



KERC DIBAAJIMOWIN / TABAAHCHIMOWIN

Boozhoo, Aniin, Waciiya!
from Executive Director Christina Meekis

Kwayaciiwin Education Resource Centre is continuing their strong commitment to the First Nations schools and communities they serve. We are here and have been engaging with community schools. The pandemic has had a tremendous impact on how we conduct our interactions with the communities and agencies. At Kwayaciiwin, we've had to re-examine our purpose and reinforce ways to improve our service delivery to the north. Kwayaciiwin was born out of the need to improve the education of Indigenous students through the teaching and reinforcing the native languages, culture, and traditional values of the area.



The School Success Team heads to Wunnumin.

Communication and follow-up initiatives are keys to enable your communities to promote and increase their teaching capacities and aspirations resulting in more local control of education. This newsletter format is one way we hope to achieve outreach. In saying that, most KERC staff are Ontario Certified Teaching professionals who will assist schools and community members in specified areas of Ontario curriculum as well as in Native Language and land-based program areas. We know that no one community may have the same educational needs as the next. Kwayaciiwin will continue to tailor those needs - the resources and supports- all you have to do is ask.



Members of the School Success Team ready and eager to get back to engaging with schools and communities!

Our Student Success, Print & Production, and Language & Culture departments are providing specific and specialized support services. The staff have been conducting virtual professional development sessions for school staff - specific sessions with Special Education, literacy and math are delivered when requested by the schools. Our consultants have engaged in Board training sessions for both the KERC Board as well as Local Education Authorities. We delivered online finance sessions to increase capacity in First Nation finances. We have had staff travel to communities to conduct professional development workshops and assessments, as well as planning sessions for specific community needs and Special Education programming. The Kwayaciiwin staff have also provided support to schools when a community tragedy occurs by engaging the children in activities at the school while the community is dealing with other aspects of the incident(s). The Kwayaciiwin staff have also provided support to communities in the form of resources, activity packages, and food supplies when community travel is not permitted.

As my former and late Chief Jonas Fiddler has always advised educators, "Always do your work in the best interest of the child." They will carry our world forward.

Stay safe, healthy and happy.

New & Upcoming Resources

K-8 Integrated Units

KERC has created new Integrated Units for grades K - 8 that are regionally and culturally specific for First Nation communities in Northwestern Ontario. The lessons are based on the Ontario curriculum and include Native language and culture (with options for Traditional and Christian communities). These cross curricular units were created by the School Success Team using Indigenous pedagogies and worldviews and are designed to make learning relevant to the students and their lives. They include 700 vocabulary cards in native language to assist in bringing more language learning into the classroom. The units are set up using the 6 seasons and each grade has at least 36 full lesson plans. Each lesson includes the specific curriculum expectations, learning goals, material and resource lists (all blackline masters and hyperlinks included), assessments and evaluations (blackline masters included), accommodations, and step by step teaching strategies for each lesson. Contact Amanda Patterson for more information at apatterson@kerc.ca.

Kwayaciiwin Education Resource Centre's Themes for Integrated Units

Season	Kindergarten	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Takwaakan	Daily Physical Activity	My Feelings	Traditions and Celebrations	Animal Homes	Habitats	Consequences of Contact	Indigenous Art and Culture	Healthy Lifestyles	Healthy Lifestyles
Picipipoon	Listen and Respond	My Life	Families	First Nations and Métis People	Light and Sound	How Contact Effects Us Today	Plants and Animals of the North	Sustainability and Stewardship	Respecting Culture and Traditions
Pipoon	My Likes and Dislikes	Respect	Maps	First Nations Experiences of the Past	Rocks and Minerals	Home Sweet Home	Our Land	Indigenous Contributions to the World	Indigenous Contributions to the World
Siikwan	What Interests Me	Healthy Environment	The World	Our Soil	First Nations and Inuit People	Local Lens	Flight	Natural Resources	Natural Resources
Minookamin	Predicting and Retelling Skills	Five Senses	Adaptations	Our Plants	Parts of Canada	Conservation of Energy and Resources	Healthy Bodies and Minds	Natural Events in our Area	Water Issues
Niipin	Let's Solve a Problem	Daily and Seasonal Changes	Life Cycles	Gifts from the Land	Canada's Land Masses	Reducing Energy Consumption	Indigenous Representation in the Media	First Nations Education	First Nations Education



Special Education Coach Jenn Elwell and Literacy Coach Kate Brailsford enjoying their flight to Kingfisher Lake.

