



St. Elias Community School

Box 5494, Haines Junction, YT Y0B 1L0
Tel: (867) 634-2231 Fax: (867) 634-2921

May 1, 2015

Congratulations to SECS Eagles!

We are very proud of the SECS Eagles Soccer Team for their accomplishments at the Yellowknife Super Soccer Tournament last week. The Gr.6 team tied for a Bronze medal, and the Gr. 8 team won the Gold! It would be hard to top that, but they did. Both our teams won the Sportsmanship Award for their courteous ways, respectful interactions, and willingness to help during the tournament. The Sportsmanship Awards include 2 \$500 contributions to go to the Soccer Club. An incredible effort from some very talented people! Thank you to Ms. Cowie and parent volunteer Mr. Dave Weir for their time and energy in making this trip a reality.

SECS Band Trip:

It's time for the SECS High School Band and Mr. Symanski to embark on their concert tour to rural schools. During the week of May 5th – 8th the band will perform at Carcross, Atlin & Teslin schools. Have a great trip and thanks for being wonderful representatives of our school and community!

Staff Professional Development Day – Monday May 11th, 2015:

St. Elias Staff will be involved in a Professional Development Day on **Monday May 11th, 2015**. With School Council approval, the staff will be engaged in sessions focusing on Self Regulation, Blended Learning, literacy, numeracy planning and School Growth planning for the 2015 - 2016 school year. Consultants from Yukon Education will be here to facilitate our Professional Learning Day. There will be no school for students on this day.

Don't miss SECS Band Spring Concert!

We invite you to attend our annual Spring Concert at **7:00pm on Thursday May 14th** at the Convention Center. Donations to support Band activities will be accepted at the door. Everyone is welcome to attend this great event. See you there!

Upcoming Events:

- May 5 to 8 – SECS Band Trip.
- May 8 – High School Interim Reports sent home.
- May 11 – Staff PD Day, **no school for students.**
- May 14 – SECS Band Spring Concert @ 7:00pm
- May 15 – Vanier Run Field Trip.
- May 18 – Victoria Day holiday, no school.
- May 21 – High School Awards Ceremony, Grad Cap & Gown Ceremony.
- May 22 – SECS Forestry Trail Run.
- May 25 – Graduation Ceremony 4:00pm at the Convention Ctr.

Welcome back to:
Virgil, Juliette, Kadynce,
Ole & Rebecca!

Continued on next page...

St. Elias Run Club Off to Vanier Run:

St. Elias Running Club participants who have been consistent at our running practices will have an opportunity to participate in the Vanier School Run on Friday May 15th in Whitehorse. This event will be a great training opportunity for our runners in preparation for our Forestry Trail Run in late May. GO Eagles GO!

SECS Run Club:

A reminder that the St. Elias Community School Run Club meets every Tuesday and Thursday after school. There are only a few practices left before our Forestry Trail Run so make sure you have your runners and are ready to go for every practice session!

St. Elias Green Team Wants Your Phonebooks!

SECS Green Team is coordinating the collection of old Northwestel phone books as a fund raising activity to support our Foster Child. As new telephone directories arrive in Haines Junction, we encourage you to drop off your old phone books at the school office. If you would like the Green Team to pick these up, just call the school. Thank you for participating in this annual fund raiser!

St. Elias Community School Awards Ceremonies:

St. Elias Community Staff invite all parents and community members to join us in recognizing academic achievements and outstanding efforts of our students. Our High School Awards Ceremony and Grad Cap & Gown will be held at **7:00 p.m. on May 21st** in the school gym. Our Kindergarten to Gr.7 Awards Ceremony will take place **on June 2nd**. We look forward to seeing you at the Awards Ceremonies and thank you for your continued support in our students' academic growth and accomplishments. Please come celebrate with us!!



**St Elias Community School and School Council Invites
Families and Community Members to Attend our**

School Attendance Discussion Groups

Monday May 4th at the Da Ku 7 - 9 PM

**Please join us in helping find ways to keep our kids in school!
Coffee, tea and refreshments provided by 14 ACRE FARMS**

Continued on next page...

Grade 6/7 Heritage Fair News:

This year on Tuesday, April 21st, eighteen of our grade six and seven students participated in our school Heritage Fair after the students completed their Elder/Ancestor Research Projects.

The names of the students who participated in our school heritage fair are as follows: Grade 6: Marius Allenspach, Psalm Clunies-Ross, Tanner Germain, Brodie Hume, William Hume, Ecko Kirk, Dalton Moore, Brendon MacKinnon, Jason Symanski, and Callum Weir. Grade 7s: Jacob Dulac, Nevada Joe, Mya Kinney, Tiara Kinney-Johns, Amber Kirk, Douglas McKinnon, Destiny Pauls, and Joah Thompson

At school, some of the tasks students completed for this project were to research and write informational essays about the life of their chosen ancestor. They also found and wrote a favorite family story and recipe followed by a bibliography. At home, students were asked to complete their display boards and collect pictures, items, and artifacts for display with their projects at our heritage fair.

At our fair, student's projects and presentations were judged by seven adult judges. The judges this year were: Elayne Hurlburt, Richard Smith, Jolene Billwiller, Marinka Darling, Cassandra Wheeler, Scott Cole, and Rod Collin. Miss Cheetham's Grade 3/4 students were our junior judges along with Ms Burton's 5/6s who also peer assessed the participants.

For the adult judges, the judging is always a mixed blessing. It's a wonderful opportunity for adults, as community members, to support and interact with students as they share what they have learned about their ancestor, about their families, and about their traditions and cultures. Judging is also a challenge because although all of the students learn so much and do such great work on their projects, only six may earn the privilege of attending the Territorial Heritage Fair on May 7th. So our dedicated, caring, and hard-working judges help us with this part of the process. Thank you to this year's judges for doing such great work.

Before I share the names of the six students who earned the highest scores for their projects and presentations, I want to say that I am very proud of every one of my students who researched and completed Elder/Ancestor Research Projects. Every student learned something new about their chosen ancestor, they made connections and discovered shared interests, and they reflected on how learning about family changed them. Lastly, they monitored, then self-assessed their choices, successes, and challenges having completed such a big project. Job well done 6/7s.

The results of our school Heritage Fair are:

- 1st Place:** Joah Thompson and his project on his Grandmother Judith Thompson titled "Trials into Triumph"
2nd Place: Callum Weir and his project on his Grandfather George Alistair Weir titled "A Granddad Who Took Education Seriously"
3rd Place: Jason Symanski and his project on his Grandfather William (Bill) Priestley titled "On the Road Again"
4th Place: Psalm Clunies-Ross and her project on her Great-grandmother Dorothy Freeman (Clunies-Ross) titled "A Life of Memories"
5th Place: Brendon MacKinnon and his project on his Grandfather Robert MacKinnon
6th Place: Ecko Kirk and her project on her Great-uncle titled "James (Cisco) Smith: A Life Full of Family, Friends, and Jokes".

Congratulations for your success! See you at the Territorial Heritage Fair on May 7th.

Ms Leisa Robinson-Collin (Grade 6/7 teacher)