



Bon Appetite! Under the direction of Cathie Gillies the grade 5 class at Margaret Twomey Public School created a cafe on May 3 and opened the doors to parents. The set was built with the help of the grade 8's and they also printed the menus, etc. It has created a lot of excitement in all grades from 4-8.

Ontario's Renewed Math Strategy: SGDSB Impact

Since the release of the Renewed Math Strategy, we have been engaged in fully understanding the implications of the changes to our board. To date, we have recognized that the strategy will mean the following:

- Additional funding to support professional learning in applied level mathematics instruction for Nipigon Red Rock District High School, Geraldton Composite High School, Lake Superior High School and Manitouwadge High School. We recognize the need to ensure that Marathon High School staff are also provided with these learning opportunities, and thus, they will be included as well.
- The requirement to focus previous funding for the Early Years Kindergarten to Grade 3 Program and System Implementation and Monitoring initiatives on mathematics.
- The elimination of the previous funding for Student Work Study Teacher and the Small and Northern Boards Numeracy Facilitator (combined roles in our board), and the incorporation of new funding for a K-12 System Principal of Mathematics and a K-8 Numeracy Facilitator.
- Designated funding to support professional learning in math for principals and teachers. This includes five days of release time for one Lead Teacher of mathematics in every elementary school.
- Designated funding to support professional learning in the area of teaching mathematics to students who possess a learning disability.
- The requirement to ensure that Mental Health and FNMI improvement strategies support mathematics learning and development for students.

A team of leaders will attend a provincial meeting in Toronto on May 18th to gather further information and to see answers to outstanding questions. Our planning for next year has started and will continue as System Leads and Principals meet over the next month.

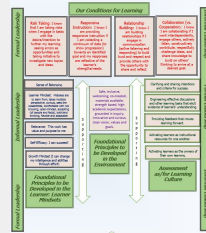


SGDSB May 25, 2016 Director's Newsletter "Small Schools Make a Difference"



Nicole Morden-Cormier,
Superintendent of Education

Urgency...from the 21st Century Competencies



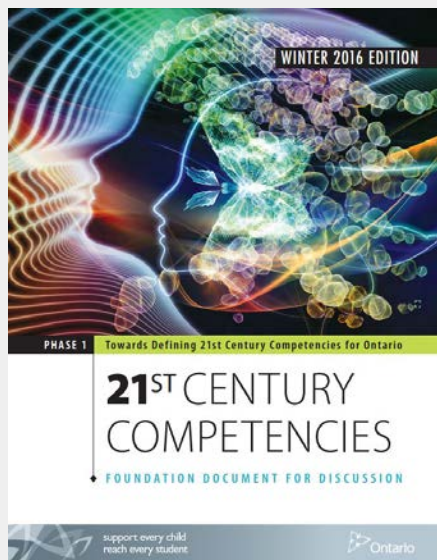
Last week I was reminded by our SGDSB Technology Leader that “The future is now”. I had been speaking about the *21st Century Competencies* document and was thinking about the skills and competencies that our students will need to be successful. This was a powerful statement for me to hear and created a renewed sense of urgency around the growth work that we are doing through our Board Learning Plan for Student Achievement and Well-Being. Many of you have heard me speak about the need for us to understand that the drive behind the improvement work that we do is grounded in the notion that our world is changing rapidly, and thus our students are changing rapidly. I return often to the Growing Leaders podcast and his book *In Other Words* whereby Tim Elmore describes education for young people today versus the education that I would have received:

STUDENTS TODAY	SCHOOLS TODAY
1. Right-brained thinkers	1. Left-brained delivery
2. Learn by uploading, expressing themselves	2. Teach by downloading lectures
3. Experiential in nature	3. Passive in nature
4. Music and art enables them to retain information	4. Music and art classes are the first ones cut
5. Desire to learn what is relevant to life	5. Teach for the next test and to simply raise scores
6. Creativity drives them	6. Curriculum drives them

Elmore, Tim. *In Other Words*. Available free to download from http://growingleaders.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/In_Other_Words.pdf

Elmore’s thinking resonated with me as it helped me to see that we are not changing for the sake of changing, but because our students are changing. We know this, as we have identified our urgent need around motivation, perseverance, engagement and belonging; we know that our traditional teaching methods (those that I grew up with and used when I was in the classroom that Elmore describes in his chart) need to be enhanced to address the changing students. It isn’t that our practices are wrong, it is that we know that they need to be enhanced to truly impact the thinking and learning of our students today. They are different thus our practices must be different. Schools today must be designed to reflect the students of today.

