

Employees' Newsletter

April 2014



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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL ANNIE POPERT

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**NEW EMPLOYEES
DATES TO KEEP IN MIND**

We will be celebrating the School Board's Professionals Appreciation Week from April 7 to 11. On this occasion, I would like to thank all of our dedicated professionals who strive to make a difference at the School Board. Thank you for your hard work!

As many of you may already know, four of our students participated in the Quebec Aboriginal Science Fair on March 25 and 26 (Wendake, Qc). Not only did they represent Nunavik, but they also won prizes at the provincial level.

Congratulation to Jeannie Puxley, Salluit (1st prize in her category), Sarah Khan, Inukjuak (2nd prize in her category), Ken Cameron (Salluit) and Adamie Kiatainak (Salluit)! Jeannie Puxley will also represent the Quebec Aboriginal Region at the Canada-Wide Science Fair, in Windsor, Ontario, from May 10 to 17, 2014.

Let me conclude by inviting you to read the article on decisions made at the last Council of Commissioners' meeting. Some important resolutions were adopted. You should be aware of them, as they will have an impact on the School Board operations.

To those of you heading for their spring break, I wish you a great time!

HUMAN RESOURCES & PAYROLL

Special Absences

Please have a look at this information on the procedure to follow in case of an absence due to a medical disability. Depending on the cause of your disability, you will have to follow a number of steps and complete specific forms.

If you are absent due to a medical disability that is not work-related, obtain the Kativik Care Package; it contains instructions, a letter to the physician and the Attending Physician's Statement (APS) form.

If your absence is the result of a work-related accident or an occupational disease, advise your supervisor, fill out an Accident report form and ensure that your

doctor completes a CSST medical certificate.

If your absence is the result of a criminal act, you may take advantage of the Crime Victims Compensation Act (CVCA).

If your absence is the result of an Automobile Accident, you must call the SAAQ to open a file.

In all cases, you must advise your immediate supervisor prior to your absence or as soon as possible.

For more information, you can consult the HR and Payroll section by logging in to the Kativik School Board **intranet** or contact **Pierre Lafrance** at (514) 482-8220, ext.: 362, or pierre.lafrance@kativik.qc.ca.

School Administrator positions

It is that time of year when we start considering the need to recruit for positions of Center Director, Vice-Principal and Principal. Finding interested employees from within the Board is one of our main targets. If you are interested in becoming a school administrator or if you are just curious to know more about these positions, please feel free to contact **Stéphane Boulanger**, at the Human Resources Department in Montreal. Stéphane can be reached by phone, at (514) 482-8220, ext.: 303 or by email, at stephane.boulanger@kativik.qc.ca.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

Project to set up a wireless network in the schools

In 2013, three schools were invited to take part in a pilot project aiming at setting up a state-of-the-art wireless network. In the wake of this successful experimental phase and as it strives to deliver more services to schools, the Information Technologies (IT) department wishes to implement, by June 2014, such a wireless network in all educational institutions as well as in its main centers.

The public call for tenders to select a contractor to undertake the work was recently completed. The selected bidder was approved by the Executive Committee of the School Board at its meeting of March 20, 2014. Work should start around mid-April.



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Council of Commissioners

Key Resolutions from the Council of Commissioners

Meeting in Aupaluk from March 12 to 14, the Council of Commissioners worked its way through a lengthy agenda. Amongst the various points discussed, a selection of three key matters and resolutions are summarized here.

Election of the President of the Kativik School Board: Under the current law, each Nunavik community elects a commissioner to sit at the Council of Commissioners. Together, the elected Commissioners then decide whom, from amongst themselves, will be appointed to the position of President of the Kativik School Board. The individual who accepts the appointment of President effectively fulfills two functions: one as the representative of a given constituency and the other as representative of the School Board as a whole.

This double function can prove challenging to manage for a single individual. Thus, the Council of Commissioners has recommended that the functions of Commissioner and President be separated. The Council further resolved that this translate into a distinct, Nunavik-wide, election for the position of President.

This change will require an amendment to the Education Act for Cree, Inuit and Naskapi Native Persons (R.S.Q., c1-14). The resolution adopted by the Council of Commissioners requests the Quebec Ministry of Education to table this amendment at the National Assembly. It also requests support from Makivik.

Once the law is amended, Nunavimmiut will be casting two votes: one for their community's Commissioner and the other for the School Board's President.

The amendment of the law is likely not to be effective in time for the November 2014 election. It would however apply to the 2017 election.

