



# EVBS QUARTERLY

## THE 4 B'S OF EVB

BE RESPECTFUL ~ BE RESPONSIBLE ~ BE POSITIVE ~ BE SAFE

Winter 2015

Volume 3, Issue 2

This has been an action packed year at EVBS. We have had a great balance of Northern Tutchone cultural activities, school activities and academics. Our students have continued to excel in the school and have been improving their attendance with their family support.

The elementary school has been busy hitting the cross country ski trails that have been created around the school and community. They have also been participating in things like Nature Perfume, rabbit soup, dogsledding, going to the wildlife preserve, and performing at the Remembrance Day ceremony. They were also wearing some great costumes at the Halloween activity day.

The high school and middle school students have also been busy traveling to the Artic Games, snaring rabbits, challenging Carmacks to volleyball, and doing BYTE workshops on relationships. On top of this they have greatly improved their attendance and have displayed great improvement in their writing. This group was also a large contributor to the creation of the outdoor teaching space between the college and the SFN administration building, where they helped build some benches and a fire pit. This pit area was then used to cook bannock from our community recipes.

As always, our doors are open to all community members who have ideas to share or even just want to stop in and say hello. All of us at EVB are looking forward to seeing you all at the Christmas Concert this year on December 15th.

Mussi Cho, John R. Duclos



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EVBS students cross country skiing

## Grades K-2 Visit the Yukon Wildlife Preserve

On Monday November 9<sup>th</sup>, students from K-2 went on a field trip to the Yukon Wildlife Preserve on Takhini Road just outside of Whitehorse. It was a beautiful warm sunny day and perfect for visiting the animals at the Preserve. We were greeted by the staff and took the Preserve bus to the education building. There the children had lunch and learned about the animals they were going to see. They sat on both Bison and Muskox rugs explored antlers and different pelts. The two Wildlife Preserve teachers shared so much information about all of the animals. We saw many animals at the preserve-elk, lynx, moose, arctic foxes, woodland caribou, mountain goats, muskox, sheep, bison and mule deer. Some of the animals at the preserve were being rehabilitated as they had been injured in nature. Many thanks to Ms. Mary for organizing the trip as it was a fantastic learning experience. By: Mrs. West



Moose, moose, mighty moose



What did the Fox say?

## Dr. Jean Mullen's Presents at Yukon College on 'the Teen Brain Under-Construction'

I was lucky enough to have both my parents come to visit the Yukon for one week this November. My mother, Jean, was thrilled to have the opportunity to share some of her colleague, Dr. Jean Clinton's, research on the Teen Brain. In her talk at Yukon College on Monday November 9th, she explained in detail the functions of the **prefrontal cortex** in a teenagers' brain. This area of the brain involves planning complex cognitive behavior, personality expression, executive decision making, and moderating social behavior. Until the age of 25, researchers say that the prefrontal cortex is **not fully developed** and therefore these functions are still '*under-construction*'. Jean articulated the importance of adults (be them parents, grandparents, guardians, teachers, mentors) spending **more time and not less time** with the teens in their life. Their development is still occurring and they need your support, guidance and role-modeling of healthy decision making (even if they say otherwise!). Mussi Cho to both Dr. Jean Clinton and Dr. Jean Mullen's for sharing this insightful and helpful presentation!

You can hear and see more through a series of Dr. Jean Clinton's parenting videos at <http://www.ourkidsnetwork.ca/Public/parent-teens>.

By: Miss Coburn

## Blanket Activity for EVBS Staff

On Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, the staff and students in Yukon First Nations Studies at Eliza Van Bibber and other community members from Pelly Crossing were invited to participate in the Blanket Exercise. Guided by the First Nations Partnership Program from the Yukon Board of Education, teachers, educational assistants and our principal were led through the nation-to-nation relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples of Canada.