Then I read the Winter 2016 Edition of the *21st Century Competencies: Foundation Document for Discussion* released by the Ontario Ministry of Education, and much, much more became clearer to me.



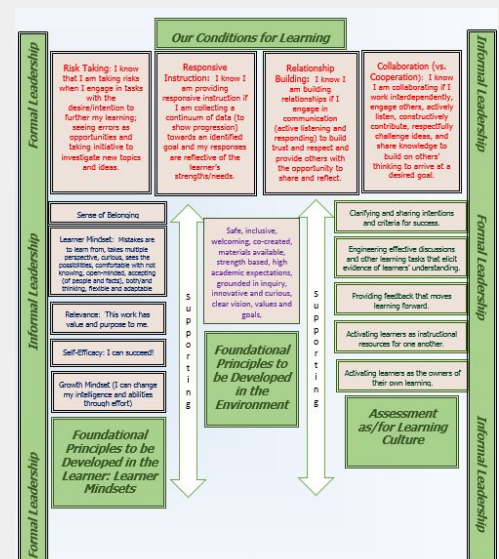
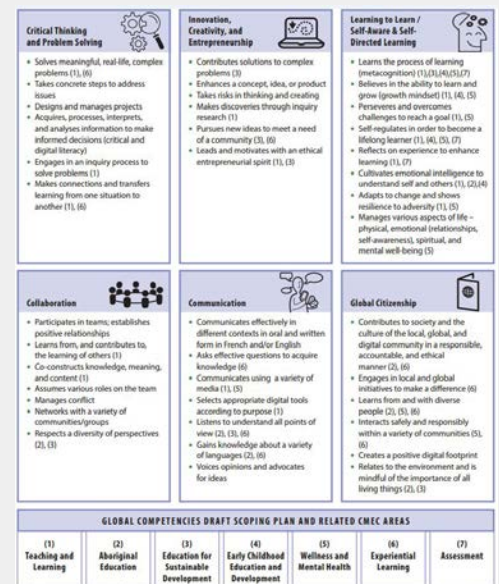
I believe that I understand the rationale behind our Theory of Action one page summary document, which articulates the HOW in terms of the enhancements that we are making, however this new document truly provides a full picture and the foundation to the actions that we have included in our plan. Our plan is fully supported by the document, which is encouraging! It reflect the collective efforts of a number of international governments to “properly identify and conceptualize the set of skills and competencies required so as to incorporate them into the educational standards that every student should be able to reach by the end of compulsory schooling” (Ananiadou & Claro, 2009, pg. 5. in *21st Century Competencies*, 2016, pg. 6.).

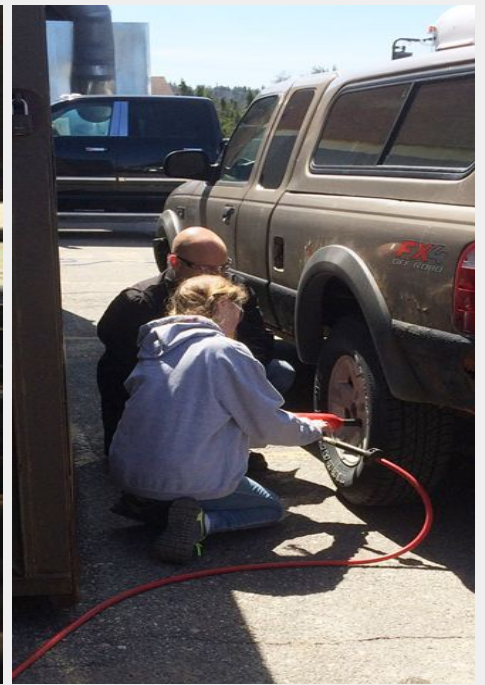
The following chart from the document (pg. 56) summarizes these skills and competencies:

I noticed that there is an important distinction between the terms *skills* and *competencies* throughout the document, which truly reflects the notion that “our students need to be moving past the discrete acquisition of skills alone. A skill is seen as the ability to perform tasks and solve problems, while a competency is seen as the ability to apply learning outcomes adequately in a defined context (education, work, personal or professional development). A competency is not limited to cognitive elements (involving the use of theory, concepts, or tacit knowledge); it also encompasses functional aspects (involving technical skills) as well as interpersonal attributes (e.g., social or organizational skills) and ethical values.” (Ontario Ministry of Education, *21st Century Competencies*, 2016, pg. 9). This reminds me of the notion that we are shifting away from simple knowledge acquisition to thinking globally and mindfully about important contemporary issues, and requiring our students to apply this knowledge in a collaborative and meaningful way. Does this not reflect our Theory of Action? Relevance? Authenticity? Collaboration? Communication?

This is what we must urgently focus on as educators, in order to fully know that our students are prepared for their NOW...and their FUTURES. I don't believe any longer that any of us can wait...some need to rethink their old "pendulum" argument and their belief that "This too will pass." By deeply reflecting on the competencies and skills named above, we will increasingly understand our goals as educators and our moral imperative will become clearer - this is the urgency that I speak of. This will also help us to truly understand the environments that we must create in each and every classroom for each student, and we will begin to more deeply understand that our roles have changed. We can no longer maintain the traditional view of "the teacher"...the new view of "the educator" is one whereby we see ourselves as inspiring learning. Dr. Jean Clinton was clear about this with us last week – we are "guides" and "facilitators" of learning. What are we facilitating? It is the competencies and skills through our curriculum which must be translated into important conceptual understandings.

Read Stacey Wallwin and Stephen Wilson's responses to this Blog post at <https://wordpress.com/post/nmordencormier.wordpress.com/2455>





This week our grade 7 and 8 students were treated to an amazing adventure at the Skills Canada Trades event in Marathon. They got a chance to see and have hands-on experience with some of the many different employment opportunities that are available to them as they plan their future careers. Students are offered this opportunity each year - which is just one of the many, many ways that Manitouwadge Public School and the SGDSB are structuring, shaping and creating positive, well-prepared young leaders for the future. Another job well done at MPS!!

Specialist High Skills Major Program - Student Success Lead, Carole Leroux

We are extremely excited to announce that our Specialist High Skills Major Program will be doubling its footprint in our region for the 2016/17 school year. Our communities of Geraldton, Terrace Bay and Marathon each applied for a new program that would relate to the unique economic sector that contributes significantly to the heart of each community. Each were successful with their applications and as a result we have begun to recruit students for an Environmental SHSM at GCHS, an Environmental SHSM at LSHS and a Mining SHSM at MRHS. Each of these new programs will be supported with significant funding to purchase capital equipment, provide training for teachers and to offer experiential learning opportunities and sector related certifications to participating students. The SHSM program offers sector specific learning to all pathways of students which helps them to develop 21st century skills to increase their success in the quickly changing world around us.

We Stand Up - On May 3rd and 4th, student senators and other student leaders from schools across our district travelled to Thunder Bay to attend the We Stand Up event, hosted by Thunder Bay District School Board. We Stand Up teaches youth about how to advocate for change within their communities, nationally and abroad. We Stand Up educates and empowers students to effectively combat bullying and promote a school culture of inclusivity, equity and diversity.

We had a lot of fun! On May 3rd, students and chaperones met at Mario's Bowl and enjoyed pizza and five and ten pin bowling. It was an opportunity for students their peers from other schools, and for many of the senators, to see one another on person whereas they had previously only met on teleconference meetings. On May 4th, we attended a presentation at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium with thousands of other students. We heard from activists, poets, world travellers, hip-hop artists, and youth leaders from across the country about what it means to work hard to make positive change. Students were invited to take selfies and do video-blogs about their experiences and we will have a short video to share about the experience.