Members of the School Success Team ready and eager to get back to engaging with schools and communities!



New & Upcoming Resources

Native Language Curriculum & Assessments - Grades 1-4

We are excited to release the KERC Native Language Curriculum Guide and Assessment Resource for Grades 1 - 4! It was created in response to a request from local Native language teachers for more resources on understanding the Ontario curriculum, new classroom teaching ideas, and learning more ways to do assessments that will drive learning. It is laid out in a user-friendly format and language and includes lists of vocabulary and common phrases by grade and expectations from the Ontario curriculum for each grade. This resource also includes various teaching strategies, including Indigenous pedagogies, along with the worksheets ready to go! There are many assessment ideas, tools, and templates included to help teachers feel supported in trying something new!



Grade 3 Native Language Assessment Tools - Teacher Tool Oral

Preposition and Locative Words

Preposition and locative words:

above, across, against, along, among, around, at, before, behind, below, beneath, beside, between, by, down, from, in, into, near, of, off, on, to, toward, under, upon, with and within

Teach the students to use the prepositions and locatives in full sentences.

For example: The pencil is behind the door.

You could practice these skills as fun games in the classroom acting out the prepositions, you can use puppets to show the positions and have students tell you (example: The puppet is _____ the chair). This also can be achieved through drawing exercises and activities outside.



Grade 2 Native Language Formation of Negative in Answers

The following are some suggestions for simple questions and answers students in grade 2 could practice. It is very important to model how to not only ask questions but how to respond with a full answer. The concept being observed is if they can answer in the formation of negative with more than the word no.

Is it your bedtime?
It is not my bedtime.

Is it time for the bus?
It is not time for the bus.

Is it a school day?
It is not a school day.

Is the store open?
The store is not open.



This resource was a project completed by the Student Success Team with the Native Language Coach and audited by Northern teachers for feedback. The lessons were created to inspire teachers to try new things in their classrooms and to get students speaking in the language and learning language conventions through oral and written activities. We sent each community a whole new set of KERC resources that correlate with the lessons, including books in native language, workbooks, syllabic charts, flashcards, bingo cards, and more! Be on the lookout for the grade 5 - 8 package in the fall! If you would like more information, please contact our Native Language Coach, Kathy Wesley, at kwesley@kerc.ca.

Special Education at KERC: Resources and Jordan's Principle Support



Special education is a big focus at KERC. During the pandemic we have not only been supporting schools with their special education needs, but we have been developing materials as well. Jenn Elwell, our Special Education Coach, has developed many practical guides to help all schools with their special education needs. For example, we have developed the Special Education Handbook, the Teacher Assistant and Tutor Escort Handbook, the Family Guide to Special Education, the Roles and Responsibilities of Special Education Booklet and pamphlets written in parent-friendly language about common special education disorders, such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Oppositional Defiant Disorder. KERC also offers support with Jordan's Principle applications. Whether you need help with an individual or group application, our Special Education Coach is here to help. We offer support with collecting and completing all of the necessary paperwork in order to receive funding for your students' needs. Contact Jenn Elwell at jelwell@kerc.ca for more information.

New & Upcoming Resources

Math Skills Check Pilot Program

There are times in the school year when teachers want to know how their students are doing in mathematics. There are many different tests and assessments that teachers can use, but they all have a big problem: they were not made for students in Indigenous communities. Students in Indigenous communities have rich and interesting lives that are quite different from students in urban areas, such as Toronto. Tests and assessments that are written with Toronto students in mind use situations and ideas that students in the North don't experience, and they ignore situations that students in the North would find familiar.

To address this issue, KERC has created the Kwayaciiwin Math Skills Check, which is a set of culturally appropriate math assessments to support teachers in northwestern Ontario communities.

Using these specially created tests, teachers can quickly and accurately check students' math knowledge and track their progress. By using the Kwayaciiwin Math Skills Check, teachers can adjust their lessons so that each child will learn at their own ideal pace.