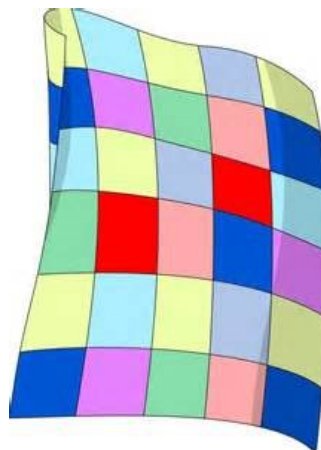
Blankets were arranged on the floor to represent Canada before European explorers and participants represented the First Nations and Inuit of Canada. As we were led through history, we were shown the process of colonization of the Americas as the blankets were removed and only a small number of people remained. Throughout the exercise, we were also taught about specific Yukon First Nations experiences with European settlers.

The staff at Eliza Van Bibber was grateful for this opportunity to deepen our understanding from this visual representation of the denial of Canada's First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples' nationhood throughout our history and the importance of decolonization. We hope to continue our journey of learning.

By: Miss Baranik



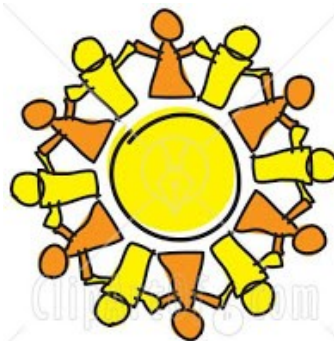
Sharing at the Blanket Activity



## Restorative Practices Workshop

On November 13, five staff members participated in a Restorative Practice Workshop at Eliza Van Bibber. The workshop facilitator was Liza Manolis from the Department of Education in Whitehorse. The restorative approach is being used in schools across the territory. It sees relationships as central to learning, growth, and a healthy school climate for students and adults. Briefly, the restorative approach believes collaborative problem solving is necessary for lasting change, conflict creates learning opportunities, misbehavior can be a teachable moment, and growth and change occur through seeing impact on others and repairing harm. It's proactive and positive.

By: Mrs. West





## Remembrance Day Service, November 10, 2015



On November 10th Eliza Van Bibber held a service for Remembrance Day. Every class took part in the ceremony. The principal, John Duclos, students, elders, community members and staff. The Kindergarten class placed paper poppies beside the name of each veteran from Pelly Crossing. The grade 1/2 class shared their thoughts on the meaning of Peace. The 3/4/5 class read a poem called Remembrance Day. The grade 6/7/8 students gave a drama presentation and the high school students created a video. The R.C.M.P. corporal Ken Boone gave a reflection on his thoughts of Remembrance Day. Afterwards the staff provided a lunch for all who attended.

By: Mrs. West



Prayer by Jean Van Bibber



Cpl. Boone with Students



Seal Walk: Arctic Sports are Challenging

## Arctic Sports

To live off the land you need to be strong, flexible, fast, tough and able to withstand great hardships. Inuit and Dene games celebrate and honor these timeless skills. Competitions take place all over the north with the best of the best competing in Greenland in 2016. Students in grades 6-11 trained every day for three weeks to prepare for Eliza Van Bibbers' first ever trip to compete in the 2015 Whitehorse Championships. We brought a great team with a lot of talent across the events. There were two foot high kicks, stick pulls, triple jumps, seal walks and arm pulls. Our team represented Pelly Crossing very well, Tyra Gill brought home a silver medal in the one arm reach and we are proud of the entire teams performance. The students also had the opportunity to go skiing at Mt Mac and rock climbing at Yukon College. A few weeks rest and then we should start training for next year!

By: Mr. Murgatroyd



Arm Pull



Two Foot High Kick



## Sea of Pink

On November 20th the Eliza Van Bibber School celebrated an important week: Anti-Bullying Week. Students dressed in the colour pink to support an environment that doesn't allow bullying. We had an assembly to recognize each and every one of our roles in making this school, community and world a safe and happy place. The Grade 6/7/8 class ran the assembly and shared a reading that expressed the importance of being assertive (and not aggressive) and being a hero (and not a bystander) if bullying is occurring. They also went over what the High 5 to Bullying looks like (see picture): each finger has a step that a person can take to positively deal with a bully. Each student and staff signed the Anti-Bullying pledge as a promise to themselves and their peers that they will contribute to a positive, healthy and bully-free school!! Keep it up EVB Heroes!

