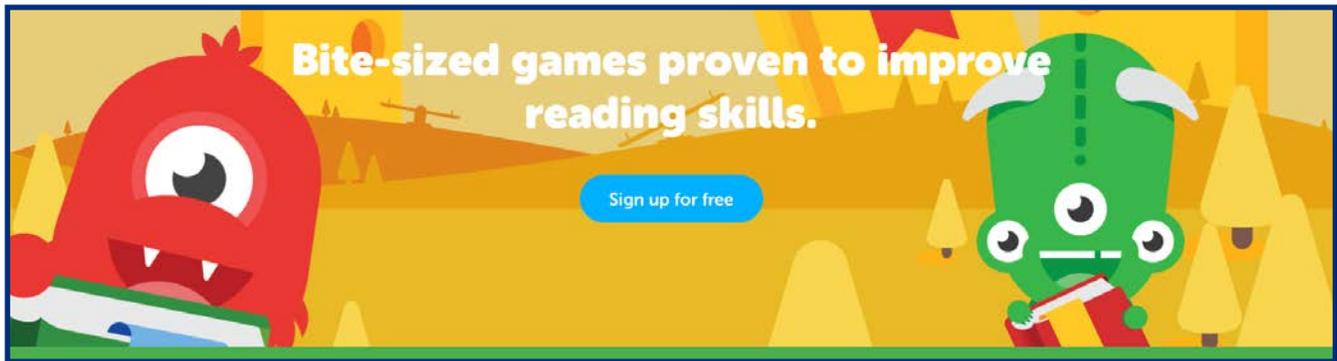


Na'teliag



January 2018

Squiggle Park is available for all MK schools!



Educators realize that each child learns at their own pace and that some may develop skills earlier or later than their peers. When it comes to reading, there are so many skills that need to be in place before students can become fluent readers. Squiggle Park was developed to help teach those early literacy skills through play.

The idea behind squiggle park came from a little boy who was struggling to learn to read. His parents realized that he loved playing games and they wanted to find a way to make reading fun for him. They worked together with a research team out of Florida University to create a game that aligns with the curriculum.

Squiggle Park is video-game based for early readers. Everything is tracked on dashboards which allows teachers to figure out where their students need extra help and can tailor their lessons to the student needs. Students cannot unlock levels unless they have met the requirements of the early levels. Research has shown that students accelerated their reading levels by playing for at least 30 minutes a week. Because the games are online, students can also log-in from home to play.

The licence for Squiggle Park is available for all MK schools. There are books available for classrooms which go along with the skills. Lesson plans, mini lesson ideas, printables, PD and other resources are also available for all educators. A professional development session for educators took place in Millbrook on January 25. Another session will take place on February 5 in Membertou..

Mi'kmaw Language Update



This month we had the opportunity to speak with Pie'l Lalo Paul, the Mi'kmaw language teacher for Mi'kmawey School in Potlotek. He is now into the second half of his first year teaching Mi'kmaq and he is loving his experience so far.

How long have you been teaching the Mi'kmaw language?

This is my first time teaching Mi'kmaq other than teaching my girlfriend, which took sometime but she understands and can speak a lot of Mi'kmaq now.

What are some of the things you like to do with the classes you teach to keep them engaged and interested in learning?

Most of my teaching involves a lot of conversation. I rarely use handout or sheets. With the lower grades I try to teach them words that they will hear everyday. I also have 1 on 1 conversations with them like greetings. They will come to the front of class ask me in Mi'kmaq how am I doing and I'll answer and then ask them what about you. With grade 1 to 4 we do some writing and a lot of conversations. We also read books and I try my best to help them understand the books that were given to us by MK. With higher grades they seem to understand a bit more so I try to help them with animate and inanimate plus with some past, present, future tense. I don't want to push too much and expect them to know it right away. We are also going to do a puppet play where the students make their own skits and I help translate it but they will do the skit in Mi'kmaq themselves. With the new curriculum that is being developed, it would be a really great asset for the next few years where we hope we will help revitalize the language.

Mi'kmaw Language Update (continued)

Are there any challenges you are facing and how are you overcoming those challenges?

My challenge is that there are not any fluent speaking students but a lot of them understand it. I speak Mi'kmaq to all the students and staff in the school because if they keep hearing it eventually they will understand it. It's interesting because I really want to see students speaking Mi'kmaq to one another in the school and it's going to be a break through when it happens.

