

Na'teliag



October 2016

ESK Celebrates it's Grand Opening



(Photo courtesy of Blaire Gould)



(Photo courtesy of George Paul)

On October 7, 2016, students, community members, leaders and Mi'kmaq language advocates gathered at Essissoqnikewey Siawa'sik-l'nuey Kina'matinewo'kuo'm (ESK) in Eskasoni to celebrate the Grand Opening of their Immersion School.

ESK is the realization of a distant dream of what Mi'kmaq education could look like when Eskasoni took local control of their education in 1980. Determination and foresight led their former director the late Marian Paul and a handful of educators to start up the immersion program in the elementary school sixteen years ago. Since then, the immersion program has expanded, succeeded and grown into this historic standalone school.

ESK Grand Opening (continued)



"I am filled with pride at what the Eskasoni School Board has created today. Every time I enter this building, I feel the sense of home, comfort and ease that come from being surrounded by the language," expressed Elizabeth Cremo, Eskasoni Education Director. "I think the immersion school is a living breathing tribute to honour our people who attended the residential school; a place where our language and culture are treasured and passed on to the next generation with pride. "

Attendees of the grand opening were delighted to be given a guided tour of the building by students who showed great pride in their school. This was followed by performances by the school drum group and dancers. They also heard from several speakers who spoke about the importance of having a school where students have the opportunity to hear Mi'kmaw being spoken all day.

Students have been attending school in the old TEC building since last fall. The school accommodates over 120 students from K4 - Grade 4. They have a small gym, music classes, a kitchen, and complete immersion in all subjects.

Congratulations Eskasoni!!

STFX CELEBRATES FIRST JEANNINE DEVEAU EDUCATIONAL EQUITY ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

(Adapted from StFX News)



Samantha Brown, a third year Rankin School of Nursing student from Antigonish, NS, already knows firsthand the new doors and opportunities opened at StFX thanks to the Jeannine Deveau Educational Equity Endowment Scholarship Fund, aimed at making a university education more accessible to members of the African Nova Scotian and First Nations communities.

Ms. Brown received a \$2,000 Deveau In-course Scholarship, and is one of 31 inaugural recipients of the fund honoured at a scholarship reception held Oct. 27 in the MacKay Lounge.

"I want to say thank you to the Deveau family. It makes a big difference. It helps toward my tuition. I don't have to worry about that stress, and most importantly it helps me to continue my degree," says Ms. Brown.

"It means a blessing," adds Christina Turay of Antigonish, NS, a second year women's and gender studies student.

"It relieves a lot of stress and helps me to focus more on my education. I feel blessed to be part of this family," she says.

Second year B.Ed. student Haley Bernard of Pictou Landing, NS, says the fact the award is an in-course scholarship means a lot to her as it is based on her hard work and marks. "It gives me that sense I'm doing good."

"It's just that acknowledgement of trying my best in school," says fourth year English student Devann Sylvester of Truro, NS who says she is honoured to be chosen as a scholarship recipient. "It really helps take away that stress and focus on school. It helps me balance everything and be in a good place to focus on my schoolwork," says Ms. Sylvester who wants to continue on to an education degree next year.

"It's a true pleasure to be here today," says fund administrator Bill Gunn, Ms. Deveau's nephew. "I feel hopeful, to see all these Deveau scholars."

Last October, Ms. Deveau a member of the Class of 1944 who enjoyed a successful career as a nutrition professor in Montreal, gifted \$8 million to StFX, the largest private alumni donation of its kind in StFX's history. The fund, as it is tied to a matching initiative from other sources, has the potential to grow to \$13 million.

As he spoke about Ms. Deveau – “Aunty J” – he wished the students all the success in their academic and future careers.

StFX President Dr. Kent MacDonald, one of several speakers to bring congratulatory remarks, told those gathered as you look around the room, one can already see the benefit of the equity endowment fund, and how it is already making an impression into the soul of StFX.

