



## *WV Aboriginal Education Committee*

### *School Plans – 2014/2015*

#### **SENTINEL SECONDARY SCHOOL**

**Contact:** Mike Finch

The Sentinel Community is very ethnically diverse, with students from over 30 countries. There are 150 international and seven First Nations students. The school offers several programs of choice: French Immersion, Super Achievers, Hockey, Soccer, Baseball and Tennis Academies and Advanced Placement.

The purpose of this plan is to enhance the education of First Nation/Aboriginal learners, increase awareness of First Nations/Aboriginal heritage for all students and to maintain the collection of data that measures student achievement in selected performance areas.

#### **Rationale:**

Specifically, this plan identifies the need to:

- Encourage, enhance, and affirm a strong identity, pride in heritage, and healthy self-esteem in First Nation/Aboriginal students by creating an environment that embraces First Nation/Aboriginal cultures.
- Promote and support First Nation/Aboriginal peoples' sense of ownership in their educational system/experience.
- Honour and support the history, culture, and language of the Squamish Nation whose traditional territories are served by Sentinel Secondary (SD No. 45).
- Continuously improve performance for all First Nation/Aboriginal students to meet locally established targets in all areas of learning.
- Continuously improve educational opportunities for First Nation/Aboriginal students.
- Continuously improve cross-cultural education/awareness for non-Aboriginal learners and staff.

#### **Strategies:**

- Create a First Nations Action Committee to discuss levels of participation that can be integrated/adopted by staff and students into the classroom.
- Feature any First Nations activities/events in both the school newsletter and on the school website.
- Bring cultural presenters/members of the First Nations Community in to speak during Collaborative Day assemblies for students.
- Showcase more of the current First Nations practices/projects employed by Sentinel staff around the school.
- Include a First Nations component to our Multi-Cultural day activities.
- Monitor and encourage Sentinel First Nation students' attendance and performance.
- To encourage teachers to consider and find ways to include/integrate a First Nations component into their curricular practices.

### Assistance Needed:

- Continue to provide contacts/updates for First Nations educational and cultural opportunities.
- A list of possible First Nations educational and cultural opportunities that may already exist.
- Funding to provide these opportunities

### Current/Past Activities/Events/Practices:

- Welcoming Celebration: - October 2013 marked the unveiling of Sentinel's 'ThunderSpartan,' a figure/carving suspended from the front entrance way of the School. School population and community participated in a welcoming ceremony that acknowledged the ancestral lands and honored protocols and traditions of the FN community.
- MOA Field Trip - Socials Studies 9 and 11 student field trip to MOA
- Paddle Carving: - Senior Woodworking students are provided with the opportunity to carve traditional or contemporary paddles of First Nations design.
- Canoe Paddling - Sentinel Boy's Club will explore the possibilities of paddling a traditional FN canoe with Sahplek (Bob Baker)
- Dance - Dance 9/10 and 11/12 classes participating in traditional FN dances with Sahplek (Bob Baker), presentations during school assemblies/ceremonies
- Drum making: - SS 9/FRIM SS 9 students design, create and craft their own native drum to support ceremonial and cultural practices of First Nations people.
- Letter writing: - SS 10 students write letters to government (fictional/historical) to argue their points of view regarding early settlement and the colonization of Canada.
- SS 9/ curriculum: - Components of early Canadian settlement, trading, treaties etc taught in various SS classes.
- Guest Speakers/: Guest Presenters: - Planning 10 students have experienced First Nations speakers visiting their class to discuss tolerance, acceptance and racism.
  - SS 8/9 students have experienced First Nations speakers visiting their class to discuss traditional aboriginal stories.
  - Guest presenter in Social Justice 12 class leading discussion on residential schools.
  - Guest Dancers in to Dance 9 – 12 and PE classes.
  - Guest presenter to come into Drama and Writing 12 classes to discuss story telling.
- Staff Presentation: Baker/Lynn Tomlinson) focussed on creating awareness of First Nations activities and possible curricular components that can be utilized in the classroom. This includes; guest speakers, cultural presentations and practical, hands on activities.
- Languages Teachers - Language teachers are exploring having Bob Baker or another representative from the Squamish Nation come in to teach language lessons.