Voluntary, Confidential Aboriginal Student Self-Identification

The DDSB provides the opportunity for voluntary, confidential self-identification of Aboriginal ancestry. This information is used by the Board to implement the Ontario First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework and allows students and families to access:

- Additional support for academic success and well-being
- Information about cultural learning activities and student leadership opportunities
- Connections to post-secondary institutions, community services and groups.

Self-identification can be completed by:

- Indicating on the school registration and verification forms in September
- Filling in a form during registration at a school or during a DDSB event
- Accessing the form on the DDSB Aboriginal Education website.

Supporting documentation is not required to identify a child's ancestry as First Nation, Métis, or Inuit.

Self-identification enables the DDSB to support and measure Aboriginal student success and achievement. The information is collected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection Privacy Act and is used to develop and monitor the implementation of programs and strategies to improve engagement, achievement, well-being and success of First Nation, Métis and Inuit students. Data is shared regularly in aggregate form with the Ministry of Education and EQAO.

The Urban Aboriginal population in Durham Region continues to increase. In 2011 the Durham First Nation, Métis and Inuit population was 8,905. The current estimation is between 12,000 and 15,000. According to the most current September 2016 Power School extract, there were 1,036 students who self-identified in the DDSB. The Ministry allocates 40 percent of the funding for Aboriginal initiatives based on the self-identified Aboriginal student population.

Please direct questions to the First Nation, Métis and Inuit Department and/or visit the DDSB Aboriginal Education website at www.ddsb.ca/programs/aboriginaled.

Contact Information

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Curve Lake Cultural Centre and Petroglyphs Visit

First Nation, Métis and Inuit Studies teachers visited Curve Lake First Nation and the Petroglyphs on September 20. The visit began with a teaching about the history of Curve Lake and experiences of the community. In the afternoon, participants visited the Petroglyphs and reviewed classroom resources and programs that help develop accurate and engaging lesson plans to integrate the history of residential schools and treaty education into their course curriculum.

Aboriginal Post-Secondary Information Program

On October 11, the Aboriginal Post-Secondary Information Program (APSIP) was hosted by O’Neill CVI and G.L. Roberts CVI. This program informed Aboriginal students of post-secondary educational opportunities while empowering them to pursue future goals.
Aboriginal Family Network Program
The Aboriginal Family Network program is in its tenth year and continues to be an important link to the Aboriginal community. Teacher, student and community volunteers, Aboriginal mentors, Elders and special guests provide a warm, engaging environment where Aboriginal histories, cultures, traditions and perspectives are shared. Students from JK to Grade 12 who are of First Nations, Métis or Inuit (FNMI) ancestry and their families are invited to attend. Ten evening sessions will be held this year. The first five fall/winter sessions will be held at G.L. Roberts CVI on the following dates: October 11 and 25, November 8 and 22, and December 6. Sessions run from 6-8 p.m. The dates of the winter/spring sessions are as follows: March 21, April 4 and 18, May 2 and 16 (locations to be determined). The evenings will involve Elders, Aboriginal guests and community partners, storytelling, drumming, singing, traditional games, arts, crafts, and traditional Indigenous food. Registration forms are on the DDSB Aboriginal Education website or at program sessions.

Orange Shirt Day
To recognize Orange Shirt Day on September 30, staff and students wore orange shirts and participated in learning about residential schools and the impact they had and continue to have. Orange Shirt Day is an opportunity for all Canadians to come together in a spirit of reconciliation.

Indigenous Education School Contacts
Teachings from Elder Blu Waters were experienced during a September 30 workshop while participants gained knowledge of Orange Shirt Day and its significance to residential school survivors. Teachers gained insight from fellow network teachers while creating an action plan for their school. They shared and learned about the Aboriginal Education contact role and school-wide/classroom best practices. Participants received the new Treaty Kit and new selections of resources to support lessons in the classroom and raise awareness.