By: Miss Coburn

## Roc Your Mocs Day

On Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup> everyone was encouraged to wear their favorite pair of moccasins (or mukluks) to school to celebrate Indigenous culture and artwork. Started a couple of years ago in the U.S., this international movement was created to bring together Indigenous people worldwide to culturally empower and share diverse artwork. Pictures from all over were shared on social media, like Facebook and Tumbler, of people rocking their mocs. The picture shown is of Eliza Van Bibber's staff and students rocking their mocs.

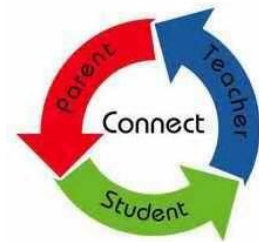
Mussi Cho

By: Miss Baranik

## Student Led Conferences

On November 24 we had our student led conferences at EVBS. The students prepared by finding their evidence of learning to share with their parents. I would like to thank the students and staff for all of their preparation work that went into the conferences. I would also like to thank all of the parents for making it a priority to come and support their children. This year we had 82% of parents or family members come to the school and discuss their child's learning, thank you!

By: Mr. Duclos



Showing Off Our Mocs

## Cross Country Skiing

You can call him Mr. Murgatroyd, or you can call him Santa's little helper, but regardless this active teacher got the XC ski boot and ski room all set up in November! For the last couple weeks students from all grades have been practicing their skiing in Pelly Crossing! It is fantastic to see how much each student is improving every time they put on their boots, skis and for some, now even poles :) XC-Skiing is renown for being one of the best full body, challenging cardio workouts out there. Keep your eyes out for students not only filming their class video for the Christmas concert on skis, but also for the **EVBS Cross Country Skiing Team** soon!!!  
Step, step, glide, step, step, glide....

By: Mr. Murgatroyd



Introduction to Skiing



Coasting Down the Hills!

## Eliza Van Bibber School Review

This November Eliza Van Bibber hosted a panel of educators from across the Territory, as they conducted our School Review. Every few years schools across the territory are evaluated by an outside panel. The objective of the evaluation is to identify areas in which we are excelling as a school, and areas where we could improve. The evaluation team met with all staff members, all students from grade 5 to 12, the School Growth Plan Team, and School Council. We are looking forward to reviewing the recommendations.

Mussi cho to all staff and community members who participated in this important process.

By: Mr. Duclos



## Carmacks Volleyball

### Carmacks vs. Pelly Crossing.

With the home game advantage, popcorn and drinks for sale and the whole school supporting and cheering loudly from the sidelines it was going to be a good match up. Carmacks was training a team for the annual tournament in Dawson City and it was a pleasure to host them for a friendly warm up event. We mixed schools for two games and then it was EVB vs. Tantalus in the main event. Tantalus came out on top 24- 16 in a game that showed good spirit between the two communities. The grade 6, 7, 8 and High school classes picked up Volleyball quickly this year and show a lot of potential for the future. I look forward to honing those skills and heading down to Carmacks for a re-match!

By: Mr. Murgatroyd





## Dooli Award

### Northern Tutchone Teachings in EVB

This year we have been incorporating the four Northern Tutchone teachings in EVBS: Sharing, Caring, Teaching, and Respect. The RCMP has joined us in this focus as they are sponsoring a monthly award for one student in the elementary school and one in the middle-secondary school.

The staff and students greatly appreciate this. Thank you, RCMP!