Dr. MacDonald said the fund has also given StFX a great lever to go out to raise matching funds, to help change students’ lives.

Paul Ash, Director of African Canadian Services, Nova Scotia Department of Education & Early Childhood Development, also thanked Ms. Deveau, Mr. Gunn and family for the difference this fund is making. He also congratulated StFX for setting the bar high in working together with African Nova Scotia and First Nations communities.

“Not only do the students benefit by becoming educated, the community benefits as well,” said Mi’kmaw Kina’matnewey Executive Director Eleanor Bernard, who offered her congratulations to all recipients.

These scholarships help students achieve their dreams and aspirations, Academic Vice-President & Provost Dr. Kevin Wamsley said. He told the students they should feel proud as the scholarships are a testament to their commitment to post-secondary education.

Dean of Education Dr. Jeff Orr, who served as the master of ceremonies, told the students to look around the room at the level of support they have from the academic and administrative personnel in attendance at the ceremony. “We want you to succeed and flourish.”

In addition to these scholarships, Deveau bursaries are now available. Information can be found at http://sites.stfx.ca/financial_aid/application. Applications must be submitted online before Nov. 17.

THE INAUGURAL RECIPIENTS OF THE JEANNINE DEVEAU EDUCATIONAL EQUITY ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND ARE:

ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIPS:

Linda Denny
Karen Prosper
Emma Paul
Skye Paul
Anthony Seeton
Tariq Ramsay
Kassidy Bartlett
Chantal Phee
Amelie Gero
Justice Gruben

IN-COURSE SCHOLARSHIPS

Mary Isaac	Emily Peter-Paul
Iain Thomas	Devann Sylvester
John Hodder	Dyson Marshall
Summer Upshaw	Candice Brigley
Breanna Alison	Korenda Colley
Kara Pictou	Alicia Paris
Deseray Johnson	Nayo Upshaw
Jasmin LaBillois	Sasha Hayward-Isaac
Tenesha Desmond	Giselle Stevens
Christina Turay	Haley Bernard
Samantha Brown	

MK Hosts Annual General Assembly



Chief Deborah Robinson welcomed everyone to the Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey Annual General Assembly on October 13, 2016 on behalf of Chief Leroy Denny, Chair of the Board of Directors for Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey. "The best organizations in the world share some key characteristics: teamwork, expertise, and leadership at all levels, to name a few. I am extremely proud to say that these characteristics are evident in all areas of our organization and I'm certain that these are the reasons for our continued growth and success."

During the assembly the group heard about the progress made towards developing the framework for Treaty Education, the positive effects of bringing yoga into classrooms across the province, the success of the learning through play initiative, along with many other accomplishments our students and organization have made over the past year.

Some highlights of these accomplishments include that on a national level, MK received the Inspire Guiding the Journey Award for Best Indigenous Organization. There are several new Mi'kmaw language Apps and iTunesU courses available for download which are a great resource for teachers and language learners. Also over the past year, coach selection and athlete identification camps began for NAIG 2017, which will take place in Toronto.

Although there have been many successes, there is also room for improvement. "Improving our literacy and numeracy rates are always a very important issue," explained Eleanor Bernard, executive director of Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey. "We have seen some improvement but we are not yet at the levels we want to see. It's a slow process and it takes a lot of time to get to where we need to be."

Bernard went on to say that, "I am very proud of all the work being done for our students across Mi'kmaki. As always, it is great to see our leaders in attendance at our AGA because it shows that education is a priority to our leadership."

To view the 2015-16 Annual Report, go to www.kinu.ca.

2016 Mi'kmaq Education Scholarship Winners



Giselle Stevens, Julia Marshall, Shanna Francis and Keenan Bernard are the four recipients of this year's Sister Dorothy Moore Mi'kmaq Education Scholarship.

The awards, valued at \$1,500 each, were presented during the Treaty Day Celebration on Oct. 3rd in Halifax, NS.