At KERC, we know teachers are busy, so we made the skills check package very easy to use. It contains everything a teacher needs, so they can get started right away. The Kwayaciiwin Math Skills Check is currently in a pilot program in a community school and will be made widely available for the upcoming school year. For more information, contact Pete Wyspianski, Numeracy Coach, at pwyspianski@kerc.ca.

The problem above is a sample from the Kwayaciiwin Math Skills Check. Were you able to solve it?

A truck is driving along the winter road:

Hour	Total Distance
1	61km
2	111 km
3	146 km
4	206 km

Is this a proportional or non-proportional situation? Explain how you know. If it is proportional, what is the rate?

Can you solve this math problem?

KERC-Created Novel Studies

KERC is excited to announce that we have two new novel study units available for grade 7/8 and grade 10 classrooms! We chose *The Case of Windy Lake* by Michael Hutchison for grade 7/8 and *Moon of the Crusted Snow* by Waubgeshig Rice for grade 10. Both novels are written by Canadian Indigenous authors and address what life is like on a modern day northern reserve. We piloted *The Case of Windy Lake* in three schools in the 2020-2021 school year and are currently piloting *Moon of the Crusted Snow* in two schools this year. Classroom teachers and students are encouraged to provide feedback that helps us make improvements to the lesson plans and activities.

Each novel study has a teacher's guide that includes a step-by-step lesson plan for each chapter, including teaching strategies, important vocabulary words, and suggestions for differentiating the lesson to meet the needs of all learners. Each student also receives a student workbook that includes all of the activities and worksheets they will need. Both novel studies are based on the Ontario curriculum and contain a variety of activities, assessments, and self reflections to get students learning and engaged, while also practicing the literacy skills they will need to be successful in high school and beyond. All lessons were carefully planned using Indigenous pedagogies and worldviews and in consultation with the authors of the books chosen. We are also excited to announce that the author of *Moon of Crusted Snow*, Waubgeshig Rice, will be presenting at the Kekeenawmawkayo Conference in May! If you would like more information about the novel studies, please contact Kate Brailsford at kbrailsford@kerc.ca.



New & Upcoming Resources

Land Based Learning

This resource is a work in progress that encourages community-school relationships and needs help from YOU! As the resource is developed, we will be reaching out to customize the content to your community culture, traditions, history and values. Fall lessons were released and based on that feedback, winter lessons are being developed. Watch for more lessons coming your way soon! Contact Amanda at apatterson@kerc.ca for more information.



Primary Coach Laura Kurytnik catching a nap on the flight.