Many students left the conference feeling very motivated. One student leader went home and immediately wrote a letter to Prime Minister Trudeau regarding the waste in the food industry regarding "imperfect" and "soon to be expired" foods. Other students are investigating international travel to help, and still other students are organizing events within their school to help their peers.



"MTPS Grade 7 Class presents flag designs to Town" *Submitted by Kris Skworchinski*

For the past month or so, Mr. Skworchinski's grade 7 class at Margaret Twomey Public School has been researching and developing their designs for the Town of Marathon Flag Contest that they've been running in their class. The students had been studying flag designs for their math class to determine if there was a specific set of mathematical expectations for flag designs around the world. One day the question was raised by a student in class as to whether or not Marathon has a flag. The answer was no and the contest was born. The contest combined work that the students were doing in a wide range of subject areas including math, literacy, civics, art and media. The students ventured to the Marathon Museum and were given an in-depth presentation on the history of Marathon by town local Harold Griggs and brought all that information back to the class to design their flags. The students were expected to design a flag that would tie together Marathon's past, present and future. On Tuesday, April 26th the class gathered in the Council Chambers at Marathon's town hall to present their designs to a panel of judges including Mayor Rick Dumas, CAO Daryl Skworchinski, Councillor Terry Fox and Museum Board Member Stan Johnson. The panel was impressed with the designs presented and commended the students on the thoroughness of their research and attention to detail. Will the grade 7s contest inspire a larger scale flag design contest for the town of Marathon? Only time will tell.

OSSTF Student Achievement Awards

The Student Achievement Awards are an annual contest put on by OSSTF to recognize the talents of high school students in Ontario. GCHS students have consistently won awards in the creative division with their film productions. Since 1999, they have won first place fourteen times in either the provincial or regional categories.

This year, Dallas Fisher and Alexander Fortier won first place in the regional division for their excellent video entitled *Survivorman*. The theme for this year's competition was LOL, and Dallas and Alexander's video certainly caused lots of laughter. *Survivorman* was a spoof of all the wilderness survival shows currently on television, and had a distinctive Northern Ontario flair for humour.

Dallas was the cameraman and editor, and his excellent use of a variety of shots, combined with strong editing capabilities made the video a pleasure to watch. Alex was the actor, and he gave his performance a hundred percent, even to the point of eating pinecones.

Survivorman can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WizCwnrA_oA



Save the Date:

Ron Kanutski and Todd Genno Comedy Show - Marathon High School, June 2nd

Marathon High School 2nd Annual Powwow -- June 3rd, 2016

Beardmore Public School Powwow and Graduation -- June 17, 2016

SGDSB was selected for a visit from the Ministry of Education and a film crew, to discuss promising practices in embedding Indigenous perspectives into how we learn. At GCHS, the film crew interviewed Krista Young and visited her grade 10 Art class, and at MRHS, the film crew interviewed Ray Lake and visited his grade 11 English class.

Thank you to everyone who took time to support this experience, especially the students who volunteered to be interviewed. Every student agreed on one thing: they do not see enough indigenous perspectives in their classrooms and they want to see more. Students spoke passionately about how their learning was enhanced by Indigenous perspectives and how this improved their overall school climate.

We also heard from several educators and leaders, including Andrew McFarlane, Jennifer Oussouren and Ginoogaming First Nation elder Victor Chapais, about the importance of strong relationships between First Nations communities and our schools. Inviting indigenous guests into schools and attending community events help strengthen the relationship. We heard that the support from the school board makes a big difference in helping educators implement local, Anishnabe learning into their curriculum.

We also heard a lot of excitement about the Marathon High School powwow, on June 3rd. This powwow is being organized by Ray Lake's grade 11 English students. We heard about how hosting a powwow at MRHS is an important part of reconciliation, and that celebrating Anishnabe culture with others in an open and inclusive way is something everyone is proud of.



