



# Board Highlights

## March 2011

*Happening this Month!*

**April 4**  
KDS Winter Culture Camp - Dog Mushing

• • •  
**April 6 - 8**  
EJHS Camp de Neige

• • •  
**April 7**  
MHS Spring Dance

• • •  
**April 8 - 9**  
High School Soccer Tourney

• • •  
**April 12**  
Regular Board Meeting

• • •  
**April 13 - 16**  
ESJF - Spring Drama Production

• • •  
**April 14**  
ESJF CALM hours due

• • •  
**April 15**  
All Schools - SIP PD, Lunch Dismissal

### Message from the Board Chair

YK1 is proud to offer programming that falls under the umbrella of our Strategic Priorities:

#### Advanced Placement/Extended Learning Opportunities

Yellowknife Education District No. 1 has a history of providing students with opportunities to enroll in Advanced Placement (AP) courses and/or take Advanced Placement exams. Offering Advanced Placement in French Language Arts for the past four years, École Sir John Franklin High School is currently recognized as an Advanced Placement school. In past years, our students have benefited from Advanced Placement in Physics, Mathematics and English Language Arts. École Sir John Franklin High School is currently surveying student interest with an eye to extending opportunities for Advanced Placement in other subject areas for our Grade 11 and 12 students for the 2011-12 school year.

Understandably, our students come to us from diverse backgrounds and possessing varying academic strengths and interests. While AP courses meet the needs of a segment of our student population, it is important to note that we continue to provide support to students taking courses outside the traditional NWT curricula. Our team of counselors work closely with our students to support them in taking online high school courses such as Spanish, German, Ukrainian and/or in taking CTS modules in areas such as Parenting and/or Religious Studies. We have also had some of our students receive university credit online through Athabasca University. For example, students have completed courses in German, French, Spanish and Math.

Information updates on Advanced Placement and/or other learning opportunities for the 2011-12 school year will be relayed to students, parents and the general public as it becomes available.

#### Gifted Programming

Yellowknife Education District No.1 is proud to offer Grade 4 to 8 students with a variety of Gifted Programming opportunities. The District is currently working with École Sir John Franklin High School to expand the gifted programming to high school students in Grades 9 and 10. Assuming that the majority of our identified gifted students will wish to avail themselves of the opportunity to take one or more of the Advanced Placement exams in Grades 11 and 12, it is anticipated that the gifted programming will be of sufficient rigor to support our students in this endeavour. More information will be coming soon.

#### Literacy and Numeracy

At YK1, literacy and numeracy, as prerequisites to maximizing student success and to a life of learning, are the focal point of the teaching of all curricula. In addition to classroom-based assessments, there are district-wide assessments in literacy and numeracy to identify gaps in learning and to design and implement interventions for students at the district, school and classroom level. At YK1, we view 'filling in the gaps' with some urgency as it is our goal to have our students working at or above curricula grade level as soon as possible.

To provide students with a boost in literacy and numeracy acquisition, YK1 operates preschool at three locations: Range Lake North School, Mildred Hall School, and École J.H. Sissons. In addition, N.J. Macpherson School offers Montessori preschool through the Yellowknife Montessori Society. YK1 preschools focus on literacy and numeracy through structured play in an environment that is 'fun' for students. The development of social skills and the development of skills in listening, academic readiness, following routines, following directions, etc. assist students in transitioning to kindergarten.

#### Montessori

For parents who subscribe to the Montessori philosophy of education, YK1 offers Montessori programming to students in Kindergarten to Grade 6 at N. J. Macpherson School. Since its inception, this program has grown significantly and continues to expand each year. This has created a demand for Montessori-trained teachers, so for the first time this

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## April 2011

April 19

ESJF NT Skills Competition



April 21

Earth Day

KTW Earth Day Activities



April 22

Good Friday



April 25

Easter Monday



April 28

MHS Colour Group Activity  
and Assembly



April 28 - 30

Junior Super Soccer



April 30

WMS Super Soccer Dance

### PAC Corner

April 13 • MHS, WMS

April 19 • SJF

April 20 • EJHS

summer, working in partnership with the Yellowknife Montessori Society, YK1 will be providing staff with Montessori training here in Yellowknife.

#### YK1's Road to Bilingualism

Bilingualism provides students with a world of opportunities and advantages for the future. Being proficient in French as a second language opens the door for our young people to many more career paths and opportunities, not only in Canada, but throughout the world. I am pleased to report that, as the number of students taking highly concentrated French as a second language programming continues to grow in our district, bilingualism is on the rise at YK1. This year, approximately 500 of our students are enrolled in either French Immersion or Intensive/Enhanced French Programming, which amounts to 28% of our student population.

Delivering French Immersion programming for over 35 years, YK1 continues to enhance and expand its second language programming. Our early French Immersion program, offered in three of our schools, continues to be highly successful and continues to grow in popularity. Offering French to a K- 5 student population in an exclusively French environment, École J. H. Sissons is unique in that it is the only single-track French Immersion school in the Northwest Territories.

We are also extremely pleased with the growth of our Intensive and Enhanced French program that commences in Grade 6 and extends to Grade 12. This year we have 28 students enrolled in our Grade 6 Intensive French program. As the program expands through the grade levels, YK1 staff continues to receive professional training during the summer and throughout the year. Currently in its fifth year, this program, which provides a second opportunity for bilingualism for those students who have missed out on early immersion, is also the only program of its kind in the Northwest Territories. Paralleling the growth that we are seeing with the Intensive and Enhanced French program in YK1, this program continues to grow in leaps and bounds across Canada. What began as a pilot project in Newfoundland in 1998 and then followed by Saskatchewan and New Brunswick in 2001, has continued to expand to other Canadian provinces and territories. In fact, since 2008, Intensive French is a mandatory requirement for New Brunswick. Similarly, Intensive English will be a mandatory program in Quebec, effective the 2011-12 school year. In early May, Yellowknife Education District No. 1 will be hosting two public informational meetings with the founders of the Intensive French and Enhanced French program, Dr. Claude Germain from Université du Québec in Montreal and Dr. Joan Netten from Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland. Please stay tuned for details on date(s) and locations in Yellowknife.

#### Athletic Excellence

Living in an era where fitness and nutrition is a growing concern for students, parents and society, YK1 is committed to educating the 'whole' child. Adopting 'Healthy Lifestyles' as one of its strategic directions, YK1's Athletic Excellence program is a key initiative in having our students embrace physical fitness and healthy eating as part of their daily routines and to assist them in leading long, healthy and productive lives. Specific programs included under Athletic Excellence include Hockey, Soccer, Figure Skating, Speed Skating, and Gymnastics/Arctic Sports.

#### Fine Arts

YK1 proudly offers its students a variety of opportunities to participate in Fine Arts programming, including visual arts, drama, choir, and band. In the area of visual arts, students experiment with a variety of design techniques and are provided with hands-on experience in drawing, painting, and watercolour. A wide variety of student drama productions occur throughout the year. They are extremely popular not only with parents, but within the city of Yellowknife, with École Sir John Franklin High School fall and spring productions traditionally being sold out. In choir, students receive vocal instruction and perform at various school concerts and community events, such as the Yellowknife Music Festival and Music Monday in May. During band class, students learn to read and play music, and perform in various school concerts and community events. At École Sir John Franklin High School visual arts, drama, and band are offered as credit courses.

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