

# EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

LITTLE SHUSWAP LAKE INDIAN BAND



GRADUATION EDITION 2018

*"All of our Dreams can come true  
If we have the courage to pursue them"*  
**Walt Disney**

Weyt'k,

I would like to congratulate all of our LSLIB band members and community members from Kindergarten to Grade 12 as well as our Post-Secondary students on your graduation. You all have done such an amazing job this year and I am very proud to be a part of this experience.

This year we have Grade 12 graduates from: Chase Secondary, Salmon Arm Secondary and Panorama Ridge Secondary in Surrey. I wish you all the best for your futures whether you are traveling, going back to school or working. I know you will all do great and I hope to hear about all your successes.

This summer I will be working with Shane Coutlee, Joan Arnouse and Wes Francois revising and revisiting some of our education policies. Some discussions have already taken place and I am very excited to see the results. As a reminder Shane mailed out a survey, we need your feedback to make this a successful venture. We can also set up a time for you to come into the office to speak to Shane and complete the survey if this is more convenient. Please call the office if you would like to set this up.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at the office (250) 679-3203 or by email [btomma@lslib.com](mailto:btomma@lslib.com).

You can find our newsletter at the following locations: LSLIB band office reception, LSLIB website, or I can email you a copy. If you would like a copy emailed please send me a message.



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# *Kindergarten & Grade 7 Graduates*

## *Kindergarten*

Sequoia Antoine	Ecole Collines-d'or Francophone
Issac Humchitt	Chief Atahm School
Ian Monzac	Haldane Elementary
Mya May Sparrow	Haldane Elementary
Rayn Tomma	Haldane Elementary
Tylan Tomma	Haldane Elementary
Sariah August	Haldane Elementary

## *Grade 7*

Ruby Allard	Haldane Elementary
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**Kiannika August-Sjodin**

Proud mom & brothers  
(Odessa Texas & Harley John-David)  
Grade 1—Self Directed Learner



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## ***Grade 12 & Post-Secondary Graduates***

### ***Grade 12***

Dorian Billy	Chase Secondary
Mitchell Arnouse	Salmon Arm Secondary
Tai August	Salmon Arm Secondary
Jamie August	Salmon Arm Secondary
Josephine Wells	Salmon Arm Secondary
Catherine Tomma	Panorama Ridge Secondary
Shelby Yellowknee	Twin Rivers, Kamloops

### ***Post-Secondary***

Christina Pierre, John Casablanca School—Body Spa Esthetics Diploma

Jonah August-Sjodin—Audio Engineering and Music Productions Diploma

Dennis Pierre, BCIT—Digital Design and Development

Riley Saul, Thompson Rivers University (TRU) - 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Culinary Arts

Ernest Graham, The Arts Institute in Vancouver—Event Management Diploma



Catherine Mariah Rose Tomma

Panorama Ridge Secondary—Grade 12



Christina Pierre

*The*  
**Future**  
*is*  
**Yours**

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## ***Joan Arnouse—Education Coordinator***

The school year is fast approaching the end.... This year my visits to the schools were limited as I have Bev Tomma Assistant Education Coordinator whom is responsible for school visits for Kindergarten to Grade 12. It has been a busy year with the curriculum changes to the public-school Education System.

It is mandated to teach the First Nation History to the public schools, residential school, the 60's scoop, and the day school. Very busy for all the schools.

Bev and I participated in the Blanket Ceremony Teachings with School district 83 Salmon Arm. This was a very good experience. Facilitator was Dory Laboucan, who at one time was employed with the Little Shuswap Lake Band a few years back. This ceremony teaching was for teachers and district employees, to educate on the history of residential school and 60 Scoop. It will be used in most all schools and classrooms grade appropriate.

I encourage parents to be involved with their son/daughter's school. Stop and visit the teachers, most important is to attend the parent teacher review of report card. Tutoring is available in the school with lunch hour or for high school, making use of subject teachers in your school. The Little Shuswap Lake Band has one graduate from Chase Secondary School, four graduates from Salmon Arm Secondary, one from Vancouver and one from four corners in Kamloops. Total Graduates 7 Grade 12's. Three graduates from Post-Secondary School.

**Reminder the year end student BBQ will be held on June 25<sup>th</sup> at the Pow wow Grounds, 4:00 PM. All students and their families are invited.**

The Little Shuswap Lake Band has hired Shayne Coutlee to update and make new Education Policies for the Elementary, High School, Trades and Post-Secondary residing on and off reserve. He has mailed out a survey to each home and I encourage you to complete and share your ideas and or concerns. If you are wanting to do your survey in person please call the office to set up appointment with Shayne, he is willing to sit with you and listen to your input to these changes for Education. I personally am happy to have this take place as there are many areas in education that need to be changed. Opportunities that parents need to made aware of and bursaries for students.

