



Upper Nicola – N'kwala School

Report to Chief and Council
General Band Meeting – June 30, 2015
Prepared by: Carol Holmes, Principal

STUDENT REGISTRATION

Nursery:	4		
Kindergarten to	High 31	Grade 8 to 12:	High 8
Grade 7:	Year End 26		Year End 8
			Graduate 1

Student registration was impacted by the teacher strike. There was a number of students who normally attend the public school registered at N'Kwala in September and October; however, once the strike was over, the students transferred back to their school of origin. This year, the 4 year olds were at the Headstart program.

To increase student registration, promotion and advertising has been ongoing. Advertising has been in the Merritt Herald and posters are throughout Merritt and the Nicola Valley, including NVIT, NTA, medical clinics, and the Merritt Library.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance continues to be an issue. Next year, the staff have made a commitment to reduce the number of absences.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS ON IEP'S

Students are on an IEP for a number of reasons. The most common goal is to have the student to *be at or above grade level in Reading and/or Math*.

Kindergarten to Grade 3:	Grade 4 to 7:	High School:
Masked	Masked	Masked

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

In September, the students attended the Traditional Camp at Glimpse Lake. The camp will be held again the 2015/2016 school year.

Linda Sheena mainly used the Paul Creek resources to teach Nsyilxcen; in addition, Sarah McLeod and Howard Holmes were in the classroom once a week. The Elders were in the classroom to dialogue with Linda in Nsyilxcen.

The teachers use the Read Well program from nursery to Grade 5 and Saxon Math from kindergarten to Grade 7. Both programs are based on 'mastery' before moving on to the next unit; students are assessed on a regular basis; students are mastering with an 80% or higher. Both programs are based on becoming proficient before moving on to the next level. A snack and a hot lunch program was offered to the students. This was provided 5 days a week. The students were not only provided with nutrition, they were also introduced to



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new foods and unusual dishes. As an example, students did not know they were drinking a smoothie with added spinach or that the fries were sweet potatoes.

Fieldtrips to support student learning included the Traditional Camp, Siya Gathering, Traditional Games, Science Centre, and Swimming.

STAFFING

- 1) Number of staff members: teachers 4; teacher assistants 3; cook 1; support staff 3.
- 2) Staffing for 2015/2016: All staff with the exception of the high school teacher and the teacher assistants will be returning. The high school teacher position has been posted; interviews are scheduled for Thursday, July 2, 2015.
- 3) Professional Development:
 - a. Teachers: Read Well workshop, Language conference, First Aid
 - b. Support staff: Sylvester Cohen and Shaylene McRae attended a Teacher Assistant conference hosted by the FNSEA in March, 2015. They both attended workshops which supported the Read Well and Saxon Math programs.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS MAINTENANCE

ACRS (Asset Condition Reporting System) Inspection had a number of maintenance projects to complete including current and previous years. These projects were completed from the Spring of 2015 to the Summer of 2015. These included:

- 1) School – painting of the wood fascia and wood trim, repair damaged ceilings around skylights.
- 2) Gym – Repair exterior door, replace compressor
- 3) Teacherages –
 - a. House – replace sun deck, replace garage doors, install double pane windows
 - b. Duplexes – Replace garage doors, install double pane windows

Rita Manuel, Environmental Health Officer, conducted the annual environmental report. There was a number of projects to complete. Ivan Lindley, Kris Alexander, and Joan DeGray completed the majority of the items. Other items on the list were addressed by Penny Toodlican and Carol Holmes.

OTHER:

1. Nsyilxcen Language Conference – This was a *success!* The 100 participants were able to choose from 10 workshop sessions. In general, the participants were very satisfied with the venue and the workshops; they especially appreciated the friendly and welcoming small school environment.
2. Library books – The New Relationship Trust provided a grant of \$5,000 for books, photographs, and resources. First Nation content books were purchased from Chapters and Theytus Books; photographs were purchased from the Nicola Valley Museum.
3. Policy Review – As part of the Upper Nicola Band process, the job descriptions and contracts are under review.
4. Survey – Upper Nicola Band Education department conducted a questionnaire to parents of children attending the public school. With modification, the questionnaire



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was also given to the N'Kwala School parents. There was a 90% completion (19:21 parents). In general, the satisfaction is high. A common recommendation was improved teacher/parent communication.

WHAT'S NEXT?

School Building Maintenance – replace the gutters and eavestrough around the school. This will be completed on or before school starts in September.

Improve Communication – Suggestions: Moodle page, Facebook, acknowledgements, use of journals, awards, newsletter.

Decrease student absenteeism – Many of the suggestions to improve parent/school communication will also work towards decreasing student absenteeism.

Nsyilxcen Program – Increase use of Nsyilxcen and fluency within the school

School Policies – Two parts of the policy are under review. The **Community Use of School Facilities** and the **Lockdown** policies are being reviewed. These will be ready to review by the Administrator very shortly.

Summer Professional Development:

July 16 – 17	First Nations Language Conference	Attending: Sarah, Linda, Carol
Aug 27 – 28	Short Course for Principals	Attending: Carol
Aug 31	Spiral of Learning with School District 58	Attending: All teaching staff
Sept 1	Mindset with School District 58	Attending: All teaching staff
Aug 31 – Sept 1	Nutrition Pro-D for School Cooks	Hosted by N'Kwala

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