Thank you to all the students who shared their perspectives with us! Shown top left, Alexander Fortier (GCHS), top right, Kiara and Danielle Michano (MRHS), and bottom, Ocean Cherneski (MRHS). Other students who gave interviews include: Kayla McCraw (GCHS), Christina McCarthy (MRHS) and Dawson Parsons.

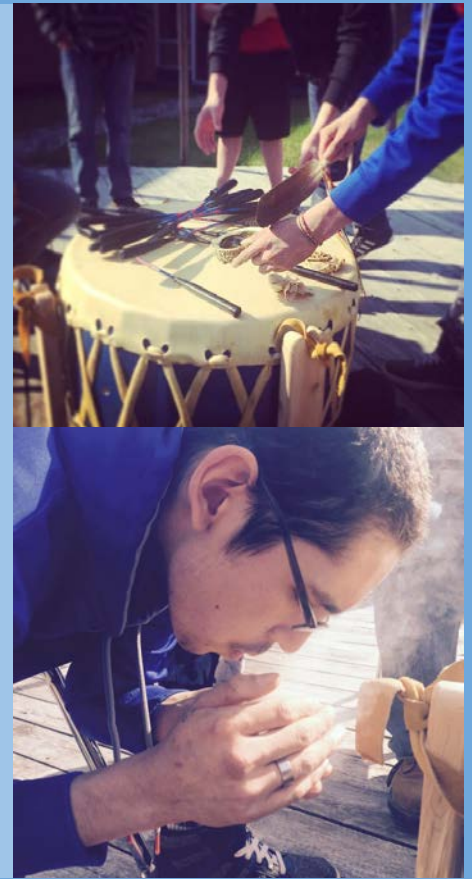
Did you know that anyone can dance at powwows during intertribal songs? You don't need a regalia, you just need two feet and heartbeat.

The students in Shy-Anne Bartlett's Native Language class received a drum, which was purchased by the school. The drum is a powerful part of the Anishnabe tradition. Ms. Bartlett and her students are learning about the significance of the drum and the obligations of students as drum-keepers. Students will take the lead in sounding the drum as an essential part of school life, with adults available to support the students with guidance as requested.

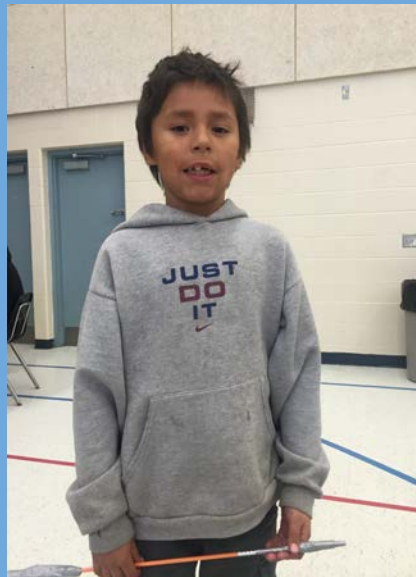
On May 20, 2016, the students smudged and blessed the drum, in perfect weather. Nip-Rock High School student, Matty Metansinine, is a drum-keeper and singer who is leading his fellow students in learning songs and taking care of the grandfather drum. After drumming the whole period, the students were happy and revived. A good smudge and a good drum session is good for the soul!

Next week, Mrs. Rose's art class will collaborate with Ms. Bartlett's class, creating Morrisseau-inspired designs on the drum!

It is great to see our students leading and teaching one another. It builds a strong sense of community in our school and makes us proud of who we are.



The Collaborative Inquiry team at GCHS wrapped up their work for the year on May 18th with some great ideas about how to infuse our curriculum with land-based, local, Anishnabe knowledge. Next year, we are hoping to conduct and record interviews with traditional knowledge holders, in connection with Technology Enabled Learning Lead, Stacey Wallwin. Thanks to all our community, teacher and student team members - we learned a lot from your voices about culturally relevant learning and responsive instruction. We look forward to reconvening in September.



We had a great PD session on April 22 for GCHS and MMPS students at Ginoogaming First Nation. Steve Achneepineskum taught drum stick making, and there were tables available do beading, painting, and woodland style art. Thank you to Sheri Taylor and your team for hosting SGDSB students in your community.