For Students that are pending Education, application dates have changed for the budgets. You must have your application in to my office by May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Thank you to those that have submitted their applications. Also, a copy of your acceptance letter to the university/college of your choice. All my budget requests must be at Dept of Aboriginal Affairs by May 31,2018 for the September 2018 start date of School.

Thank you to all the parents that are totally involved in their children's education and to the adults that choose to achieve higher education. The commitment is noticeable. Keep up the great work. Thank you to the grandparents/ caregivers that are supporting youth in education whether it is reading a book to them or driving them to sports activities or getting them to school when they miss the bus. I am very proud of all the youth and parents and community commitment to higher education.

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## 2018 Skw'lux Pow Wow

We are excited and honored to be bringing the Skw'lux Powwow back this year. Gary Abbott from the Nlaka'pamux nation is the Coordinator of the event. He brings years of experience, both dancing in the Powwow and in coordinating their execution. In the past, there have been great successes with the Skw'lux powwow. It is our goal to continue to grow this event and drive it to new heights.

There are many things happening to ensure the success of this event: We are currently preparing and sending out fundraising letters, meeting with community stakeholders, reaching out for volunteers and input, and organizing the sequence of the Powwow. If anyone is interested in what is happening on a day to day basis with regard to the organization of the Powwow, please attend our community meetings. They are hosted once a week and are advertised on social media as well as with posters from the community.

Currently, we have also been working on the physical situation of the powwow grounds. We have been testing the outlets, exploring the outbuildings on the grounds, and generally assessing the situation in order to proceed in the most efficient way possible.

Plans are moving quickly to bring the best possible Powwow to our grounds. From choosing a host drum and MC, to testing the grounds and ensuring the little things are done right, we are all hard at work. If you are interested in having your say in how the Powwow is run, or in volunteering your time, please call Morgan Darlington at the Little Shuswap Lake Band office- 250 463 1312.



JOHN FLEMMING  
PHOTOGRAPH

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## *From our Members*

Hello everyone

It has been a long time since I submitted to the newsletter. I am doing fine. Working in Vancouver at two jobs, one fulltime at Native Court-workers as Clinical Alcohol & Drug Counsellor, and the other a weekend job as a House Supervisor at Anderson Lodge, a Halfway house for women. So, keeping really busy working pretty much seven days a week.

I live in a two-bedroom low income housing unit but pay the market price because I am employed. My Son, Ernest and his girlfriend Alexandra live with me, which is a great help with expenses.

I travel back to the Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band on those weekends I am not working. When I do go home I am with family members either celebrating birthdays, barbecues or having ceremony in our family sweat-lodge on my property.

One day I would love to move to Skwlax and settle down, work, and enjoy life out of the city. For now, this is where the work is, my kind of work; addictions counselling, facilitating workshops, working with corrections service Canada, the justice system and doing the admin stuff that this work requires, plus developing the programs on power-point, that I facilitate. It would be so nice if someone at the Band level created a program which includes all this that I do, do up a proposal for funding and I would surely move home to run this program. Keeping in mind that this is not a minimum wage job. With my expertise, knowledge and wisdom I strongly feel that the Band will greatly benefit and grow in strengths within the community.



## Handy Phone numbers

Chase Secondary School	(250) 679-3218
Chief Atahm School	(250) 679-8837
Carlin Elementary	(250) 835-4520
Haldane Elementary	(250) 679-3269
Safe Arrival Program	1-844-350-2647
SASS—Jackson Campus	(250) 832-2136
SASS—Sullivan Campus	(250) 832-2188
Neskonlith Education Centre	(250) 679-2963
Skwlax Daycare	(250) 679-8033
Race Trac Gas	(250) 679-8657
Quaaout Lodge & Talking Rock Golf	(250) 679-3090
Adams Lake Indian Band	(250) 679-8841
Neskonlith Indian Band	(250) 679-3295



## Summer Dates to Remember

<b>June</b>	5th	Tappen Day—Garden BBQ
	10th	Elder Abuse Awareness
	11th	<b>Aboriginal Grad, Kamloops</b> McArthur Sports Centre 5:00 pm
	13th	Summer Safety Fair—Skwlax Wellness Centre
	14th	<b>Haldane</b> —babysitting course, please contact school for more information
	21st	Aboriginal Day at Quaaout Lodge
	22nd	<b>Chase Secondary Grad</b> 4:00 pm
	25th	LSLIB Student BBQ, Pow Wow grounds
	28th	<b>Salmon Arm Secondary Grad</b> , Sunwave Centre 7:00 pm
	28TH	Last day of school

## *Shane Coutlee*

Hello Little Shuswap Lake Band Members!

