



North Okanagan-Shuswap School District #83  
Aboriginal Education Department

**Enhanced Programs and Services for students of Aboriginal Ancestry – Elementary School Focus**

Programs and services will vary at each of the elementary schools – please contact the District Principal of Aboriginal Education for more information if your son or daughter qualifies for “enhanced” support.

<b>Aboriginal PALS</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
	-The purpose of this program is to introduce Kindergarten students to a variety of diverse cultural resources related to literacy and numeracy.	-Support the regular PALS program -Enhance early readers’ cultural experience. -To provide Aboriginal cultural activities.	-Communication with Kindergarten teachers -In class “enhanced” support as requested. -Provide a variety of experiences
<b>Academic Support</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
	-Individual and small group support. -Review progress reports and report cards -Follow up with students as needed -Schedule academic support -Homework club available. -Enhanced literacy support.	-To empower students to maximize their middle school experience. -Teach students short and long term goal planning. -Enhance academic support and success.	-Communication with students, teachers and counseling staff. -Advocacy on behalf of students. -Regular follow up with students. -Read with students.
<b>Bridging the Community</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
	-This program is designed to encourage relationship building between our school community and the local Aboriginal community.	-Foster the development of relationships. -Encourage networking and community support. -Incorporate themes such as literacy, social responsibility, and cultural awareness. -To incorporate Aboriginal perspectives throughout the program.	-Personal invitations with ten invited families -Guest speakers on current and relevant topics.
<b>Celebrations</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
	-Provide students with opportunities to be recognized and celebrate accomplishments such as academic, positive attendance, and improvements.	-Build pride and self-esteem. -Focus on the positive -Encourage students to do well.	-Invite students to a celebration lunch. -Acknowledge their accomplishments. -Offer a small token of appreciation.



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<b>Community Resources</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
	-Inform and refer students and families to outside community resources as required.	-To empower students and families to live healthy lives. -To alleviate stress due to trauma, poverty and overall mental wellness.	-Communicate with school staff. -Communicate with students and families. -Build a relationship based on trust and respect.
<b>Cultural Classroom Presentations</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
	-Present to classes as requested by classroom teacher regarding all aspects of Aboriginal culture.	-To build cultural awareness. -To build cultural sensitivity. -To erase myths and stereotypes.	-Positive communication. -Relationship building. -Open and honest sharing of information and dialogue.
<b>Culture Through Arts &amp; Crafts</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
	-A culturally based program offered as a lunch time activity that will enhance student's hands on knowledge and skills.	-To connect and teach students through cultural arts. -To foster and nurture a relationship of trust within a safe environment.	-Create a safe environment. -Build trust with students. -Provide a welcoming and supportive environment.
<b>Dancers</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
	-An opportunity for girls to participant and learn the art of Fancy Dancing and to design and make their own regalia. This is an after school program.	- To create an opportunity to celebrate students Aboriginal Ancestry. - Students will have an opportunity to express their creativity.	- Create an atmosphere of trust and safety. - Involve local community resources. -The community will welcome the students into the Pow Wow Circle.
<b>Drug &amp; Alcohol Awareness</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
	-Participation in a community wide event that supports a drug and alcohol free lifestyle.	-To increase awareness of the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol. -Promotes unity within the community. -Promotes healthy choices and positive change.	-Students will witness life stories and uplifting and inspirational triumphs. -Students will create signs showing positive life choices. -Cultural awareness and relevancy
<b>Drum Group</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
	-A traditional cultural experience for students who are committed to practice once a week and performing at events, assemblies and special events.	-To build cultural pride and awareness at an early age -To encourage students to follow up on commitments. -To "enhance" relationships.	-Provide culturally relevant experiences such as drum making and singing. -Share stories and explore Aboriginal culture. -Provide positive encouragement.