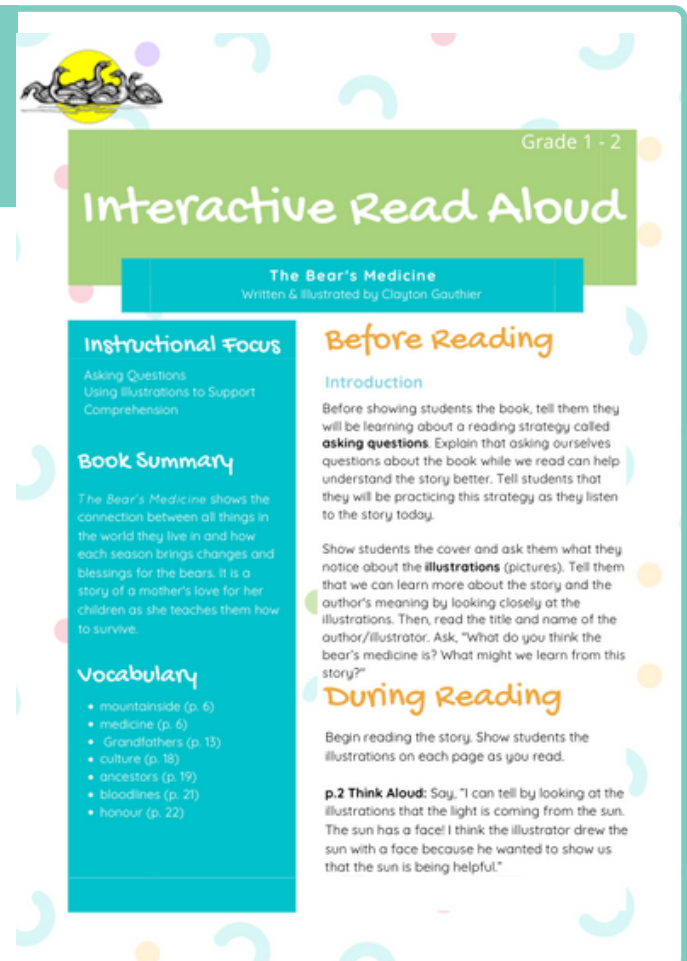
Indigenous Libraries & Read Aloud Kits

KERC has a growing Indigenous Library for teachers and students in Grades K-10. We have already purchased and sent three library sets to member communities, and the fourth collection is being ordered now!

Read Aloud Kits are also being developed for teachers, which contain comprehensive lesson plans, suggestions for assessment, and extension activities for each book. These books are culturally and regionally relevant, therefore students are more likely to be engaged in the learning process when they see themselves reflected in the content. Indigenous authors and characters showcase Indigenous ways of living and worldviews.



We hope these books help students develop a strong cultural identity while on their educational journeys! Indigenous Libraries work towards the Decolonization and Indigenization of classrooms, as part of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee Calls to Action. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Kurytnik, Primary Coach, at lkurytnik@kerc.ca.




New & Upcoming Resources

Draw and Trace


Trace your hand into the box using a pencil. Trace the words below your picture using markers, crayons, or coloured pencils.

Ninj

σ α λ



Winter Activity Book
Kindergarten



Name: _____



Winter Activity Book
Grade 8



Name: _____

Blow up a Balloon!

Can you blow up a balloon with just baking soda and vinegar? Follow the directions below.

What you'll need:

- Baking soda
- Vinegar
- Balloon
- Empty pop bottle (500 ml)
- Spoon
- Funnel (optional)

Directions:



1. Carefully add 2 to 3 spoonfuls of baking soda to the balloon. A funnel will make this step easier.



2. Pour 2 to 3 cm of vinegar into the bottom of the empty pop bottle.



3. Stretch open the mouth of the balloon, and carefully put it over the top of the pop bottle.



4. Lift the balloon and allow the baking soda to fall into the bottle and mix with the vinegar.



5. Sit back and watch what happens!

Did you know?
Mixing baking soda and vinegar is an example of a chemical reaction. When the baking soda and vinegar mix together, they react, creating lots of fizzy and bubbles. This is because a gas, called carbon dioxide, is being produced. The carbon dioxide rises and inflates (fills up) the balloon.

Extension:
Carbon dioxide gas is heavier than air. Carefully remove the balloon from the bottle (so that you lose as little of the carbon dioxide gas as possible) and tie up the balloon. What happens when you drop the balloon? Does it fall faster or slower than a balloon filled with regular air?

Winter Activity Books

After the Christmas holidays, KERC's School Success Team came together to create a series of Winter Activity Booklets to be sent to all 49 NAN communities. Our goal for the activity booklets is to provide students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12 with at-home learning activities. Each booklet contains fun learning opportunities and outdoor activities like Handy Measuring, the Rubber Egg Experiment, Nature Art, and How to Make a Duct Tape Sled!

For more information, contact Ashley Smith, Student Learning Lead, at asmith@kerc.ca.



Numeracy Coach Pete Wyspianski prepares for takeoff!

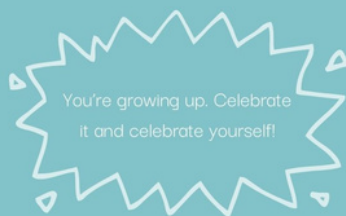
New & Upcoming Resources

INTRODUCTION

The key word when it comes to puberty is CHANGE.

Your body is changing, your feelings are changing, and your relationships with those around you are changing. You're growing up and becoming an adult! The change from childhood to adulthood is called **puberty**. Somewhere between the ages of about 8 and 16 puberty will begin. It will be different and take a different amount of time for everyone, so try not to compare yourself to others. You will grow and mature in your own way and at your own pace. By the time you're around 18 to 20 years old, puberty will be over.

The next few years are going to be pretty interesting. All this change might even seem kind of scary. Just remember that the most important thing about you isn't going to change. No matter what, you'll always be the same unique person you've always been!