As a gesture of reconciliation during the 2011 Truth and Reconciliation event held in Halifax, the Government of Nova Scotia announced the creation of the annual \$6,000 scholarship fund to assist Mi'kmaq persons studying full-time in a recognized teacher certification/education program.

Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey named the scholarship program after Sister Dorothy Moore, an educator and respected elder who has devoted her life to enhancing educational opportunities for Mi'kmaq people.

Applicants must submit an essay describing how their education and career goals are linked to Mi'kmaw culture, language, and improving Mi'kmaq student outcomes in on-reserve schools as well as the public school system. The application also has to include a summary of non-academic attributes such as leadership, service to the community, volunteer experience, and extra-curricular activities.

Scholarship application details and forms are available at www.kinu.ca.

Congratulations!

Literacy News



Our new Literacy Consultant Carola Knockwood held the first workshop of the year for our elementary literacy teachers this month. Grade one teachers from MK schools gathered in Membertou to learn about the Inquiry method of teaching. For our literacy update this month, Carola took some time to explain what Inquiry is, how it will work in our classrooms and what the teachers will be learning this year.

"Inquiry is a way of teaching. Although at first it may look more like a guided inquiry model, students are still driving the process. There are many benefits when students learn through inquiry. Children are born wondering and exploring, and learning about their environment through interacting and participating in it. The greatest benefit of learning through inquiry is students become knowledge builders as they look for answers to questions and problems that were posed at the beginning of the unit. When students are engaged they become active and powerful learners.

We recently had a workshop with grade 1 teachers who looked at the simplest inquiry method and divided it into 3 phases.

Literacy News (continued)



Planning is an important part of phase 1. We started with the end in mind, developing topics based on the curriculum. Once some of the initial mapping is done the general topic is introduced in class. This is where the students generate questions about what they would like to know. One way we can keep track of this phase is using a **KWL** chart - What I **K**now, **W**hat I would like to know and what I **L**earned.

Phase 2 is where students do the learning. They are using various skills like comparing, sorting predicting, and interpreting. They are collaborating with others, planning, using their imagination, and developing personal skills, such as risk-taking. Teachers in this phase are continuously assessing, observing behaviours and asking questions that support learning of the outcomes. They must ensure there is enough resources available to support learning, like inviting guest speakers in. Students are writing and recording, illustrating what they have learned. They may also pose new questions that can lead into more lines of inquiry.

