



**EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION
An Inclusive Environment
G. C. Huston Public School
A School Where All Students Belong**



We are delighted to share and celebrate the journey at G.C. Huston School in Southampton Ontario.

The school has worked tirelessly on many different initiatives in an effort to create a very supportive, inclusive culture. From professional dramatic productions to including the Seven Grandfather Teachings as part of the Character Education initiative, the goal at G. C. Huston is to have students see and feel that they belong.

This report will highlight several of the initiatives at the school.

Ojibway Book Writing Initiative

Through a Ministry grant, teachers at our school worked with Saugeen First Nations volunteers to write "levelled books" to support Saugeen First Nations students in English and Ojibway. These books reflect local images and stories from their community. The writing team included; Marilyn Johnson-Root (Native Language Teacher), Sarah Matheson (Teacher), Ray Auger (Aboriginal Advisor), Jeff Moser (Principal) and Steven Reid (Area Superintendent) as editor.

Mural

A beautiful mural in the entrance of the school, provides a stunning visual representation of our Saugeen First Nations students. We are proud of the work of local artist, Robert Henry, who is a graduate of G.C Huston, and a Saugeen First Nation resident, and also of the partnership he created to elicit contributions of our staff and students.

Community School Pow-Wow

The whole school community created, planned and produced a school based Pow-Wow to honour the culture of our Saugeen First Nations students. We hope our students are proud of their culture and this Pow-Wow provided the opportunity to teach others about their culture. Students participated in beading, creating dream catchers, story telling, etc.

Roots of Empathy Program

We are excited to have received special funding to pursue the Roots of Empathy Program. A Saugeen First Nation trained instructor will deliver the program to grade 4 and 5 students, by having a parent and baby attend class in an effort to communicate and build empathy. It is our hope that our students will learn about the developmental stages of children and will become more accepting of others.

Elder Volunteer in the Junior Kindergarten class

Elder Shirley John from Saugeen First Nation volunteers in the classroom this year to provide cultural inclusion and help transition the younger students into the school.

Perhaps our most stunning visual representation is the teepee and round four colours rug currently in our library. We borrowed the teepee from the Saugeen First Nation community to allow all of our students the opportunity to sit and read, or participate in talking circles, with others in a safe, secure and culturally significant setting.

This list will give you a sense of the inclusive culture at G.C. Huston. We are confident that the inclusive culture at G.C. Huston will continue to grow and flourish.

We look forward to welcoming members of the G.C. Huston Community who will share highlights of their journey.

Submitted to:
Bluewater District School Board
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For further information, please
contact Jean Stephenson, Superintendent of
Student Success