Election of the President of the School Board, Inuktitut Language Authority and a new school calendar

Inuktitut Language Authority and the standardization of Inuktitut: Under the leadership of the Avataq Cultural Institute, the Ilirjavut language project highlighted the need to create a recognized Inuktitut Language Authority, to reinforce the Inuktitut language by setting official language standards throughout the region. At their meeting, the Commissioners expressed interest in receiving additional information on this initiative, in order to consider possible support from the School Board, in conjunction with other organizations of the region.

In a separate development, the Kativik School Board participated in a pre-summit meeting on the standardization of Inuktitut for the Inuit regions of Canada. The meeting was coordinated by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami's task force, "Atausiq Inuktitut Titirausiq".

It consisted of preparatory discussions concerning the development of a standard writing system for the Inuktitut language across Canada. Over the upcoming months, consultations on this topic are to be held at the community level. The process will conclude with a national Inuit language summit in the fall of 2015.

In the area of education, standardization would allow institutions to share resources across the Canadian arctic region. This would greatly enhance the development of Inuit-specific curriculum materials.

New culturally relevant school calendar to be used in four schools next year: Consultations on options for a new school calendar have taken place during the autumn 2013 and in the first months of 2014. They included parents, teachers, education committees and unions.

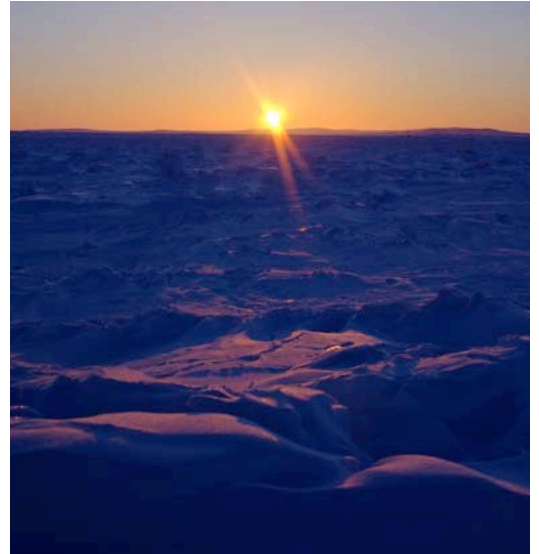
At its March 12-14 meeting, the Council of Commissioners adopted a resolution approving the introduction of the new school calendar, as a pilot project, in four Nunavik communities: Quaqtaq, Kangiqsujuaq, Akulivik and Umiujaq.

With the view of using the new calendar at the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year, the following steps will take place over the next months:

- Agreement on the new calendar with the Quebec Ministry of Education and the unions representing the School Board employees;
- Consultations and information meetings with the residents of communities selected to participate in this pilot project.

The new calendar totals 200 school days. It features three one-week blocks reserved for culture instruction. In addition to the blocks of time devoted to cultural instruction, there are a number of options that could be incorporated into the local school calendar (for example, additional cultural activities at the beginning and end of the school year, reduce the length of the school year by ten days, etc).

Through this initiative, the school Board hopes to provide more suitable periods of time during which the culture instruction could take place while also addressing the high student absenteeism rate at the end of the school year.



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A new school calendar in Quaqtaq, Umiujaq, Akulivik and Kangiqsujuaq

TRAGIC EVENTS IN AUPALUK: WHERE ARE WE AT?



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Discussions about construction of a new school are ongoing.

The School Board acted swiftly after the blaze that destroyed Tarsakallak School in Aupaluk, on March 15. The Material Resources Director, Michèle Bertol, was on the premises on that very day. At the same time, the School Board's management was initiating discussions with Quebec's Education Ministry about construction of a new school.

Taking advantage of the spring break, the Education Services and School Operations departments prepared school and educational material for shipping.

In Aupaluk, the Material Resources department identified a few vacant premises (daycare center and former municipal offices). The required renovation work was carried out to allow all students to go back to their classes on Monday, March 31.

Back from the spring break, a team was already in place to greet the teachers. From March 23 to 25, everybody was involved in reorganizing the course schedule and in identifying the material that disappeared in the blaze.

At the start of the week, information meetings took place with the students and parents. As of March 26, sports and artistic activities were offered to students, in preparation for the return to class on the following Monday.

Despite the huge challenge to the Aupaluk community and its students posed by the destruction of the school, the school administration and teachers proved to be positive, energetic and motivated. The School Board will make sure that they get all the required support throughout the remainder of the school year.

We would really like to deliver the following message to our personnel on site. The work that you have accomplished and the work ahead of you in the course of the next few months are crucial for the students, the community members and the School Board. We thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

On April 9, 2014, the investigation into the circumstances of the fire is ongoing. However, criminal intent was ruled out by the investigators as cause of the fire.

