as the school's two Kindergarten classrooms. Staff had the chance to share artifacts of their students' learning before he visited the classroom. Jim Grieve was very impressed with the degree of collaboration between the school and the staff of the Best Start Family Place Child Care. He said it was an excellent example of how the hubs were intended to function and invited our teams to share the unique qualities that have gone into making this relationship so strong with the rest of the province. This was the ADM's first visit to our district and we obviously made a favourable impression.

### **Education Week - Achieving Excellence: Moving Forward with Math**

Education Week takes place during the first full week in May. It is an annual event celebrated by school boards and schools across the province. It is a time for students, teachers and parents to celebrate teaching excellence and student achievement. The theme for Education Week is Moving Forward in Math. It is a theme that resonates with our staff as it has been a focus of our board improvement plan. Intermediate teachers from the elementary panel have met with secondary math teachers for an intensive series of eight professional development sessions with a focus on one of the underpinnings of mathematics – proportional reasoning. SGDSB teachers and administrators, teachers from the co-terminus board and from our First Nation feeder schools have been developing expertise in research based mathematical processes, analyzing student work and developing open questions.

Schools are also being asked to increase the involvement of parents as partners in promoting mathematics. Many of us including parents have a math phobia that we unintentionally pass on to our children. Promoting a growth mindset at home and at school is an important step in opening the doors to learning. The drill and kill method of yesteryear has been replaced by a far more exploratory method of teaching mathematics that deepens student understanding and makes learning math fun!

# A Photo Mosaic of Everyone Matters Activities



In the classroom we work to understand that atypical neurological wiring is part of the normal spectrum of human differences and is to be tolerated and respected like any other human difference such as race, gender, sexual preference, or cultural background.

I am going to make this world a better place by taking care of my dogs. I take good care of Misty, Sasha and Ginger by feeding them and letting them outside to poop and pee.







## **Early Years Inquiry Session #2: Geometry and Spatial Sense, Self-Regulation, and Task Analysis**

Submitted by Nicole Morden Cormier, Superintendent of Education

When we met last week, Early Learning educators from Family Resource Programs, Child Care, the Ministry of Education and SGDSB continued to think deeply about the following four questions:

1. What are we learning about learning?
2. How are we co-constructing and negotiating learning?
3. How are we documenting evidence of learning?
4. How do we communicate learning?

The group engaged in an analysis of several student tasks through the lens of these questions; asking ourselves what thinking the task encouraged for students, to what extent the tasks were co-negotiated by the students (inquiry) and educator to promote the thinking, and what formative information the task might provide for the educators. This lens supported a great deal of dialogue for participants as we helped each other to further explore what it means to “shift from a culture of teaching, to a culture of learning” (the shift that is common to all Ontario educators, regardless of grade or environment!). Thus there were realizations that the four questions can be used in all educational contexts as we all explore having increased student centred learning environments.

Self-Regulation, through the lens of a presentation done by Terri Elliott, Head Educator, and Kristy Lachance, Coordinator, both from Brass Bell/Best Start, called “Kids Have Stress Too” helped the educators to think about our environments (both physical and social) and how they play a significant role on students and their ability to learn. Educators thought about how they can increasingly promote the development of self-regulation in their classrooms through the lens of the 5 Domains of Self-Regulation: Biological, Social, Pro-Social, Emotional and Cognitive.

As we now understand the importance of developing geometry and spatial sense in the early years, the afternoon was spent with Kathleen Schram facilitating a number of experiences that we can bring back to our learning environments. We used tangrams, videos and print resources to begin to understand the following big ideas:

- Spatial Relationships can be Visualized and Manipulated Mentally
- Shapes can be combined and separated (composed and decomposed) to make new shapes

As with both the Primary and Junior Inquiry into Math groups, the conversations in the room help all of us to build our collective capacity; capacity which has been shown to be essential to the continued growth and learning of our system. Thanks to the participants for sharing their knowledge with others.

# Student Work Study Teacher (SWST) Report - Katie Harpman

Collaboration between educators and the numeracy facilitator/SWS teacher has allowed for a deeper focus on creating a balanced numeracy program. The 2014-15 school year has provided many opportunities of co-planning with a variety of different teachers.

