



Board Highlights

September 2011

September 6

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!

KTW Feed the Fire Ceremony

KDS Circle Ceremony

September 9

WMS Smoothie & Video

MHS Welcome Back BBQ

KDS Berry Picking Culture Camp

KTW Open House - 12:00 pm

September 13

Regular Board Meeting, 7:00 pm

September 15

WMS Open House - 7:00 pm

KTW DDEA Meeting, 6:00 pm

September 16

SIP Professional Development -

all schools dismiss at noon

WMS Healthy Snack & Video

September 19

SJF - School Photos

EJHS Open House - 7:00 pm

September 20

RLN - School Photos

SJF Open House - 7:00 pm

September 21

MHS, KTW - School Photos

St. Joes Road Race

September 22

NJM, WMS - School Photos

RLN Open House - 7:00 pm

A wonderful Year Ahead!

As chair of the board of Yellowknife Education District No.1, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome students, parents and staff back for another exciting school year. The trustees and school administrators were happy to see many of you at our annual Back to School Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, August 27th. Once again, we were pleased with the excellent turnout.

While the first day of school for students isn't until September 6th, all of our staff are back to work this week. On Monday, August 29th, there was an orientation session for all new staff, and for the remainder of the week all staff were engaged in a variety of professional development opportunities focused on Aboriginal Language and Culture, numeracy, literacy, and student support. Our school administrators and board office coordinators commenced work last week, participating in a two day workshop on educational leadership linked directly to the board's strategic plan. On August 31st and September 1st, YK1, in conjunction with Education, Culture and Employment, hosted a two day professional development session open free of charge to all early childhood, preschool and dayhome staff within the city of Yellowknife. The session took place at Mildred Hall School and while this event is the first of its kind, our intent is to make this an annual event. Sharing professional development opportunities with our dayhome, preschool and early childhood staff across the city should make for a smoother and more successful transition into Kindergarten.

YK1 Programming

Consistent with past years, we remain committed to providing our students with a wide range of learning opportunities and programming.

Advanced Placement/Extended Learning Opportunities

During the later part of the last school year and over the summer, you may have heard a lot of advertisements in the local media on Advanced Placement. Far from being a 'new' program, Advanced Placement has been in existence for years. In fact, for more than 10 years prior to the 2010-11 school year, École Sir John Franklin High School was the only school in the Northwest Territories recognized as an Advanced Placement school. During those years groups of students have benefited from Advanced Placement in Physics, Mathematics and English Language Arts. Advanced Placement in French Language Arts has been a fixture for the past eight years. For the upcoming school year, students attending École Sir John Franklin High School will be offered Advanced Placement opportunities in French Language Arts, English Language Arts, Calculus, Biology, Economics, and Computer Technology. For any student interested in Advanced Placement opportunities, given École Sir John Franklin's past experiences and successes in this area, I would encourage interested parents and students to meet with our admin team and/or our counsellors at the high school. In order for a student to receive Advanced Placement in a subject at the university level, the one and only requirement is for the student to write an Advanced Placement exam in that subject. The exam is usually written at or near the end of the school year in grade 12. The school's role is to assist the student in preparing to write the exam, and, once the exam mark has been determined, to counsel the student in a path that will allow for a successful transition to the university of his/her choice. You should however be aware, that the type(s) of support available and indeed the philosophy behind that support that a student receives at the school level varies immensely among boards and from school to school. Advanced Placement should not be about skipping first year university, rather, it is about ensuring that our students experience maximum success in transitioning from high school to university. Consequently, there is no formula that applies to every student as the opportunities for Advanced Placement credit at the university level will depend on the Advanced Placement exam mark, the student's post secondary program of choice, and on the specific requirement(s) established by the student's university of choice. For more information on our advanced placement opportunities please contact École Sir John

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September 23
JHS - School Photos
WMS Smoothie & Video
KDS Terry Fox Walk