Growing Up Okay: A Guide to Puberty

"Growing Up Okay" is a booklet aimed at preteens and teens who will be beginning puberty. Using frank language and accurate terminology, it guides students through topics such as menstruation, physical and hormonal changes, keeping your body healthy, and frequently asked questions that teens and preteens have about puberty and the changes their bodies are experiencing.

Contact Chelsea Nobels, Mental Health Support Coach for more information at cnobels@kercc.ca.



School Success Team members Jenn Elwell, Ashley Smith, Kate Brailsford, and Kathy Wesley prepare to board their flight to Wapekeka.

**A
powerful
book you
must
read...
Available Now**



KERC STORE
Education and Language Learning Resources

Upcoming PD, Training, and Conferences

Save the Date: Kekeenamawkayo Conference 2022!



The theme for Kekeenamawkayo 2022 is Reconnection & Rejuvenation: Culture, Courage, Creativity & Resilience. We have created a schedule that takes careful consideration into Indigenous content, presenters and pedagogies.



Our presenter lineup (outside of the KERC team) includes: Jeff Noble, Dennis Chartrand, Pow Wow Aerobics, Turtle Concepts, Agnes Carlson, Waubgeshig Rice, Shibastik, Louis Busch, and Joe Pitawanakwat, as well as representatives from district schools. There will be something for everyone!



Be sure to SAVE THE DATES and join us at the Delta Winnipeg this Spring!



May 17th, 18th & 19th 2022

Winnipeg, Manitoba

We look forward to reconnecting with you!

Principal Learning Network

The Principalship is a rewarding yet a challenging position that requires significant support to be successful. We want to improve student outcomes, both academic and well-being, to give students the opportunity to develop to their potential and be successful in their post-secondary path.

Kwayaciiwin provides support and professional development to school principals. The School Success Coach and our LEA contract consultant have been providing virtual Principal Learning Network sessions every two weeks. Our goal is to build a network of collegial support. These sessions build a community of administrators, provide support, discuss best practices, and a time for learning and sharing. We use the Ontario Leadership Framework as our foundation. Topics have been focused on management and leadership development. Some examples are Change Theory, Legal Issues, School Improvement Planning, Staff Evaluation, Assessment, Effective Schools, and Instructional Leadership, just to name a few. Contact Don Nahachewsky, School Success Coach, at dnahachewsky@kerc.ca for more information.

"The school principal is the second most important person for student achievement and well-being, next to the classroom teacher."

-Leithwood



KWAYACIIWIN
Education Resource Centre
ᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕ

Need more information?
Check out our webpage!
www.kwayaciiwin.com



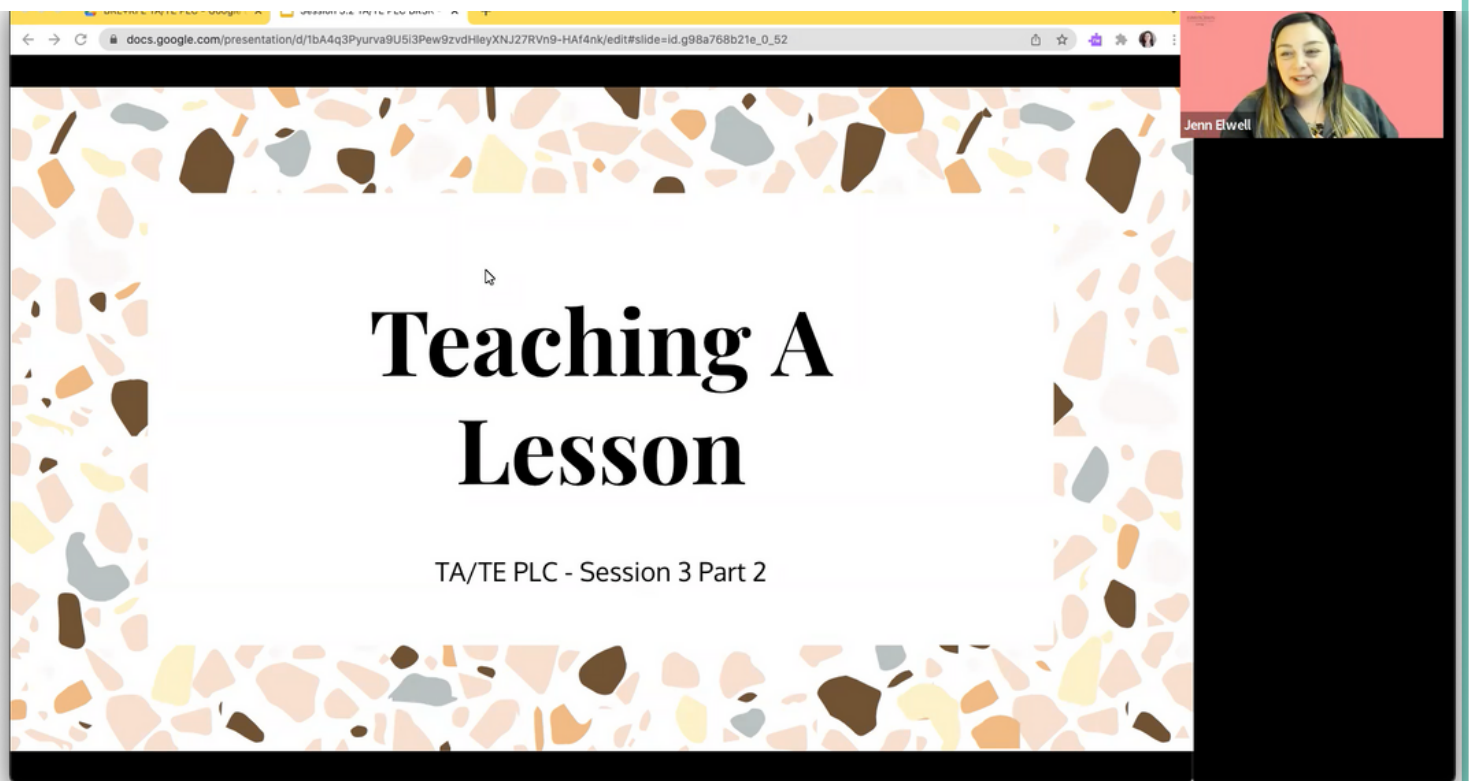
KWAYACIIWIN
Education Resource Centre
ᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕ

Upcoming PD, Training, and Conferences

TA/TE Training Professional Learning Community (PLC)

Teacher Assistants (TAs) and Tutor Escorts (TEs) are paraprofessionals who work with the teacher and the special education teacher to support student learning. Typically, TAs work with children in small groups or individually to provide individualized instruction, review, and catch-up. TEs usually work with one student to provide that student's customized learning program. TAs and TEs do many other duties in the school, from supervising recess to wrangling children off and onto the bus. They can also fill in when the teacher is away for a short time. There is no official training program for TAs and TEs, but principals know that TAs and TEs will be a lot more effective and confident when they have good training.

Kwayaciiwin Education Resource Centre has been providing TA and TE training for many years. In the fall of 2021, we tried a new virtual format for our TA and TE training that has been very well received. To accommodate busy TAs and TEs, we provide the training in 30-minute sessions on Zoom twice per week. Most schools have the sessions at the end of the school day.



Participants have really liked our four-week PLC, with two sessions per week. This format lets us cover four different topics. Kwayaciiwin Education Resource Centre works with school staff to set the topics for each school. One popular topic is "Duty of Care", which covers best practices and legal obligations for TAs and TEs when they are working with children. Another popular topic is "Teaching a Lesson" which shows TAs and TEs how to make and teach a lesson that will be interesting and effective for their students. We are very flexible and can adjust the topics and length to meet the specific needs of a school. We give small homework assignments throughout the training to reinforce the learning and give participants a chance to try their new knowledge in their classrooms. At the end of the training, participants receive a certificate of completion. The TA and TE Training PLC is available to schools throughout the school year. For more information, contact Pete at pwyspianski@kerc.ca or Jenn at jelwell@kerc.ca.

EQAO/OSSLT

KERC and EQAO staff will be providing professional development on how to administer the upcoming EQAO and OSSLT assessments. Principals please check your emails for dates and invites. If you have any questions contact Ashley Smith, Student Learning Lead, at asmith@kerc.ca.