Discussions about the construction of a new school are ongoing. Within the next few weeks, the School Board will be able to provide more information about this topic.

What's up in our schools?

Regional activities

Speaker Yves Laroche is currently visiting some schools in Nunavik, as part of an initiative coordinated by Pivalliani. An outstanding sportsman, Yves Laroche has also overcome excruciating challenges. In our schools, he is sharing with Nunavik's younger generation his powerful and inspiring life story.

On March 28, he was passing through Salluit where he gave three conferences. He then went on to Innalik School in Inukjuak.

In parallel, Pivalliani is coordinating the delivery of "Nanuk" workshops, offered in French and in English, to 5th and 6th grade students. The workshops focus on how to improve one's domestic environment and community. They will be offered on April 3, in Tasiujaq, and on April 22 and 23, in Salluit.

Pivalliani is an initiative of the Kativik Municipal Housing Bureau (KMHB), in cooperation with the Société d'habitation du Québec (SHQ).

Finally, a third of our schools were on spring break in March. For all of the others, this break will take place in the second half of April.

Kuujjuaraapik

From April 4 to 11, Asimauttaq School will greet Inuit teachers attending a course of the School Board Teachers Training program. The course, Inuktitut, intermediate level, will be delivered by teachers Eyuka Pinguatuk and Anna Angatookalook.

Inuit games will also take place in the school on April 10. Students of all levels will have the chance to watch and participate. On April 24, the school will organize a winter carnival.

Finally, the activities led by Fusion jeunesse continue, with outings and camping during week-ends. Also, artistic activities still take an important place in the school, under the coordination of our arts teacher, Denise Lemieux.

Inukjuak

Secondary II students are hosting a group of students from Dresden, Ontario, from March 30 to April 5. The student exchange is facilitated by the YMCA youth exchange program. The students of Innalik will be visiting their peers in Dresden over the week of May 11.

From May 5 to 9, Innalik School will celebrate the Inuktitut language week.

From May 18 to 23, the Inuit filmmaker Jobie Weetaluktuk will be visiting Innalik School. A native of Inukjuak, he will share his passion for cinema with all the students.

Akulivik

Tukisinarvik will celebrate Culture Week during the first week of April. Organized in connection with the Akulivik community, this event

always results in great meetings between youngsters and elders in the village. Various traditional activities are also scheduled.

From May 17 to 19, Akulivik will host a multi-sport tournament in which students from the neighbouring communities of Puvirnituk and Ivujivik will participate. A total of 8 students from each community, accompanied by coaches, will compete in different sporting events. The three days promise to be colourful!

Puvirnituk

A group of 6th grade students from the Guillaume-Couture school of Lévis arrived in Puvirnituk on April 1st. This visit is part of a student exchange organized by both schools. The students from Lévis will be staying in Puvirnituk for a week, during which they will have the opportunity to visit the school, the community and to familiarize themselves with the Inuit culture. In June, students from Puvirnituk will visit Lévis and the Guillaume-Couture school.

Ivujivik

On April 15 and 16, Nuvviti School will host a Red Cross facilitator who will be conducting bullying prevention workshops. Offered earlier this year to the schools of Kangirsuk, Aupaluk and Quaqaq, the purpose of these workshops is to empower the students when they are facing situations in which they are bullying witnesses or victims.

On April 22, the school will organize its traditional winter carnival.

Salluit

Ikusik School was proud to celebrate the return of Jeannie Puxley, Ken Cameron and Adamie Kiatainak, late March. The three students were among the four representatives of the Nunavik region who took part in Quebec's Aboriginal Science Fair in Wendake (March 25-26, 2014). Jeannie Puxley was designated grand winner in her category. She will represent Quebec's Aboriginal region in the 2014 Pan-Canadian Science Fair from May 10 to 17, in Windsor, Ontario.

Congratulations!

Kangisujuaq

Arsaniq School will celebrate Culture Week from April 14 to 16. The activities on the menu will include, among others, the construction of an igloo, the telling of stories by elders from the village, ice fishing and much more.

Quaqtaq

Isummasaqvik School is currently planning the organization of a culture day as well as an outing for primary and secondary students. Even though the exact dates have not yet been determined, both activities will be taking place by mid-May.

Kangirsuk

In April, the students from Sautjuit School will be enjoying traditional meals. Thanks to funding from the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services, the school was able to buy caribou meat and fish that will be prepared and served to the students.