Who are some of your teachers/mentors that you go to when you have questions?

I would have to say Terry Denny because he and Anne Marie pushed me to apply in Potlotek. They have supported me in every way possible. When the school year started me and Terry talked about why the language is not going forward and we both agreed that the more you hear it, you'll eventually know it rather than writing it down and not looking at it again. So I had a plan of what to do and it's to teach them words they hear 3 to 5 times a day then slowly engage them in other words. Eventually it will carry over to conversation. The whole staff at Mikmawey school is amazing including the teachers, cook and teacher aides.

What is your favourite part about working in Potlotek?

My favorite part in all honesty is just being there. Our students are really lucky because our staff treats them good. Plus they get to also learn more depth about Mi'kmaq from Terry. Mikmawey school is an amazing place Potlotek should praise themselves for having one of the best educators I've worked with. No other school has what we have here in Potlotek our children here are lucky and also they are really respectful. Thank you for raising your children to be respectful we appreciate it greatly. Also to the community thank you for giving me the opportunity I appreciate it and just one last thing I know a lot of people speak Mi'kmaq in Potlotek. Don't hide it - speak it! Lets revitalize it together. Welalin

Jenita'simk and the Red Road Youth



Often times in education, we plan great activities for youth but with very little input from them. During the weekend of January 20 & 21, our future leaders, our Red Road youth, were invited to be part of the creation of something for their schools as they provided input into the curriculum framework of Jenita'simk or Mi'kmaw Mindfulness.

Over the course of the weekend, the youth took part in several activities that were facilitated by Janean Marshall, Student Services Coordinator, their Red Road coordinators, Elders, and Breathing Space Yoga. These activities were a representation of things that youth could do to

learn the practice of mindfulness to find stillness in their very busy lives. Our Red Road leaders that were able to participate are truly amazing youth that are gifted in so many ways. They took part in a smudging ceremony, a talking circle, a workshop on spirit and ceremony with Jane Meader and her daughters Paulina and Sinead. All of these were done with our Red road leaders Geordy Marshall and Tammy Bernard, Janean Marshall, our elders Lottie Johnson and Jane Meader, and Paulina and Sinead Meader. They did a Mindfulness workshop with Blair Abbass and had a clearing yoga practice with Jenny Keirstead from Breathing Space Yoga. They also had a planning session on mindfulness and the concept of Jenita'simk with Janean. The youth also took a clearing break to jump around at Get Air. All this after a very close call where our bus was struck with ice and could not go any further as the windshield caved in. A special thanks to Waycobah's teacher and bus driver Rob Smith who's quick thinking kept our kids safe and sound.

"There will be a follow up session with them during their upcoming Eel camp to go a little deeper into Jenita'simk and pick their brains a bit more," said Janean Marshall. "After the weekend we realized that this was just scratching the surface of what this could do for them, they have tons of ideas to contribute to this project."

The youth who took part really loved the learning and the nurturing they received from our elders and presenters especially right before exam week.

Eskasoni man receives Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers

(Story adapted from Cape Breton Post)



An Eskasoni man received the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers from the Lieutenant Governor in Halifax on Thursday for his constant work to preserve Mi'kmaq history and heritage.

Jaime Battiste, a Potolek band member who currently works for the Mi'kmaw Kinamatnewey as treaty education lead for Nova Scotia, was recognized for his volunteer efforts to advance and educate others about Mi'kmaq law and treaty rights by Lt.-Gov. Arthur J. LeBlanc during a ceremony at Government House.

Battiste has volunteered as legal adviser to the Mi'kmaq Grand Council and is an active volunteer with athletics, youth advocacy, and fundraising. He was also instrumental in developing the Treaty Education MOU between the Province of Nova Scotia and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia in 2015. He also was involved with the negotiation for the pardon of the late Grand Chief Gabriel Sylliboy in 2017.

Battiste said he was surprised and grateful to receive the award, and has always tried to use his talents to better his community.

"I learned at a very young age — from my mother and father — that whatever gifts you're given in life, you have a responsibility to share those gifts and to continue to be a positive influence in your community and surrounding area," said Battiste, who added that receiving the award on Thursday was an honour.