Mental Health Report *by George Drazenovich, Mental Health Lead*

On March 2, 2016, Geraldton Composite High School hosted “Wellness Days”. In addition to Geraldton Composite High School, students and staff from BA Parker, Marjorie Mills, Our Lady of Fatima, St. Joseph’s and Johnny Therriault all attended and participated. Partnering community agencies including North of Superior Counselling Centre, Dilico, Greenstone Family Health Team, and the Thunder Bay Friendship Centre, all provided speakers and topics for the day. Topics ranged from bullying, anxiety, dating violence, smoking cessation, teenagers and sleep, to cultural teachings on the medicine wheel, Mino Bimaadiziwin, mental health. Yolanda Wanamakim provided the keynote address on her experience living in Armstrong and her progression through education and moving to university. She shared the importance of positive, healthy relationships in succeeding. From there students were invited to attend the various workshops in the school. Students were invited to complete a survey and the responses included comments around how they appreciated “learning stuff related to life”, they appreciated getting the contact numbers for all the various services, enjoyed how it was different than a normal day and they could visit the high school. They also appreciated the lunch so thanks to our caterer, Sylvie Koger! Responses from community members were similarly positive. All in all a fantastic display of community partnership and positive mental health promotion! A special thank you to Sanna Humphreys for all her work in mobilizing the community, coordinating the day, and spearheading the event.

BMST Update *by Melissa Bianco Positive Behaviour Support Lead*

Thanks to our board’s BMST resource staff for all of the work they have engaged in this year in order to prepare for beginning implementation in the 2016/17 school year. Our BMST resource group includes Andrew Carr, Kathleen Mahon, Kim Koroscil, Gordon Robitaille, Dyanna Carpenter, Jim Hendricksen, Vanessa Schaaf-Nichols, Jennifer Johnson, Dwayne Oldford, Carol Peterson, Rachelle Horner, Caroline Lynch, Laura Gerard, and Shelley Gladu.

Our organizational work for the remainder of the 2015/16 school year:

- Continue to build capacity with BMST Resource staff via PD that helps us to develop a deeper understanding regarding student behaviour (Ecological Systems, Ross Greene’s CPS Model, ABA, Restorative Practices)
- Continue to develop school teams who will engage in the BMST framework and process (movement happening at the secondary panel surrounding the development of school teams and school goals-connecting to SIPs).
- Continue to align portfolios with system leads in order to ease initiative overload for schools (PBS, mental health, aboriginal and special education, student success). Involvement throughout/support for staff.
- Discussions with the BMST organization and Mental Health Assist regarding alignments and evolvment.
- Work with Steve Johnson concerning the development of a resource bank for SGDSB (waiting to learn more about most appropriate technology platform)

Our Project work for the remainder of 2015/16 school year:

- Three secondary schools currently beginning BMST process with a focus on absenteeism. The remainder of year will be for school teams to gather and organize data in order to develop a baseline, hypothesis and presentation for all staff...
- June 6th – BMST PD for supply teachers (0.5 day)
 - o Working with Steve Johnson, George Drazenovich and BMST Resource staff to deliver a presentation with a focus on prevention and de-escalation

