
Kets'ädän kù käy nän and Our School on the Land

“Our vision is to develop global citizens with a strong Northern identity by connecting the traditional teachings of Yukon First Nations to all of our students, families and communities through excellence in education.”



What Activities did you complete during your project

The students participated in Salmon Camps — learning about the life cycle of the salmon and how to use them in all forms. They participated in sessions learning how to make fish leather out of fish skin, return the fish scales to the river where the salmon came from and ways to prepare and eat the salmon.

Students were also able to learn from local indigenous elders around hunting, tracking and harvesting fish and animals. This included ice fishing canoeing and a variety of trips on the land around Whitehorse. Students continued to learn how to use microscopes and other gear to better understand nature at a basic level.

Staff have continued to bring students outside for forest school activities. We have a strong partnership with YFNED in these endeavours. Activities have included: learning about animal tracks, drying wild game, Setting up emergency shelters, cross country skiing, snow shoeing, kick sledding, starting fires, canoeing, and camping.



How did your activities contribute to you goals and objectives?

The objective of this proposal seeks to:

- continue engaging students to become interested in the land and animals so they will be interested in camping, hunting, and fishing throughout their lives.
- provide learning opportunities for students to participate in fishing, hunting, and trapping experiences that will build a lasting and balanced relationship with the environment.

How will we accomplish this?

1. Continue to build on our designated forest school classrooms for grades K-3, providing additional learning opportunities to take place outside. By increasing the comfort of students outside, we will be able to increase their stamina and capacity for outdoor activities.
2. **NOT ACCOMPLISHED** Hire a part-time staff member to help facilitate the Forest School classrooms. This person will be responsible for planning and teaching outdoor lessons that connect to the curriculum; and gathering, cleaning, and putting away gear.
3. Expand Leadership and Resiliency Program to the grades 4-7. By beginning at a younger grade, students will develop skills to build their stamina and capacity in an outdoor setting. By grade 7 students should have the confidence and skills to participate in a multi day overnight hunting/ fishing trip.
 - a. Students will learn how to: set snares; identify tracks; drill an ice fishing hole; set up gear; catch and clean a fish; identify local plants and animals; evaluate water quality and learn outdoor survival skills. They will also learn to butcher an animal and cook various meals using the animal.
4. Continue to build our Forest School to learn about fish, animals, riparian areas, and water quality. This involves bringing local experts, hunters and trappers, wildlife biologists and elders into the school.
5. We will continue to provide gear for students that do not have access to outdoor gear to be on the land. This has been key in getting our students outside.
6. Resume partnerships with Kwanlin Dun First Nation and the parents of Elijah Smith students will work together to instill a love of the outdoors through experiential education opportunities, thus instilling a desire and love of the outdoors. We have also built a strong relationship with YFNED.
7. Together we will infuse First Nation Ways of Knowing and Doing into our experiences. We will bring in more elders and cultural experts to teach traditional and nontraditional ways of hunting and fishing.



Note any variances to your goals, objectives or work plan and explain why they occurred.

The program tried to stay true to the application. We had hoped to retain our outdoor instructor to continue with the programming she began, however due to cuts in our FTE we were not able to do so. We also began the school year without a Principal. Jim Snider had to step into the Principal role (August to January) and had different people acting as the VP. As a result he was not able to help lead the outdoor initiatives as planned. We now have a full time Principal and will be hiring a position to work with our outdoor programming next school year. On a positive note we have built a very strong relationship with YFNED as well as a local military official that has been working on land based activities with our students.

If you were to do the project again what would you do differently?

We would like to bring in more local experts to guide teachers that are not comfortable bringing their students outside. We are also planning to hire a position into the school next year to oversee the programming.



What did you do to ensure your results were shared with appropriate groups?

The enhancement trust will be recognized through our webpage and Special thanks be given in our Newsletter as well as at our Family Supper.

Thank you for your Support!

Hand Warmers, Flashlights, tarps	513.08
Canoe Instruction	100
Neck Warmers	15.75
Snow Pants/Boots	183.72
Boots	239.34
Wall Tents	2545.03
Storage for Outdoor Gear	630
TOTAL	\$4226.92