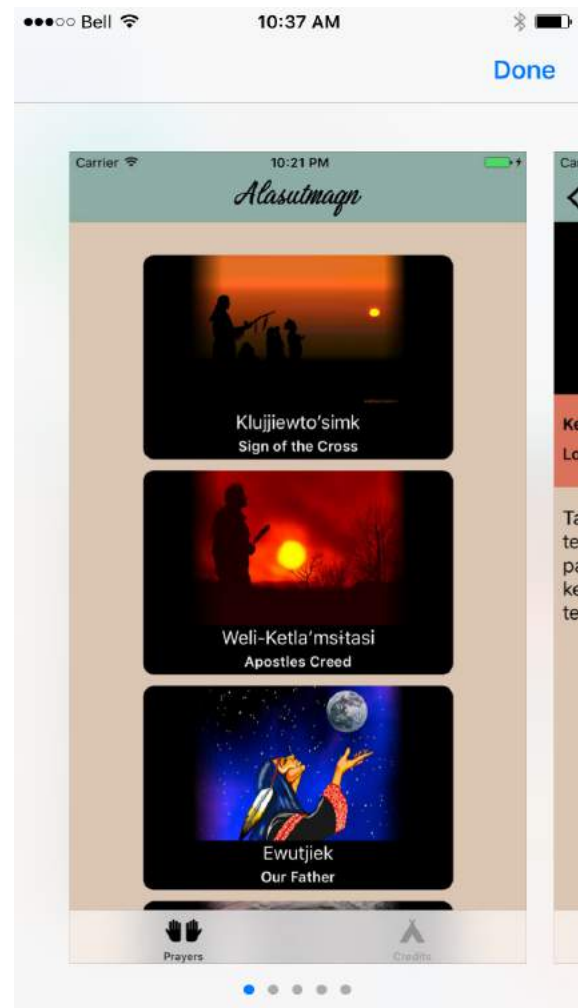
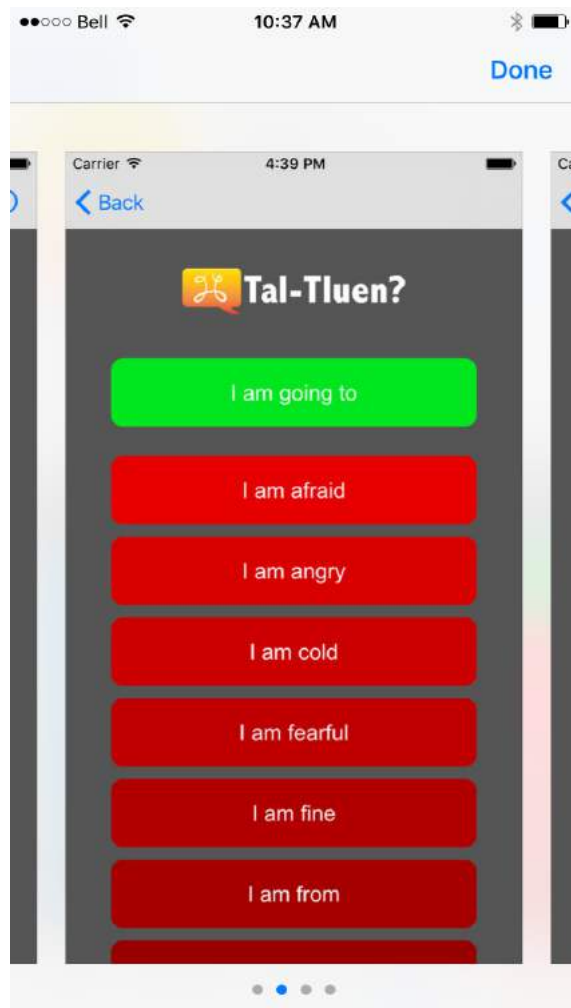
Phase 3 is a celebration of learning. This can be an exhibit of learning through things like art, drama, a book, or social action piece.

During the session with the grade 1 teachers, they looked at two actual inquiry projects from start to end. They thought about how to plan an inquiry unit using the 3 phases. In the afternoon they collaborated on an inquiry unit, imagining what students might wonder and question about. Each group had the opportunity to present their inquiry plan to each other.

Over the next 8 months, we will be meeting once a month, building upon what we learned in the previous month and connecting to new understandings. Each month will focus on a different literacy process and a different part of the inquiry process. The theoretical component of our day will involve teachers contributing new ideas, extending existing ideas, helping each other pose appropriate questions and discussing how to carry out an investigation of one's ideas or theories. The practical component will have teachers visit other classrooms, to see Learning Through Inquiry in action. Its an opportunity for teachers to see how their colleagues approach LTI and see an inquiry unit in progress."

Thanks for the update Carola and we look forward to seeing Learning Through Inquiry in action over the next few months!

Mi'kmaw Language Update



After a lot of late nights and hard work, these two apps are available for download from the App Store! There are several more pending review and will be available soon. Some of the other items pending review include language Apps and iBooks which allow the reader to hear the story in Mi'kmaw.

The next networking session will be held on Saturday, November 19. Hope to see you there!

Also, the major highlight for this month is the Grand Opening of ESK in Eskasoni. Congratulations!