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<b>Elder in Residence</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
	-To adopt an Elder who provides guidance, cultural teachings and a nurturing relationship with students and staff.	-Cultural bridging -Cultural awareness and teaching. -Positive role models	-Model positive interaction with Elder -Communication -Hands on learning -Invite local community Elders into the school.
<b>Friendship Groups</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
	-The purpose of this after school or lunch time activity is to build social skills through experiential opportunities.	- Create opportunities for students to build on their strengths and develop friends.	-Engage students in diverse social activities based on groups' interests. -Invite parents to participant.
<b>Girl Power</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
	-The purpose of these groups is to provide a safe environment for the youth to learn and express themselves. The group covers all areas: physical, emotional, spiritual and mental.	-Inspire the students to explore who they are -Teach the students tools to live by -Motivate students to follow their dreams	-Demonstrate healthy communication -Experiential learning -Cultural awareness and relevancy
<b>Lunch Time Activities</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
	-A traditional cultural experience for students who are welcomed into the Aboriginal Education room to participate in culturally relevant activities.	-To build cultural pride and awareness. -To encourage students to participate. -To "enhance" relationships.	-Provide culturally relevant experiences such as beading, rattles, drums, artwork etc. -Get to know students in a relaxed and supportive environment. -Provide positive encouragement.
<b>Orientation Meet &amp; Greet</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
	-Bridges and introduces new Aboriginal students to their new school surroundings.	-Build relationships. -Create safe environment. - Create cultural awareness	-Invite incoming students to new school for a visit. -Provide program information.
<b>Puppetry</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
	-Based on Aboriginal legends and designed to enhance Aboriginal content in the curriculum. -Could also be used in Readers' theater.	- Introduce the importance of legends in Aboriginal culture. -Share Aboriginal culture and pride with all students.	- Engage students through the art of storytelling using puppets. - Discuss the underlying lessons of the legend with students.



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<b>Parent Support</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
	-Ongoing communication with parents by phone, email, and notes.	-Keep parents informed. -Build relationships. -Create a team support	-Gather parent emails etc. -Call all parents in September. -Inform and educate parents.
<b>Parent Information Lunches</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
	-A casual, social time for parents and Aboriginal Education staff to get to know each other.	- Create positive and supportive relationships. -To share information with each other.	- Invite parents and caregivers to a luncheon at the school. -Students to plan and participate in all aspects.
<b>Roots of Empathy</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
	-The purpose of this program is to build caring, peaceful and civil societies through the development of empathy in children and adults.	-Foster the development of empathy -To develop emotional literacy -To reduce the levels of bullying, aggression and violence and to promote children's pro-social behaviors. -To incorporate Aboriginal perspectives throughout the program.	-Communication with grade one classroom teachers, students and parents. -In class "enhanced" ROE support as scheduled.
<b>School Based Team Meetings</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
	-AEW's attend SBT's in order to be informed about student's issues around academics and/or personal challenges.	- To provide an enhanced support to students. -To be aware of students' needs. -To create a team approach.	-Communication with SBT. -Advocate on students behalf. -Build positive working relationships with school counselors and administration.
<b>Tutorial</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
	-Provide tutorial support in one to one situations or small group.	-To encourage academic success. -To inspire students to rise up and meet academic challenges.	-Positive feedback to students. -Guide students in developing positive study skills. -Connect students with Enhancement teachers when required.



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**Additional student and family enhanced support provided by qualified Social Workers**

Aboriginal Outreach Worker (AOW)	Description	Goals	Strategies
	-Ensure that all members of the students' support team are accessed and engaged in a collaborative process as required.	-To create a safe and supportive plan of action based on student and/or family needs. -To connect students and families to community resources.	- Assist students and families as required. -Advocate for students and families. -Share information and explore options.
Aboriginal Outreach Worker - one on one counseling	Description	Goals	Strategies
	-Immediate intervention for problem solving or short term counselling with specific goals related to anger management, communication/social skills, conflict resolution, and suicide prevention.	- Enhance and support students' overall well being. -Assess and suggest appropriate resources to meet needs. -Advocate for students.	-One on one meeting. -Home visits. -Therapeutic interventions -Connect students and families to outside agencies as required.