By: Mr. Duclos

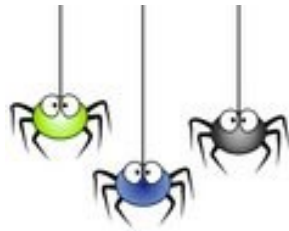
## BYTE Visit

A team from BYTE (Bring Youth Towards Equality) came to EVBS from Nov. 30 to Dec. 2nd. On the first night they hosted a Pizza Evening for students from grade s 6-12. The focus of the BYTE program was to encourage students to talk about healthy relationships. For the next two days they worked with middle and high school students. Elders were brought in to work with the students as well. Many thanks to the RCMP for sponsoring this valuable workshop of our students.

By: Mrs. West

## Halloween at EVBS

Eliza Van Bibber continued its Halloween tradition by celebrating the special day with games and fun activities. Students participated in four events in their costumes on the afternoon of October 30th. Students made slime to take home, danced in a Just Dance Halloween party, made Halloween art and experienced a walk through the scary haunted classroom. The afternoon ended with a cake walk, where some students were lucky enough to take home a delicious cake. Overall, it was an exciting afternoon to kick off the start of the Halloween weekend. By: Miss Lo



## Literacy Tree

This year we are celebrating literacy at Eliza Van Bibber by involving all of the students in the creation of a literacy tree located in the rotunda. For the fall we had leaves that shared each students' favorite book. For the winter season, we have snowflakes that students have created and have shared their favorite character or quote from a book. Next time you stop by the school, I encourage you to have a look at the students' work.

I am also excited to say that I will be working with students in the library as the new library teacher. I am still learning the ropes but hope that over the next couple of months, students will learn how to use the library and be encouraged to take out books and bring them home to share.

Mussi Cho, Miss Baranik



Literacy is a Main Focus at EVBS

## Visit by the Outdoor and Experiential Consultants Jesse Jewels & George

### Grade 1 & 2

On November 26<sup>th</sup> the Outdoor and Experiential learning consultants visited Eliza Van Bibber. Our grade 1 and 2 students were fortunate to engage in several learning opportunities.

In the morning Mr. Jewel, one of the consultants started the class by describing what learning outside looked like. Everyone climbed into their outdoor winter gear and we went for a walk in the woods. The sun hadn't risen and it was grey and magical being amongst the trees at the edge of the playground. The children were each given a small container and asked to collect things in nature that would have a fragrance. We collected balsam and pine needles, berries, seeds and other wonderful treasures found in the snowy forest. We came back to class and shared what we had collected in our cups. As the ingredients warmed up they became very fragrant. It was as though we everyone had created a "forest perfume". We shared our perfumes and then wrote poems about our new magical scents.



Outdoor and Experiential Educational Consultants

Later on that day our students teamed up with the 6 – 12 classes and we helped build fire using only sticks as igniters. In Native language Mr. Balm brought a collection of animal skins that he had trapped. The children identified and classified the pelts and with the help of Ms. Darlene, learned the Northern Tutchone name for animal pelts. By: Mrs. West

### Grade 6 –12

Jesse Jewels was here to do the outdoor winter activities with the students. He was Dr. Snow and taught the students how to measure the temperature of the snow. George Bahm was here to do the trapping experiential activities with the students. George talked about trapping techniques, survival, and how to care for the pelts. He had a box of various pelts for demonstration for the students could handle and touch. George also had a slide show to demonstrate the various trapping concessions in the Yukon. George demonstrated how to make fire using various fire making tools. The students all participated and got a fire going! Everyone enjoyed their visit and learned a lot about trapping and winter survival. By: Miss McGinty



Fire Starting Across the Grades



Patience is the Name of the Game



## Campfire and Bannock Making

The day before Halloween and the snow arrived perfectly on schedule. It was time to take the students outside and build a campfire!

Riley Gill and Tayte Van Bibber had been busy learning carpentry skills and build some wooden benches to keep us off the ground. Parents, Aunties and Grandmothers from the community have been gracious and shared their favorite Bannock recipes. Daylen and Rachelle were busy in the kitchen mixing together enough bannock to feed the whole school. Students gathered around the warm fire and in the fresh snow roasted bannock on a stick while other students preferred to fry it in tasty lard. We will be visiting the little area of the forest throughout the year for hot chocolate, marshmallows and to gather around the fire. All are welcome!



