

BATC Education

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Newsletter #2

This newsletter is part of our communications strategy to keep you informed of what is happening with Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs Education (BATC Education). In addition, we do have a website established (<http://www.batc.ca>) and will post jobs, BATC Education Board minutes and detailed information up-dates under the education tab.

As indicated in the June Newsletter, we were anticipating a very busy beginning to the new school year. We hope this newsletter will provide an overview of our staff and some of the activities that have gone on in August and September.

Education Board Members:

We have one Elder who provides guidance but who is a non-voting member of the Education Board. Currently Senator Don Pooyak has kindly fulfilled that role.

We have six appointed Education Board members as follows:

Ahtahkakoop: Fletcher Greyeyes
Moosomin: Lillian Blackstar (Chair)
Red Pheasant: Rene Wuttunee (Vice-Chair)
Saulteaux: **Julia Night (new member)**
Sweetgrass: Gordon Whitecalf
BATC Chiefs: Chief Stewart Baptiste

These board members are responsible for providing the overall guidance and direction for BATC Education.

BATC Education Staff:

BATC Education has hired new staff to help provide the services and program support within our five schools. We have the following staff at BATC Education (new staff members are in bold print):

Director of Education:	Stuart Keys (full-time);
Superintendent and Project Manager:	Barry Werth (part-time);
Educational Psychometrician:	Erin Johnston (full-time) (educational testing);
Speech and Language Pathologist:	Skye Angus (contracted service);
Systems Administrator:	Dan Garvey (full-time) (computers);
IT Technician	Cheyenna Sapp (full-time, temporary) (computers)
Executive Assistant:	Tammy Skilliter (full-time);
Literacy Consultant:	Lynn Semchuk (full-time);
Enhancement Coach	Patrick Bugler (full-time);
Cree Language and Culture Coordinator:	Celia Deschambeault (full-time);
Guidance Counselor	Laverne Laliberte (full-time)(Red Pheasant and Sweetgrass);
Guidance Counselor	Carmen Blackstar (full-time)(Moosomin and Saulteaux);
Guidance Counselor	Leslie Ledoux (full-time)(Ahtahkakoop);
Literacy and Math Mentor	Joanne Vandale (full-time)(Red Pheasant);
Literacy and Math Mentor	Farral Natowcappo (full-time)(Red Pheasant);
Literacy and Math Mentor	Rochelle Weenie (full-time)(Sweetgrass);
Literacy and Math Mentor	Miranda Martell (full-time)(Moosomin);
Literacy and Math Mentor	To be announced (full-time)(Moosomin);
Literacy and Math Mentor	To be announced (full-time)(Saulteaux);
Literacy and Math Mentor	To be announced (full-time)(Saulteaux);
Literacy and Math Mentor	To be announced (full-time)(Ahtahkakoop);
Literacy and Math Mentor	To be announced (full-time)(Ahtahkakoop);
Literacy and Math Mentor	To be announced (full-time)(Ahtahkakoop);
Literacy and Math Mentor	To be announced (full-time)(Ahtahkakoop);

BATC Education also has shared staff with BATC that include:

Director of Finance:	Lori Whitecalf (full-time);
Director of Operations	Ali St. Martin (full-time);
Receptionist:	Virginia Nicotine (full-time);
Accounts Clerk:	Brenda Wuttunee (full-time).

As noted on the previous page we have Literacy and Math Mentor positions in some schools that are in the process of being filled [Saulteaux (2), Moosomin (1) and Ahtahkakoop (4)]. In most cases we are waiting for final board approval prior to announcing their names. The names of the individuals hired will be posted in the next Newsletter (December). For more timely information see our website.

Pat Bugler, Enhancement Coach, is in the process of hiring of for ten positions for our schools through INAC Skills Linked Funding. These positions will be in place until March 31, 2011. Once filled the candidates will be trained as Educational Associates and receive both training and job experience through the schools. Training will consist of three courses from Credenda (distance learning from Prince Albert) in their Educational Assistant Certificate program.

Our Literacy Consultant, Lynn Semchuk, has been into all the elementary classrooms demonstrating the *Picture Word Induction Model* (PWIM) which uses pictures to introduce words, sentences, paragraphs, and eventually stories to students. Initially we had fifty-eight participants attend a two day PWIM training on August 16th and 17th. Most recently, teachers (K-6) in all the schools received additional training in PWIM from Marilyn Hrycauk, Consultant, on the 27th and 28th of September. There are six other sessions scheduled for these teachers, one each month except in December, May and June. Most teachers are quite excited about the process and you will see large pictures within the classrooms that are used in the process. Please ask about the program the next time you are in your child's classroom.

Lynn has also worked with some teachers with *Animated Literacy* which helps students with the sounds of the letters. Kindergarten to Grade Three teachers were trained on August 27th. BATC Education has supplied additional resources for all the schools in both of these programs and continues to obtain newer reading materials.

Barry Werth, Superintendent and Project Manager has been busy ensuring that the majority of the Math Makes Sense books and resources arrived in the schools. As part of the new math program, teachers participated in a one-day workshop on September 17th where they were introduced to the new math methods and materials. During the same day the Educational Associates (EA's) received training on *Supporting Instruction in the Classroom* a module offered by the Saskatchewan Educational Leadership Unit (SELU).

Celia Deschambeault, Cree Language and Culture Coordinator, has been busy in the office gathering resources and examining curricula for our Cree teachers. A meeting with the Cree teachers took place all day on September 8th. Several of the teachers stopped by after the meeting and expressed how happy they were with the materials, Celia, and the general direction of the program. The Cree teachers and an Elder from each school also attended a workshop on *Curriculum Development* in LaRonge on September 14th, 15th and 16th.

Pat Bugler, Enhancement Coach, has been busy putting together teacher supervision documents and policies that are based on the rubrics (written descriptions) for good teaching introduced to all school staff last year. Pat and I also made final arrangements for the *Supervision and Evaluation Workshops* that will train our principals in these processes. The training is being done over three days by SELU with the first date being September 27th. Formal teacher supervision and evaluation is expected to begin shortly after Thanksgiving.

Pat worked with Tom Heidt, Consultant, from September 20th to 24th as Tom conducted *Implementation Workshops* in each school. The workshops took information from the School Evaluations done last spring, elements from BATC Education's strategic plan and the Student Success Project to formulate school based plans. The schools will use these plans to guide their individual activities for the rest of the year.

Dan Garvey, Systems Administrator, and Cheyenna Sapp, IT Technician, are in the process of delivering and setting up additional computers in each school (105 in total). Most of the new computers should be installed and running by Thanksgiving.

Erin Johnston, our Educational Psychometrician, has been out in the schools doing educational testing to assist with the provision of special education services to students with special needs.

End Note:

Although we have expanded the number of staff working at BATC Education we still need the help of parents, care givers, Kokoms, and Mosoms in each community. Please help us by taking time to read with the children or have them read with you. Speak with the children in Cree to encourage the use of Cree outside of the classroom. Please share and involve the children in cultural activities where you can. For older children ask about their school work and help them with their work where you can. One of the other ways of showing your support is attending school functions. Remember that educating the children requires all of our combined efforts.