Educators and myself have taken the risk and began exploring with the idea of backwards model during the school year. Our co-planning approach has been focused on the students work. We determined a summative task to prove student progress and connected the mathematical big ideas and built our pedagogical knowledge through research and professional readings to ensure student growth. We connected the big ideas to the curriculum and then developed the balance numeracy program to create an environment with active areas for inquiry and wonder. Also it developed quite areas for independent thinking and exploring, as well as flexible learning groups for educators to explicitly teach. The educator is then able to document and reflect on the learning, provide feedback and continue the cycle of teaching to the students' needs. Through this design, lesson ideas are created and a bank of resources is built which are then tailored to improve student learning, thinking and understanding based on the readiness of the learner.

Our co-planning environments are an informal professional learning arrangement where the classroom teacher and I have different knowledge, skills and talents to share. Through sharing, unpacking evidence of learning, accessing opportunity to build instructional skills and knowledge and reflecting upon the impact of the lessons, we continue to challenge our thinking and practice.

Our co-planning provides the opportunity to work together in a meaningful way. We deepened our understanding of what we already knew and built capacity for change and innovation. It enabled educators to improve their instruction and their understanding of students' thinking and learning through shared observations and analysis of student work.

A big thank-you to all the teachers who have taken the risk with me to ensure our instruction is responsive to what the student work is telling us and beginning to develop a backwards model based on our students' needs.



**Numeracy Professional Development for grades 7 – 10** math teachers has been ongoing this semester. An intensive series of eight professional development sessions for all math teachers focusing on one of the underpinnings of mathematics – proportional reasoning is being held in three hub areas – Nipigon/Terrace Bay, Geraldton and Marathon/Manitouwadge. SGDSB teachers and administrators, teachers from the co-terminus board and from our First Nation feeder schools have been developing expertise in research based mathematical processes, analyzing student work and developing open questions.

## FSL Report District Learning

FSL educators have been working in conjunction with all Northwest school boards to facilitate learning around effective practices in creating learner portfolios that are linked to the CEFR. These portfolios will help educators and students identify the learning goals and criteria as well as understand the progression in learning over time.

## Curriculum Learning

The revised grade 4-8 curriculum was introduced last year and is now in full implementation. Secondary educators and administrators who support FSL learning attended a two day training session on the release of the revised secondary curriculum. The curriculum includes greater supports for educators as well as direct connections to mental health and well-being of all learners. Two of the most prominent changes to the curriculum are the inclusion of listening as a learning strand and French culture being included in the expectations. The secondary curriculum is to be in full implementation September 2015.



## **School Visits: Warm and Welcoming Places**

Submitted by Nicole Morden Cormier, Superintendent of Education

As I have toured our district in the last several months (have been in all elementary schools except Marjorie Mills – due to weather!), I wanted to share what positive experiences I have had with students. Component Three of the School Effectiveness Framework is Student Engagement and the domains describe what we have included in the SGDSB Board Learning Plan Theory of Action, which states:

***If we foster learner centered environments and pedagogy that is responsive and inclusive, promotes the academic, behavioural, cognitive and psychological engagement of all learners, and reflects learners' strengths, needs, learning preferences and cultural perspectives, then learners will possess an increased sense of belonging and be motivated to learn (reflective of our Conditions for Learning).***

There is evidence of increased student voice in schools; many students have been willing (eager in some schools!) to share their thinking, their concerns about their school and the many celebrations. Their willingness to participate in these conversations can also be seen as an example of how safe students feel, and how they see themselves as agents for change. I have heard some students say that if they don't agree with a rule, they know that they have avenues to explore this rule to see about compromise. There have even been some examples of students co-constructing the classroom environment with the educator. Students have shared how they see their culture and at times, their interests, reflected in their school, and how this makes them feel a sense of belonging. They have much to say; an important skill as we move towards increasingly student centered environments and pedagogy. We know that our students are changing; and we can see how our schools are changing in response to this. It is exciting to see this shift. Thanks for the great visits...and I look forward to more!

## Terrace Bay/Schreiber Students Participate in Leadership Workshop



Harmony Movement is an organization that provides educational programs promoting diversity, equity and inclusion. The Grade 7 and 8 students from Terrace Bay and Schreiber Public Schools along with students from Lake Superior High School made their way to Thunder Bay for one of Harmony Movement's first student conferences. The conference allowed students to network with other students from around the North Shore and learn about how to become social change makers in their schools and communities. The students had an opportunity to listen to keynote speakers, participate in engaging activities and workshops involving identity, diversity and social change making. Each school was given a social change makers toolkit which includes initiative templates and a guide on how to plan and meet goals when it comes to promoting and achieving social change in the school. Students will have an opportunity to share their learning by hosting a workshop for other students in the school.