The members of the graduation committee started planning

funding activities to support the school prom.

The "Good touch, Bad touch" program will visit the school on April 21. Since 2012, this program, supported by the Nunavik Regional Committee on the prevention of sexual abuse, has been offered in the schools that have applied for it. It is intended to empower the children, enabling them to differentiate a physical show of affection from a touching of sexual nature, and to express their disagreement with gestures that make them feel uncomfortable.

Aupaluk

In the wake of the fire that destroyed Tarsakallak School on March 15, 2014, classes resumed during the first week of April. All our encouragements go out to the school personnel who are vigorously facing the challenge!

Kuujuaq

Jaanimmarik students will participate in an applied democracy exercise in the first week of April, as they will be asked to vote in order to choose the name of the school mascot.

From April 14 to 17, the school will organize its spring carnival, with outdoors afternoon activities for the students.

Jaanimmarik School will join other schools of Nunavik in participating in the "Grand défi Pierre Lavoie". A team of students from Kuujuaq has already started a running training.

Finally, the four Karibu project skiers will soon reach their goal. They are currently skiing the 2,000 km separating Montreal from

Kuujuaq. When they approach Kuujuaq, students will ski at their side, to reach the village.

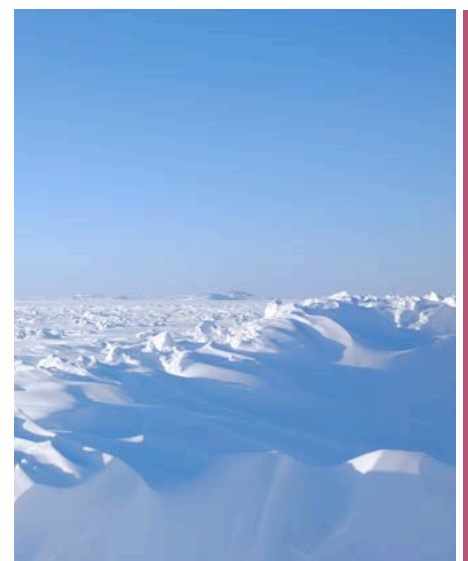
Kangisualujuaq

During the first week of April, Primary students from 3rd to 6th grade, French and English sector, will be celebrating Literacy Week. The scheduled activities include among others the creation of illustrated stories and the production of books, along with a reading contest.

For this contest, each class will make a giant caterpillar whose body consists of circles that correspond each to a book read by a student. When the contest draws to an end, the class that has the longest silkworm will be declared winner.

From April 11 to 14, the girls from the Ulluriaq skiing club, with their coach Manon Fournier, will go to Kuujuaq to take part in a regional cross-country skiing event.

On April 15 and 16, Ulluriaq School will organize two days of Inuit games competitions. Physical education teacher Maxime Lalonde will coordinate this event.



New Employees



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- Former teacher in Iqaluit, **Frédéric Trussard**, joined the Education Services Department in February. He holds the position of Pedagogical Counsellor, French as a second language.
- The Teachers Training and Research Department was glad to welcome **Salimah Gillani** earlier this year. She joined us on January 6, 2014, and oversees the computerization of the department's courses.
- To lead its work on first language curriculums, the Education Services Department was glad to recently welcome **Etua Snowball**, as Assistant Director. An accomplished artist and a seasoned teacher, he brings with him a wealth of experience and expertise.
- The Adult Education Department is proud to announce the appointment of **Daniel Pettigrew** as a permanent Education Consultant.
- In Inukjuak, the Adult Education Department welcomes **Kristel Ghobril** as the new residence manager for Nunavimmi Pigiursavik.

Dates to keep in mind

- **April 7-11:** Professional Appreciation Week
- **April 7-11:** Teachers Interview Week (recruitment for the 2014-2015 school year), Montreal.
- **April 4-11:** Intermediate Inuktitut language course offered to Inuit teachers enrolled in a program of the Teachers Training Department. The instructors will be Eyuka Pinguatug and Anna Angatookalook, in Kuujjuaraapik.
- **April 29 – May 6:** "Science teaching" course, offered to Inuit teachers enrolled in a program of the Teachers Training Department. The instructors will be Oleepeka Metug and Nancy Cain with the participation of Patrick Ryan (McGill consultant), in Kangiqsualujuaq.
- **May 8-16:** "Teaching multi-grade classroom" course, offered to Inuit teachers enrolled in the Teaching Certificate program, KSB Teachers Training program. The instructors will be Daisy Angnatuk and Mary Cain, in Tasiujaq.

Anything you would like to read in our next issue?

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