



## **FH COLLINS SECONDARY SCHOOL**

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### **SCHOOL NEWSLETTER March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

As we move closer to the anniversary of the Covid-19 pandemic having a direct impact on us in the Yukon, I want to highlight the perseverance and patience that you all have demonstrated in the past year. With the vaccine rollout now well underway in Whitehorse, I encourage you all to book your vaccination appointments so we can move closer to bringing normalcy back our territory. If you haven't already done so, please visit : <https://yukon.ca/en/this-is-our-shot> to book your appointment.

March is always an exciting month because the temperature starts to get a bit warmer, the days start to get a bit longer, and of course March Break is in the middle of the month! There is no school for students and staff from March 15th-26th. Please enjoy this time off and take the opportunity to recharge your batteries.

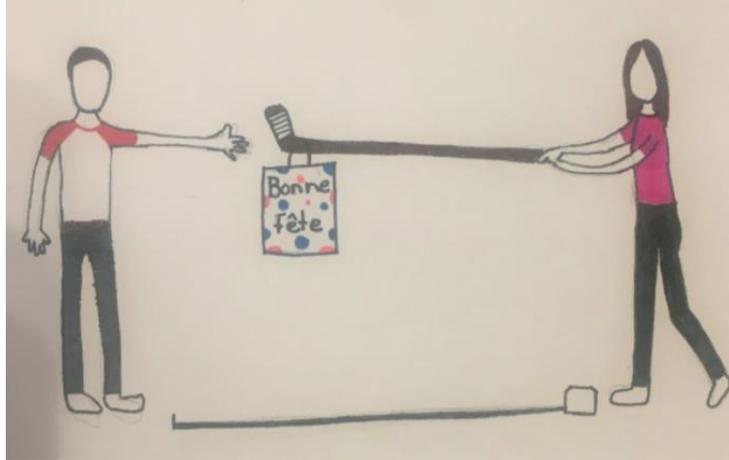
March is also important because, in addition to focusing on work that needs to be done for this school year, we also begin to prepare for next school year. We do not know what next year will look like as of yet, but we will inform you when we have information to share. Three-way conferences take place in March, so please take the opportunity to connect with the staff to check on your child's progress.

In this newsletter, I am happy to provide updates on some exciting initiatives that we started this semester, as well as some new initiatives that are coming later on in this semester.

Have an enjoyable break this month, and by the time the next newsletter needs to be written, the weather will be even warmer, the sun will be even brighter, and even more people will be vaccinated!

Sincerely,

Jay Thomas, principal



### **Three-Way Conferences**

FH Collins will be hosting our semester 2 Three-Way conferences on the evenings of March 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:00pm-7:15pm. On the evening of March 30<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Zoom/ conference call opportunity for those who choose to participate via distance from 7:15pm-8:15pm. We strongly encourage students to join parents for these meetings.

As a result of these meetings taking place in the evening, there will be no school for students on Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Literacy & Numeracy Assessments & Interventions**

As was posted in last month's newsletter, we have begun to implement literacy and numeracy assessment and intervention programs for our grade 8's and 9's. We have assessed almost all students in these grades, and have started to establish intervention support groups for students who require it. We are working to ensure that the intervention groups have minimal impact on students' schedules.

If you have any questions, please contact:

John Main (Literacy Intervention): [john.main@yesnet.yk.ca](mailto:john.main@yesnet.yk.ca)

Marie Daniels (Numeracy Intervention): [marie.daniels@yesnet.yk.ca](mailto:marie.daniels@yesnet.yk.ca)

Don't forget that we have a free tutorial program for all students from grades 8-12. Please take advantage of this service if you need it!

### **Food Program Partnership with YFNED**

Students learn best when they are well fed. We are very pleased to announce that, in partnership with the Yukon First Nations Educational Directorate (YFNED), we will be offering a complimentary breakfast and snack program. We will be setting up a

table in the atrium, and offering students a continental breakfast. Snacks will also be available for those who need it.

A huge thank you to the Yukon First Nations Education Directorate for providing this amazing opportunity for our students.

### **2021/22 Course Selection**

Student course selection for 2021/22 has now taken place. If your child has not done their course selection, please contact the appropriate guidance counsellor as soon as possible.

Michel Morris (A-G): [michel.morris@yukon.ca](mailto:michel.morris@yukon.ca)

Jodi Tuton (H-M): [jodi.tuton@yukon.ca](mailto:jodi.tuton@yukon.ca)

Aisha Alwarid (N-Z): [aisha.alwarid@yukon.ca](mailto:aisha.alwarid@yukon.ca)



### **New Staff Member**

We are pleased to introduce Steven Latrian as a member of our EA team. Steven is working with the grade 8's at the Wood St campus. Welcome, Steven!



## **Lost & Found**

We have put all of the items in our lost and found on a table in the atrium. If you are missing something, please take a look in the pile to see if your item is on the table.

## **Traffic Concerns in the Parking Lot**

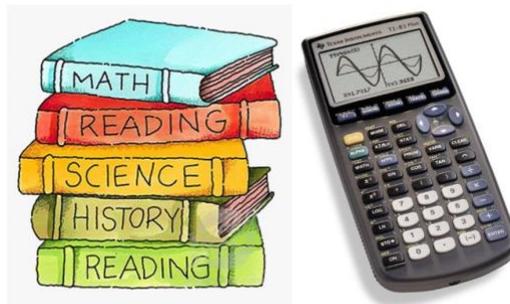
There have been some instances of drivers not following the directional rules, as well as driving recklessly, between the French School and our school. I have spoken to a student directly, as well as the principal of Mercier, to address the student reckless driving issue; however, our school's Occupational Health & Safety Committee has expressed concerns and have brought their concerns to the Department. In the spring, we will be planning on building a speed plateau at the junction of the two schools to reduce speed.