Mawiomi / Aonach: Sharing our Paths



Inspired by the stories in the Living Treaties book, the idea of having a gathering to bring together Gaelic and Mi'kmaq Communities to begin the process of reconciliation was born. On October 25, 2016, a symposium was held in Wagmatcook which highlighted the similarities to the shared stories of the Gaelic-speaking settlers and the Mi'kmaq.

The symposium allowed participants to hear the shared stories of being displaced by military might, by the loss of lands and tradition, by starvation, by economic and political and cultural hegemony—in effect, cultural genocide—people resigned themselves to new realities and, in the process, nearly lost their language in order to survive.

The loss of land, language and life by the Mi'kmaq continues to be both misunderstood and ignored by the dominant society, yet with great effort, the language is being spoken by a new generation. The loss of land and language by Highland Gaels is well documented, both in Scotland and throughout the Scots diaspora, and great strides have been taken to recover the language, as well, and to make it relevant to a new generation of learners.

“The process of reconciliation is going to be a long journey; However when we have events where people from different backgrounds and culture can come to gather in the spirit of peace and friendship, we are on the right path,” said Jaime Battiste, Treaty Education Coordinator. “It was great to see the sharing of culture, learning about how both the Mi'kmaq and Gaels have struggled with displacement and language loss, and how they are trying to revitalize it. ”

Attendees of the symposium spent the day sharing their experiences. Speakers shared their knowledge on topics such as language revitalization and the importance of the land. There was also opportunity for reflection on the past and a look ahead to a bright future. Music, dancing and sharing of a meal made for an excellent day.

Mawiomi / Aonach: Sharing our Paths Snapshots



Mi'kmaq culture shared in England



In mid October, Adeva and Aveda Googoo, 8 year old girls who attend ESK in Eskasoni, had the opportunity to visit a school in England while their family was on vacation there. During the planning stages of their vacation, the girls were curious about what schools were like in England. Arrangements were made in advance of the trip to visit Hampton Hill Primary School.

When they arrived at the school, the girls were able to join the other children for break time in the playground followed by the school assembly, which is a daily normal event in their school where all classes get together for notices and celebrations.

The girls father, Craig Paul helped with the presentation with the girls. Sharon Paul, the girls' kiju, obtained 27 hand made little dream catchers which the girls gave to each of the class members. The children loved them and Craig explained what they should do with them and how they dispel nightmares. Craig also talked about hunting and fishing and history of the Mi'kmaw people and about the arrival of the white people and how it impacted the Mi'kmaq.

At the end he asked the class for questions and the children were full of them. The first one was "Do you have cars?" They also asked if Craig and the girls lived in a teepee, how deep the snow is in Canada, how many eels

Craig would catch when he went eel fishing and what the girls wear to school.

After the presentation to the class called Year 5 which has 9-10 year olds, the family met with the school principal who asked if the ESK immersion class or school could keep up contact with his school through pictures and/or letters.

As they were leaving the school, one little girl practiced the first Mi'kmaw word she had ever heard saying "namultes"!

CBU Fall Convocation

On Saturday October 29, 2016, Cape Breton University held its' fall convocation at the Membertou Trade and Convention Centre. Congratulations to all the graduates!



Upcoming Events

MK Sporting Events

Junior High Dodgeball

Friday, November 4 at 11 am in Waycobah

Elementary Hockey

Tuesday, November 8 at 10 am in Eskasoni

High School MASH

Thursday, November 24 at 11 am in Potlotek

For more information, contact Tex at tex@kinu.ca

Nova Scotia Aboriginal Youth Skilled Trades Fair

November 6, 7, & 7 at Nova Scotia Construction Sector Council, Halifax

For more information, contact Ann at ann@kinu.ca

MK Sports Summit

Saturday, November 5th in Millbrook

For more information, contact Tex at tex@kinu.ca

We're on [Facebook!](#)



Have an event or story idea you'd like to see in the November newsletter? Contact Shara at shara@kinu.ca or 567-0336 ext.5603