"I was very humbled to get the award. I'm from the community of Eskasoni where there's a lot of volunteers that could have been recognized. There's so many people that step up when necessary and to help out in our community. It's just an amazing place to live," said Battiste.

Battiste's volunteer efforts include several fundraisers in his community, from playing guitar in his band or being involved with a local hockey team that helped raise over \$40,000 for a community fund.

Lt.-Gov. Arthur J. LeBlanc said Battiste was a fitting winner of the award because of his volunteer efforts and that he is a role model for other people.

"It is a great pleasure and honour to recognize Mr. Battiste with this medal for his exceptional efforts to promote and preserve this very important aspect of Nova Scotia's history, heritage and culture, his voluntary efforts set a fine example for others," said LeBlanc.

The Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers — established in 2016 — recognizes the exceptional volunteer achievements of Canadians from across the country in a wide range of fields. As an official Canadian honour, the Medal for Volunteers incorporates and replaces the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award.

Family Literacy Breakfast in Pictou Landing

Pictou Landing School celebrates Literacy Day each year. Since a huge part of literacy is being able to talk and listen, family meals are a perfect opportunity for families to communicate as they sit down to share a meal together. On Friday January 26, the students at Pictou Landing School invited their families into their school to take part in their well attended Literacy Day Breakfast.

Cooking and baking are great family literacy activities so this year families were asked to bring in their favourite family recipes, which will be compiled and shared with everyone.

There was also a free book table with books donated by the Adopt a Library literacy program. Bags of books were also given away as door prizes. It was another successful Literacy Day event!



Mi'kmaq Scholarship

\$1,500 entrance scholarship to a graduating
Mi'kmaq high school student

Renewable up to four years



"This scholarship has helped me succeed in reaching my goals, and has helped me through my independent living."

Salena Sylvester is studying towards a Bachelor of Arts at Cape Breton University. Salena is also the East Youth Representative for the Native Women's Association of Canada.

Salena Sylvester, 2017 recipient
Membertou First Nation

Interested in applying?

Visit: www.nspower.ca/mikmaq-scholarship
Questions? Email: scholarships@nspower.ca

Deadline: April 27, 2018
Paper applications will not be accepted



APRIL 13-15, 2018 FINAL EVALUATION CAMP

Team Atlantic Final Evaluation Camp 2018

Camp Location- Membertou Sport & Wellness Center. On ice evaluations with Team Staff, Coaches & Scouts will be in attendance at this camp. Any players Born (2000-2004) and who have Aboriginal Ancestry are eligible to compete. Separate categories for male & female. Invitations will be emailed to identified players. If you are interested in attending the camp you can contact the following:

Head Coach Male - Levi Denny- levi4denny@hotmail.com

Head Coach Female- Simon Nevin -Simonbigchief@gmail.com

Morgan Anderson (Nfld)- morgan.anderson12@hotmail.com

Todd Winters (Labrador)- asrcnl@nf.aibn.com

Tex Marshall (NS & PEI) – tex@kinu.ca

**Team A Final Camp
Apr.13-15,2018**

**M/F Players Born
2000-2004**

**Location-
Membertou Sport &
Wellness Center**

NAHC'18

**NAHC Host this year
is Membertou F.N.
May 6-12**

**TEAM ATLANTIC
NAHC'18**

**47 Maillard St.
Membertou, NS
902.567.0336**



SPEAKERS BUREAU

“We are all Treaty People”
Our relationship is based on peace and friendship

Treaty Education Nova Scotia is assembling Mi'kmaw professionals, notable speakers and crafters to share their knowledge and the messages of hope and reconciliation throughout the province.

What is Treaty Education?

It is an opportunity for every Nova Scotian to learn about our shared history and understand how treaties were significant building blocks for Nova Scotia and Canada.

It is important to build a strong foundation of knowledge and resources by working closely with Elders and members of the Mi'kmaq community.

Together we can create an environment where reconciliation is fostered.

For more information visit novascotia.ca/treaty-education

or contact:

Loni Vicaire, 902-424-7128

loni.vicaire@novascotia.ca

APPLY TODAY

Deadline: February 16, 2018

Training will take place in Millbrook, NS

March 1-2



Upcoming Events

MK Community and Strategic Planning Symposium

March 7 and 8, 2018

We're looking for your ideas! Contact shara@kinu.ca

We're on Facebook!



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