## **Black History Month**

Our school was active for Black History month despite COVID-19 precautions: our grade 8s and 9s attended a presentation by local social justice organization Northern Voices Rising, our grade 10s participated in a ZOOM session on the concept of race with the Museum of Cleveland, and a historical museum display was set up in the atrium. Thanks to Meera Sarin, Alex James, Shaun McLoughlin, Sean Wilkinson, and Michael Toews for their help organizing these events.

## **FH Collins Library Update**

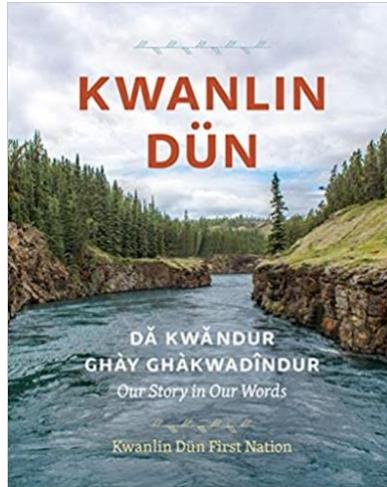
### Resource/ Textbook Return



Because of Covid protocols, many textbooks have been living at home this year, which means that many students forgot to return them at the end of Semester 1. Also, because of distance learning last year, some textbooks were not returned in June 2020. Please ask your students to search their bedrooms and return any textbooks, graphing calculators, or library books that they are no longer using. All resources should be returned to the library/ learning commons. There are no fines for overdue items, we would just really like to get them back and into circulation - thank you!

## Beautiful Kwanlin Dün Book in Library

We now have a copy of the book: *Kwanlin Dün: Daekwandur Ghay Ghakwadindur - Our Story in Our Words* by the Kwanlin Dün First Nation in our library.



This book tells the story of the peoples of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation, from thousands of years ago to the present day. It includes traditional stories from long ago, told by Elders, about the origins of the world and the aftermath of a great flood, about “The Double Winter” and “The Girl Who Married the Bear.” Several stories appear in Tlingit, Tagish, Northern Tutchone, or Southern Tutchone, to share these original languages of Kwanlin Dün with the next generation.

## **Art Class Mural Project**

Grade 11 & 12 students have been working for the past month of murals in the main FH building. Prior to the start of semester 2, a form was circulated to staff. Any member who wished to have a mural outside a classroom was encouraged to fill out the form indicating what they would like to see on the wall. Students have learned how to blend a ‘client’s’ vision with their own unique skills and creativity. The entire project has been a massive undertaking for the students, but they have really enjoyed the process of creating on such a large scale, and having their art displayed for all to see. The halls are alive with golden ratios and climate change warnings; Harry Potter trains and fancy ravens wearing hats. The project will conclude the first week of March. Here are some photos of the murals in progress, as well as a link to a story on CBC about the project: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/fh-collins-students-paint-murals-1.5926768>



**Social Justice Corner- The FH Collins Social Justice Club Off to a Great Start in Semester 2!**



This February, our students have been very involved in several community events. Along with FH alumni, our students volunteered at Whitehorse Connects. Whitehorse

Connects is an opportunity for those who are homeless, living in poverty or among the working poor to come together on a given day for a range of health and human services they may not otherwise access. Our students prepared and served delicious and nutritious food to members of our community. Many of our students participated in the Chadburn Lake Ice Plunge to support a *Run for Life* well drilling program in rural Kenya. This initiative brings clean water to those who need it the most. To date this organization has drilled more than 50 wells for homes, farmers, schools, and community groups. This recent fundraiser will help drill 20 more wells in rural Kenya.

Our club has had several presentations this month. The Northern Council for Global Cooperation met with our club to discuss the Sustainable Development Goals and other global issues. This was an engaging and enjoyable presentation. Lifelines, a student-run group that promotes the safe disposal of fishing line, gave a compelling presentation to the group. They discussed the scale of fishing line pollution in the territory, solutions and education to curb this pollution. Erin Macarthur, an FH alumnus visited our group on behalf of the Yukon Literacy Coalition. Her presentation was interactive and addressed barriers to literacy in the territory. She also discussed the Youth Entrepreneurship Program with our youth.

Many of our students continue to bake muffins for the Blood Ties Outreach Van each week. These muffins are distributed to people in need in our community.

*The FH Collins Social Justice Club meets every Wednesday over the lunch hour in Ms. Sarin's room (203) or Ms. Bonny's room (220). Everyone is welcome!*

“Let us pick up our books and our pens, they are the most powerful weapons.”

-Malala Yousafzai

### Photos from Whitehorse Connects and the Chadburn Lake Ice Plunge





### **Immersion Week Celebrations**

FH Collins celebrated Immersion week (February 22<sup>nd</sup>- 26<sup>th</sup>) with great fun. Some activities included trivia game, Bill Bestiole show and the sugar shack. The French Immersion program started in 1981 in the Yukon Territory with 33 students enrolled, and has grown significantly over the past 40 years.



## Student Learning in Action

Here are some photos of our students engaged in learning this past month:



Grade 8's in the Woodshop!



Physics in Action!



Student-made Pink Shirts for Pink Shirt Day



Rendezvous Activities

## Important Dates

March 8<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup>- FH/ Gadzoosda Residence Virtual Orientations

March 15<sup>th</sup>- 26<sup>th</sup>- March Break (No school)

March 30<sup>th</sup>/ March 31<sup>st</sup>- Three way conferences in the evenings

April 1<sup>st</sup>- No School

April 13<sup>th</sup>- Midterm progress marks and comments are due in Aspen