Using our New Outdoor Teaching Space



Yukon Quest Taking Students for a Ride

## Yukon Quest Mushers Visit EVBS

Two mushers and their dog teams came to Eliza Van Bibber on November 30<sup>th</sup>. They gave a presentation in the school rotunda to students in grades 1, 2, and 3. They brought in a sled and all of the equipment that is needed when taking a dog sled from Fairbanks to Whitehorse. They explained the purpose of all their gear. The students were able to put on the harness, boots and coats on one of the dogs. Afterwards everyone went out to the playground to help the mushers harness their dogs. Everyone, including the teachers went for a ride around the playground on the sled under crisp, blue sunny skies. We can't wait to greet the mushers and their dogs on the Yukon Quest when they arrive in Pelly Crossing this February!

By: Mrs. West



High School Students setting rabbit snares

## Rabbit Snaring

Between November 15-20, grade 3-12 students participated in rabbit snaring activities. The students made snares in class and the next day set them on both the Yukon Quest and Mica Creek trails. When the students went to check the snares they found four rabbits had been caught (a 5th was eaten by a wolf). The rabbits were skinned and the meat was used to make rabbit soup. Elders from the community were invited to enjoy the soup along with staff and students. Many thanks to Mr. Murgatroyd, Miss McGinty and Mr. Alfred for organizing and supervising this learning activity.

By: Mrs. West

## Hot Lunch Program

Selkirk First Nation is offering the hot lunch program again this year. The program is running Monday to Thursday every week from 12:00-1:00. The philosophy of the program is to bring our community together every day for a hot meal. This is a time that our children are able to spend with our elders and adults to share what they are learning and create positive relationships.

EVBS staff members have volunteered to walk over with all the students from Grade 1-12 and help supervise the students. There are also members of the School Council that are volunteering their time as well. If you are interested in volunteering please contact either the school or the school council.

It has been the decision of the school council and the school to not bring the Kindergarten students to hot lunch due to safety concerns around the roadways. This was implemented when we first got the full day kindergarten program started at EVBS in 2014. However, if you would like your kindergarten aged child to attend the hot lunch program an adult needs to pick them up at the school and return them to the school after they eat. If this pickup and drop off is not possible please send them with a bagged lunch as we do have a staff member on duty at the school to supervise these students.

The program is free for all students at EVBS. It is a great benefit for our children's health, learning, and relief on families to have this lunch.

Thank you Selkirk First Nation for putting on this valuable program!

Mr. Duclos

## Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A"	Student "B"	Student "C"
reads 20 minutes each day	reads 5 minutes each day	reads 1 minute each day
3600 minutes in a school year	900 minutes in a school year	180 minutes in a school year

1,800,000 words



90<sup>th</sup> percentile

282,000 words



50<sup>th</sup> percentile

8,000 words

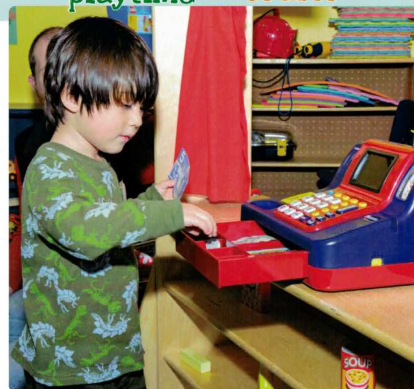


10<sup>th</sup> percentile

By the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)

games      special guests      songs  
playtime      crafts      stories      snacks



## Learning Together

Join us for a free drop-in program for children up to 5 years of age and their caregivers. Younger brothers and sisters are welcome.

Eliza Van Bibber School  
Pelly Crossing  
Monday to Friday, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.  
For more information, call 537-3231.

**Yukon**  
Education

**January 4, 2016**

Have a safe and happy holiday season. We look forward to seeing everyone back at EVBS on Monday January 4, 2016.