*Sara Curtis, Acting Vice Principal*

## **SGDSB 10- and 25-Year Employee Recognition Awards**

### **Non Teaching**

- With 10 years as of September 5, 2015 Hired between September 6, 2004 and September 5, 2005

<b>EMPLOYEE</b>	<b>HIRE DATE</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>
Maria DeLorenzi	November 29, 2004	Nipigon Red Rock High School
Kathy O'Neill	January 10, 2005	Manitouwadge High School
Jane Lalonde	January 19, 2005	Nipigon Red Rock High School
Shelley Brizard	February 2, 2005	Nipigon Red Rock High School
Melissa Bianco	May 16, 2005	
Lee Ann Donovan	June 14, 2005	Nakina Public School

- With 25 years as of September 5, 2015 Hired between September 6, 1989 and September 5, 1990

<b>EMPLOYEE</b>	<b>HIRE DATE</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>
Gervais Saindon	November 27, 1989	Geraldton Composite High School
Brenda Webber	February 5, 1990	Margaret Twomey Public School
Kate Fair	February 22, 1990	Marathon High School

### **Teaching**

- With 10 years by September 2015

<b>EMPLOYEE</b>	<b>HIRE DATE</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>
Leesa McCarville	September 7, 2004	George O'Neill Public School
Catherine Gillies	September 7, 2004	Margaret Twomey Public School
Stewart MacIver	September 7, 2004	Geraldton Composite High School
Jody Kirkpatrick	October 15, 2004	Manitouwadge Public School
Mary McLeod	October 21, 2004	Manitouwadge Public School
Frank Booker	October 29, 2004	Nipigon Red Rock High School
Kevin Osadchuk	February 4, 2005	Manitouwadge High School
Nancy Ramsdale	February 24, 2005	Marathon High School
Erik Leroux	September 6, 2005	George O'Neill Public School
Shasta Booker	September 6, 2005	Nipigon Red Rock High School
Stephen Wilson	September 6, 2005	Geraldton Composite High School
Lorelie Legree	September 6, 2005	Margaret Twomey Public School

**Teaching**

- With 25 years by September 2015
- Hired after the commencement of the 89/90 school year or September 1990

EMPLOYEE	HIRE DATE	SCHOOL
Dennis Donahue	November 27, 1989	Marathon High School (Retired)
Angela Baisch	September 4, 1990	Marathon High School
Karen McIlwain	September 4, 1990	Margaret Twomey Public School

**Administration**

- With 10 years by September 2015
- Hired after the commencement of the 04/05 school year or September 2005

EMPLOYEE	HIRE DATE	SCHOOL
William Goodman	September 6, 2005	Red Rock Public School & Dorion Public School

**Administration**

- With 25 years by September 2015
- Hired after the commencement of the 89/90 school year or September 1990

EMPLOYEE	HIRE DATE	SCHOOL
Erica Cotton	September 1, 1990	Nipigon Red Rock High School

Congratulations to all of our staff upon achieving this significant milestone!



Director of Education, David Tamblyn presents Angela Hewson (L) and Belinda Schleier with 25 Year gift.

## MY GREAT LAKE, MY FUTURE - Lake Superior Youth Conference

On May 28, 2015, EcoSuperior, in partnership with the MOECC and SGDSB, will be hosting the *My Great Lake, My Future: Great Lakes Youth Conference*, in Terrace Bay, Ontario.

The day will begin with a Career Path Discussion Panel to help high school students understand the potential career paths that can be explored in the Lake Superior Basin. There is a variety of professions that students can learn about, and to understand the potential that the Lake Superior Basin has to offer.