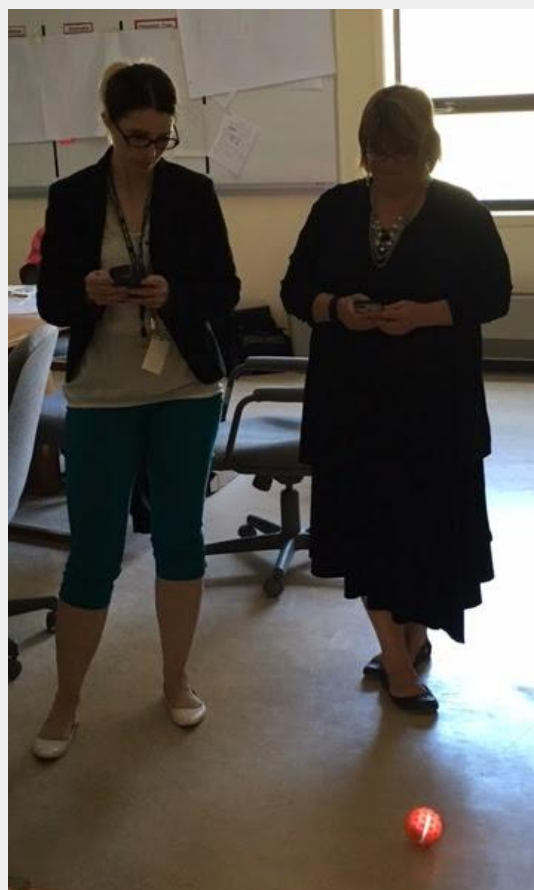


Click for more learning!



Stacey Wallwin
Technology Enabled Learning and
Teaching Contact (TELTC)
[@WallwinS](#)

The SGDSB Technology Champions had their first face to face meeting at GOPS this month! We have been working hard on building our online community so we were excited to meet each other face-to-face! All the Tech Cs had a chance to share the amazing things that they have been learning and doing in each of their schools. Each Technology Champion was given a new laptop to support their professional and self-directed learning. We are grateful for their passion, and enthusiasm in modeling the 21st century competencies that we want to provide to ALL our learners in Superior-Greenstone DSB. The Technology Champions used their time in the afternoon for self-directed PD. They chose the learning that best suited their needs and accessed the strengths of the other Technology Champions to meet their learning needs. It was a powerful day of sharing, community building and learning!



Jamie Mallais (ManitouwadgeHS) hosted a lunch and learn for the Tech Cs on [Bitmoji](#)

Amy Buchan (SPS) & Karen Enders (BPS) learn to code with
[Sphero](#).



LSHS raised \$665.25 for the victims of the forest fires in Fort McMurray. We sold 360 Persians in 1.5 hrs!

Stacey Wallwin

Technology Enabled Learning and
Teaching Contact (TELTC)

[@WallwinS](#)

Lake Superior High School hosted a Google Day on May 17th. The event was a result of the school's student trustee, Alex Halonen, wanting to provide students with the opportunity to learn all about the Google Apps for Education (GAFE) tools. He successfully applied for a [Speak Up](#) grant to fund the entire event.

Google certified Innovator and Trainer, Donnie Piercey ([@mrpiercEy](#)) kicked off the day with a virtual keynote and the Director of Edtech Canada, Michelle Armstrong ([@armstrongedtech](#)) wrapped up our day! The day was designed as a co-learning opportunity for staff, students and parents/guardians. Everyone joined in the sessions and learned together. Ms. Patterson's message was very clear, "as we move forward in becoming a Google school, we are all learners together on this journey, regardless of your role in this school."



Amber Gionet &
Jon Mayry



Nicole Morden-
Cormier trying on
Google
Cardboard!



Breanne Tessier &
Mrs. Costa



Staff and Students at Dorion Public School and Brass Bell Early Years Center collected donations to the "Pit Stop" for Fort Mac evacuees. (www.facebook.com/pitstopforFortMac) Ms. Balfour sent a note home to students requesting donations and was overwhelmed by the response. Many gas cards, travel supplies, personal care items, drinks, diapers, small toys and car-friendly activities were brought in. Ms. Balfour will deliver them to the Pit Stop this afternoon. Our school secretary's daughter, Lauren Dumonski was one of the evacuees. Lauren previously worked at D.P.S. as a supply E.A. and a noon supervisor. After the frightening ordeal of evacuation, she is safely back at her parents' home in Dorion for the present time. Submitted by Janet Harris, Library Technician



Red Rock Public School Celebrates Education Week!

To kick-off and celebrate Education Week, Red Rock Public School hosted a family math night. Students and families participated in a variety of math activities. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to teach their parents and to show them how much they have grown as a mathematician. We were thrilled our newest JK student was able to come and join the fun! Thank you to RRPS School Council for providing us with pizza and fruit for us to enjoy!



