



September 2011 Report

Director of Instruction
Maxine Ruzicka

Aboriginal Education

- September 21: Ab Ed culture scope and sequence planning session
- September 22: Teleconference with Colleen Hannah, Min. of Education Aboriginal Education branch to review SD 51 Aboriginal Education Annual report, review SD 51 Enhancement Agreement renewal process and set date for District visit with Ted Cadwallader (October 17).
- September 26: Michael Price, carver and storyteller visited schools in the Boundary. Students were very engaged and responsive to his art and his personal life stories.



Michael Price

Artist of the Pacific
North West



Just 13 years ago, a young man stared out into the Pacific Ocean, lamenting the death of his uncle just days before. His gaze was distracted only by a floating piece of cedar, little bigger than his hand. Michael still can't explain why, but something inspired him to rescue the driftwood from its watery fate. He pulled out a pocket knife and began to carve.

His parents were astonished that their son, who had never shown any such inclination, was now able to create such a beautifully crafted carving with no instruction. And yet his late uncle had enjoyed such a skill. They thanked his uncle's spirit for passing on his talent in the afterlife.

Michael Price was born August 3rd, 1975 in Campbell River, BC. His father is a member of the Lekwiltok First Nation at Cape Mudge, Quadra Island, BC. Michael's mother is from Village Island, BC. - The Mamalilikula Band. The Mamalilikulla and Lekwiltok are native bands within the Kwakiutl Nation (also know as Kwagiulth). The Kwakiutl is traditionally Kwakwaka speaking, so are also referred to as being Kwakwaka'wakw.

Early Years

- Strong Start Sessions – dates and times advertised in the Gazette Success by Six
- Ready Set Learn – Early Years Fairs:
 - October 13, 1pm to 3pm @ Midway Elementary
 - October 14, 9am to 11 pm @ Hutton Elementary

- September 14: EDI (Early Development Instrument) trainer teleconference
- September 20: EDI Wave 4 Community Summaries available from the HELP (Human Early Learning Partnership) site
- September 23: Meeting and review of Wave 4 results with Early Years Coordinator Ellen Strellaeff – presentation of information and discussion will be on the agenda for the October BEYAC (Boundary Early Years Advisory Committee) meeting. – In Wave 4, West Boundary saw a number of areas increase in vulnerability. Generally the Boundary is at the same level of vulnerability as we were during Wave 3.

Student Services/Special Education

- From the end of August to the middle of September, we have completed two in-service sessions for teachers and student support staff on the Academy of Learning – Reading and Math. This is an Auto Skill International computerized learning resource that engages and inspires students of all ages and abilities to learn. We did a small pilot at a secondary and a couple of elementary schools last year and after evaluating the very positive results that students experienced, we decided to extend the pilot to all schools for students who had gaps in their Reading and/or Math skills. Currently, across the Boundary there are 120 students engaged in the Academy of Math program and 90 students engaged in the Academy of Reading, from grade 2 to 12.
- SET BC (Special Education Technologies BC) consultant Rob Plasket has been working with the school district to assist us in implementing the Kurzweil on-line program to assist those students who have diagnosed and serious reading and writing disabilities. In the past, the Ministry of Education allowed these students to have readers and scribes in their classrooms and when participating in provincial examinations. As of this year, students are expected to use technology to be their reader and scribe. Rob has given generously of his time to assist us in implementing this in our District by providing professional development with our teachers and Education Assistants. He will be conducting another session on the Kurzweil program at BCSS on October 21, to assist classroom and special education teachers in the implementation of this resource as a classroom adaptation strategy for students. He will also spend some additional time with up to six EA's who have the role of being the Kurzweil 'help desk' at the two secondary schools and four elementary schools.
- District Education Psychologist:
 - 11 student case consultations
 - 3 Psych assessments=
 - BCeSIS 1701 support for (Hutton, GES, BCSS, WDC, BWCS,)
 - 28 school consultations on student designations
 - 4 hearing consultations with specialist
 - 6 provincial exam adjudication
 - secondary school adjudication support - overview, file review, case consultations
 - Provincial Outreach Program POPARD assessment case load meeting