September 19-23
Grade 1 Berries and Plants
Culture Camp

September 22-24
Elk's Hay River Soccer
Tournament

September 27
MHS Open House - 7:00 pm

September 28
NJM Open House - 7:00 pm
NJM Litterless Lunch

September 29
RLN Middle School Dance

September 30
WMS Spirit Day & BBQ
WMS Dance - 7:00 pm

September 26-29
Grade 2 Bird Camp

September 27-30
Grade 8 Birchbark Canoe Trip

Pac Corner
September 14 - JHS
September 20 - SJF

Franklin High School at 669-0773 and/or check out our Questions & Answers about Advanced Placement document on our website at www.yk1.nt.ca. While AP courses meet the needs of a segment of our student population, it is important to note that École Sir John Franklin High School continues 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. Courses in German, French, Spanish and Math are just some examples.

Route 51 Learning Institute

We are pleased with the success to date of Route 51, now entering its second full year of existence. Route 51 is an outreach school which offers high school credit courses to students from 15 to 21 years of age in an alternative setting to daily high school programming. Students utilize different paths to complete their education and it was with a real sense of pride that I watched Route 51 students participating in the annual École Sir John Franklin High School grade 12 graduation ceremony this past year.

Gifted Programming

Yellowknife Education District No.1 is proud to offer Grade 4 to 9 students with a variety of Gifted Programming opportunities. The upcoming school year marks the first year for the grade 9 gifted program at École Sir John Franklin High School. Plans are underway to expand Gifted programming to grade 10, effective the 2012-13 school year.

Pre-School Programming

To provide students with a boost in literacy and numeracy acquisition, YK1 operates preschools 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.

ALC Programming

YK1 has a wide variety of cultural opportunities available to students. Participating in Dene traditional feasts, music, games and ceremonies throughout the year, students have access to community resource people with a wide variety of traditional knowledge and expertise, both in a school setting and in an on-the-land environment.

Our ever-expanding culture camps, which draw upon the expertise of Dene elders, are extremely popular with the students who get to experience the Dene culture in a natural setting. Culture camps have their foundation in the NWT Dene Kede curriculum, have a Dene language component, and are theme-oriented with a specific theme for each grade. In addition to the culture camps run by the district there are also camps run by individual schools. École Sir John Franklin High School's Northern Excursion Club which just recently returned from a summer excursion up the Coppermine River in Nunavut and École William McDonald's Camp Akaitcho are just two such examples.

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. As a means of addressing the demand for Montessori-trained teachers, both for the Montessori pre-school program and for YK1's public K-6 Montessori

program, YK1, working in partnership with the Yellowknife Montessori Society, provided staff with Montessori training here in Yellowknife for the first time this past summer. Plans are underway to continue that training in future years as we anticipate growth in this program.

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 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. The popularity of this program is continuing to expand throughout the city as it is conceivable that we will have three Kindergarten classes for the upcoming school year.

Similarly, 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. During the 2010-11 school year, a total of 28 students enrolled in our Grade 6 Intensive French program which accounted for our highest enrolment to date. Similar to the Early Immersion program, it would appear that this program is also gaining in popularity, as for the upcoming school year we will have three grade 6 Intensive French classes, encompassing two schools: Range Lake North and École William McDonald. At this time, there is still space available at École William McDonald. If you and/or your grade six child are interested in learning more about this program, please contact École William McDonald Middle School at 873-5814.

Currently in its fifth year, the Intensive French 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.

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. 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, 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.

Virtual Desktop Technology

Effective the beginning of this school year, all YK1 schools will have access to Virtual Desktop Technology. YK1 is the only board in the NWT, and among the few Boards in Canada, that offers this technology to students. Basically, the purpose of the technology is to allow students and/or staff access to their data and applications whenever and wherever they are, as long as there is internet access. To put it simply, students can access their school files on their home computers and/or electronic devices, no matter the type of computer, the device type, or the specific applications on the home computer. The home computer and/or electronic device access the applications directly from the school's server.

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