Education Week at B.A. Parker Public School by Kathy T. Pietsch

The week of May 02 – 06 was another exciting week at B.A. Parker Public School as it was Education Week. This year's theme was, "Celebrating Excellence and Well Being". The week kicked off with individual classroom activities on Monday followed by the first attendance reward which was a school wide game of Hide and Seek. Each day during the lunch hour the Grade 2/3 Class held their Plant Sale where they sold plants that they had grown and seed packages that they made to help raise money for the school's Parent Council purchase of School Agendas for the 2016/2017 school year. Tuesday saw classrooms pairing up for Math Buddies. The annual 'Curl Up with A Good Book' took place in the evening. Strengths and Interests Stations took place on Wednesday which allowed students to pick 2 of 9 stations that interest them to visit. The nine stations were Art, Dance, Outdoor, Cooking, Music, Egg Drop, Construction, Drama, and Technology. Thursday brought a school wide yard clean-up. The fun filled week ended with a Literacy Scavenger Hunt and the first annual B.A. Bash in the gym which consisted of a Sock Hop and Games to celebrate the end of Education Week. Thanks to everyone who played a part in planning and organizing this special week.



Off to Toronto for Nip-Rock High School Student

This is the 2nd time that a student in Mrs. Kim Mannila's Grade 11 Information & Technology Course has won the "Young Entrepreneurs, Make Your Pitch" regional and provincial competition.

Abby Taggart created an APP called "News in a Flash". It is APP that educates and brings awareness to Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women in Canada.

Abby and her teacher, Mrs. Mannila will be flown for an all-expense paid trip to Toronto to attend the OCE Discovery Convention at the Toronto Convention Center where Abby will Make Her Pitch to judges in hopes of her idea being chosen as the best new business. The contest required any high school student in the province of Ontario to submit a video of their business idea/plan.

Good luck in Toronto Abby!

If you would like to view Abby's video, see the link below:

<http://www.makeyourpitch.ca/home><http://www.makeyourpitch.ca/home>



Thank you to Nicole Simpson and Pic Mobert First Nation for the invitation to your annual Student Success Dinner! Director David Tamblyn, Aboriginal Liaison Nicole Richmond, as well as more than 15 staff members from Marathon High School attended an event to celebrate the successes of Pic Mobert high school students. Marathon High School principal Jennifer Oussouren applauded the strengths of each student by sharing how each one of them embodied one of the seven teachings: love, humility, respect, truth, wisdom, courage and bravery. David Tamblyn shared how important perseverance is to success and thanked Pic Mobert for their ongoing support. MRHS teachers handed out several awards to the students, recognizing their special achievements throughout the year. Wesley Jacobs and Linus Kwisswa sang a Bear Song on the hand drum. We also enjoyed some delicious moose stew and baked bannock, and many good laughs. What an awesome way to encourage and honour the students.

Student Leadership

In the past month a number of our students have been recognized for their leadership including;

- Mia Audia-Gagnon, Grade 11 GCHS was acclaimed by the Student Senate to take the position of Student Trustee for the 2016-2017 School year.
- Maresa Gauvin, Grade 10 NRHS has been appointed to the Minister's Student Advisory Council (MSAC)
- Alex Halonen, Grade 11 LSHS, has been appointed to the Minister's Student Advisory Council (MSAC)
- Olivia Zeleny, Student Trustee - Recognized as a We Stand-up Champion
- Grace Mascotto, GCHS - Recognized as a We Stand-up Champion

Up Coming Events

- May 25 - Egale Leadership Presentation
- May 29 - Sea Change Presentation MRHS
- May 30 -- Dr. Darien Thira presentation
- June 2 -- Ron Kanutski Comedy Show at MRHS
- June 3 -- MRHS Pow Wow
- June 6 -- PD Day
- June 9 - Grad Ceremony NRHS
- June 10 - Grad Ceremony - GCHS
- June 14th - Athletic Association Annual Banquet - MNHS
- June 17 - Beardmore Pow Wow
- June 23 - Grad Ceremony - LSHS
 - Grad Ceremony MNHS
- June 24th - Grad Ceremony - MRHS



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or @tamblyn_david