During the afternoon of the one day conference, students will be participating in concurrent sessions. We are expecting 80 students, so there will be four sessions, of which students will have an opportunity to participate in two. The sessions will be hosted as outlined below;

1. Aquatic Species ID & Dip Netting - David Pearson, Vale Living with Lakes Centre  
Students will have an opportunity to use dip nets to catch aquatic invertebrates. Expert volunteers will be available to help identify species. Students will learn the links between aquatic species diversity and Lake Superior water quality.
2. Water Quality Testing & Drinking Water Systems - Ben Mickelson, Ontario Clean Water Agency  
Learn to use a water quality testing kit. Take a tour of the Terrace Bay Municipal Water Drinking System.
3. Personal Care Products & Effects on Lake Superior – Erin Moir, EcoSuperior  
Learn about the effects your personal care products have on your health and the health of the environment – especially aquatic environments like Lake Superior! Make your own lip balm and body scrub from natural, easily available ingredients!
4. Cultural History of Lake Superior - Casque Isles Hiking Club  
Take a guided hike along the shores of Lake Superior. Learn about the cultural significance of Aguasabon Falls, identify shoreline plants and learn about the importance of shoreline stability for Lake Superior ecosystems.

This is the first time an environmental/outdoor education youth conference has been organized on Lake Superior. SGDSB is proud to be a partner in hosting this event.

*Save the Date!*

# MY GREAT LAKE, MY FUTURE

*A one day conference for  
students taking action  
for Lake Superior!*

When:  
Thursday, May 28, 2015

Where:  
Micheal King Hall  
Terrace Bay, Ontario

- Free registration and lunch
- Career paths discussion
- Hands-on activities
- Meet other students from the Lake Superior Basin
- Transportation provided

**Ask your  
teacher how  
to get  
involved!**

## **IT Services Department Update: Jay Lucas, Information Technology Services Coordinator**

### **Internet Upgrades**

We have made arrangements to upgrade Internet connections to the best that are available (while reducing costs). From now and through the summer Bell technicians may visit your school asking to check things out. If they have any questions, please direct them to the IT Services technicians or coordinator. Geraldton Composite High School, Lake Superior High School, Marathon High School and George O'Neill Public School are each planned to have a 100Mbps fiber optic service. From those locations, where possible, the nearby schools will share in same service. Where we can't link the schools, we are selecting the best available service and continuing to pursue improvements. This upgrade will have us exceeding the common standard of 100Mbps serving 1000 users.

### **New Computers**

Each of our Elementary schools will be receiving a laptop cart of 25 computers in the weeks ahead, thanks to the CODE project led by David Tamblyn and Stacey Wallwin. These carts are designated to support Grade 8 blended Learning. (Beardmore Public School is the exception since it is already at a 1:1 student to computer ratio.)

In addition to the 250 computers under that project, I can confirm we will be also adding a cart to NRHS, GCHS, MRHS and an additional cart to MTPS due to the current ratio of 3.48 students per computer.

Investments in computer carts will continue with the next round of funding based on planned use and ratios.

### **BYOD – Bring Your Own Device Update**

All of our schools have now had wireless internet for personal devices available for Staff, Students, and guests for a while now. Thankfully, based on any reported issues, the rollout went rather smoothly. Please remember to report any problems at <https://helpdesk.sgdsb.on.ca> so that we can take action in correcting them. Personal devices are covered under the same acceptable use policy signed by each user already. Our model is that personal devices are given internet access but any connection to internal network services are through a protected web interface only. We are currently in the process of setting up a printing service (this means for iPads too) as well as file access to your home directories via the web. These should be in place by the end of the year. We are also going to be adding a significant number of wireless access points to support the increase in wireless device use.

### **Smart Boards**

Our school board has standardized on Smart Board technology as our selected brand of interactive display. We are currently taking an inventory of all devices and will be licensing them for the latest version of Smart Notebook. This will include any Promethean products we currently have as the software will work cross-platform. In the near future we will be developing some professional development programs to support the use of this software. We have an OEMC agreement for purchasing any Smart products, and we are strongly recommending the 6055 and 6065 models as there is no projector or bulbs to worry about. <http://education.smarttech.com/en/products/6000-series>

### **Upcoming Events**

**April 30 - SelNo - Thunder Bay**

**May 4th-8th - Education Week - Achieving Excellence in Mathematics**

**May 12, 13 & 14 - Grade 7-10 Numeracy**

**May 13th - PIC Meeting**

**May 14-17 Lake Superior Youth Symposium - Thunder Bay**

**May 18th - Victoria Day**

**May 20 & 21st - Regional Implementation Health & Physical Education Curriculum**

**May 26th - Learning Fair**

**May 28th Eco Superior Youth Conference - Terrace Bay**

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