

Friday, March 8 2019

Nibi iwe bimaadiziwin – Water is Life



“Nibi iwe bimaadiziwin – Water is Life”, is the title of an art exhibit that is currently on public display at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery. The Grade 9 Geography class, worked in collaboration with the Indigenous Cultural Academy at Hammarskjold High School on a student geography unit focused on the topic of water.

The unit began by having the students in the two classes examine several geography-related water issues, such as surface water patterns, the effects of urban expansion on water, industrial water treatment practices and the geographic distribution of communities with ‘boil water’ advisories in northern Ontario. Afterwards, the project was expanded to include important traditional and cultural teachings related to the role and sacredness of water to the Anishinaabeg culture. For example, students explored how water supports life, how water builds relationships, how water can heal. Finally, students studied what is needed for the protection and long-term conservation of water for future generations.



As a final project for the unit, students created paintings that combined visual representations of what water means to them, with mapping conventions such as the geographic coordinates of their home communities (e.g., Webequie, Gull Bay, Thunder Bay) and a ‘bird’s-eye-view’ depiction of the main water body that supports these communities.

“Every painting tells an important story, and the project focus was really about raising awareness about the importance of water for the natural environment and human communities. Additionally, the unconventional nature of the combined geography/art project made it a lot of fun for students to work on, says teacher Lisa MacLeod, Grade 9 Geography Teacher at Hammarskjold High School. “It also helped them identify their strengths and gain some new Geography-related knowledge and skills. Working together with another class to create pieces of art that incorporated both

geographical and cultural information, was also beneficial for helping students develop effective communication and collaboration skills”

“Learning and working together, sharing stories, the language and cultural knowledge has helped to create relationships between all of the students and it has also built friendships where none had previously existed,” says Melissa Roberts, the Indigenous Cultural Academy Teacher at Hammarskjold High School. “The semester-long partnership between the Grade 9 Geography class and the Cultural Academy class has also shown improvement in student attendance and their levels of engagement in learning about various important issues such as the topic of water.”

The art that Hammarskjold students created as part of the water project is currently on display in the Community Room at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery. The exhibit will run until March 30th, 2019 and is open to anyone that is interested in viewing it.

Visiting DFC



On Thursday, March 7, Mr. Magill’s Grade 5 class from Edgewater Park Public School had a great visit to Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School. The class had the opportunity to tour the school halls and view the interesting artwork created by their students. They also had a tour of the automotive, carpentry and welding classrooms.

Before heading back to The Edge, the students joined with Mr. Guthrie’s Grade 10 dance class. The DFC students performed a few dances that they will be doing this spring at a contest in Toronto. The students were able to share some of their moves and Mr. Magill’s class performed three dances they learned this week.

OPSBA Achievement Award



The Ontario Public School Boards’ Association (OPSBA) Achievement Award was created to recognize the outstanding contributions of non-teaching staff, parents, volunteers and community partners involved in education in the member boards.

This award provides an opportunity to raise awareness and promote the importance of celebrating excellence and the necessity of recognizing the work of all members of the education community. Recipients of the Achievement Award may be considered for the provincial OPSBA Award of Excellence.

Criteria

Outstanding, exemplary and/or unique contributions to the overall well-being of the school(s) or community(s) through in-school, board-wide, extra-curricular and/or volunteer work contributions.

Who can be nominated?

- Non-teaching staff
- Volunteers
- Parents
- Community Partners

Please include a 1-2 page biography of how your nominee meets the criteria for this award along with the attached nomination form to:

Michelle Tavares, Office of the Director
Jim McCuaig Education Centre
2135 Sills Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 5T2
Michelle_Tavares@lakeheadschoos.ca
Fax: 622-0961

No later than 4:30 p.m. Thursday, March 28, 2019.

Upcoming Meetings

Committee	Date/Time	Location
Regular Board Meeting	Tuesday, March 26 7:30 p.m.	Board Room, Education Centre 2135 Sills Street
Parent Involvement Committee	Monday, May 6 6:30 p.m.	Board Room, Education Centre 2135 Sills Street
Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee	Thursday, April 18 9:30 a.m.	Board Room, Education Centre 2135 Sills Street
Special Education Advisory Committee	Wednesday, March 20 6:00 p.m.	Board Room, Education Centre 2135 Sills Street