My name is Shane Coutlee and I am LSLIB's interim Education Policy Advisor.

First, a bit about me. I am a neighbor from the Nlaka'pamux Territory (Lower Nicola Indian Band). My lineage is through my father George Coutlee Jr. and my Grandparents Harriet Margaret Gilmore/George Coutlee Sr. I currently reside at Kamloops with my wife and two daughters.

I went to university and earned both a Bachelors and Masters Degree in Education/Leadership. I have close to 20 years' experience as a Leader in Education, and as many of you already know through previous interactions, much of this time was involved with School District #83. I resigned from the School District about 4 years ago and during this time I have worked with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations to support/create Capacity Building Initiatives.

My primary goal in this current role with LSLIB is to create an Education/Training Policy Framework with its primary foundation to be focused on fairness and equity for all members. This framework will then be used to both enhance/amend current policies and create new policies for members who live on/off LSLIB Reserves. In addition, the framework will provide secondary assistance with streamlining all education/training needs for the LSLIB Organization and its entities.

The most critical piece to this process is the voice from membership, and to ensure all members have equal confidential opportunity, a survey was sent via mail to every home. I both recognize and acknowledge the fact that surveys are not personable, and as such, I also plan to make myself available at the community over the next couple of months for those who would prefer to share information with me in person. I can be reached directly at 250.804.3096 or [coutlee@me.com](mailto:coutlee@me.com) to arrange a time that best fits your schedule, or communication through the Education Department (Joan/Beverly) who can let me know what you prefer.

Kukstsemc!

Shane Coutlee





# ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT AGREEMENT



*"Making a difference by working together"*  
*Mel n7ek re Sw7ec-kt e Txwimimentmes*



## Goals

### Student Success

- Increase the educational success of all Aboriginal students.
- Increase the sense of identity, belonging, and pride in all Aboriginal students.

### Language & Culture

- Increase awareness and understanding of Aboriginal culture, traditions, languages, historical and contemporary contributions for all students and staff.

### District & School Culture

- Increase Aboriginal students' sense of belonging including sense of place, personal and cultural identity, and self-esteem in a caring safe inclusive environment.

### Aboriginal Parent & Community Engagement

- Enhance, nurture and value positive relationships between the district, parents and communities.

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## *In the news*

Did you know Grade 7's will be moving from Haldane Elementary to Chase Secondary next year?



Starting in September, students entering Grade 7 in Chase will be heading to Chase Secondary School rather than Haldane Elementary.

The decision to move students was finalized by trustees on Monday, April 23 at the public-School District 73 board meeting in Kamloops. The board decided to proceed with the proposal in Chase and Barriere but not in Clearwater, where many people were opposed. For Clearwater, trustees voted to remain with the status quo, which means Grade 7s will stay in the elementary school.

A news release from the school district states the decisions followed an extensive period of consultation with parents, staff and students in all the communities that included public meetings and presentations, as well as online, email and paper-based feedback.

"This move will give many young people a unique opportunity to explore their passions and interests by giving the grade 7s access to specialized equipment and facilities and creating additional space at the elementary schools to address their needs for more flexible space," said District Superintendent Alison Sidow. "We're excited to see this proposal move forward in these two communities."

***Related: Changes for Chase Grade 7s considered***

At Chase Secondary School, principal Dave McDonald says staff are excited. He thinks it will be a great opportunity for the Grade 7s.

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"We have facilities underutilized that provide specialty classes such as wood shop, metal shop and the foods room. So those kids coming over here are going to get the opportunity to take courses they wouldn't have over at the elementary school."

The high school also offers in-house counselling, whereas the elementary school is served by the district counsellor who comes usually about once a week, he said.

A less important factor is that the elementary school is "bursting at the seams," while the secondary school has extra room, McDonald added, noting that Haldane has about 300 students and the high school 200, meaning they'll both have about 250 come September.

One downside for the elementary school is that two teachers may no longer be employed there.

Administration at Haldane could not be reached before press deadline. McDonald said two or three teachers will likely be hired at the high school, but the hiring process required means the positions would be open to anyone, not just elementary teachers who are displaced.

Asked about a concern expressed regarding mixing Grade 7s with older students, he said he surveyed the Grade 8s at Chase Secondary. One question was, how much interaction is there with the older grades?

"The answer was none. They said, 'the Grade 12s don't talk to us'... The kids kind of scoffed at that."

He said he understands the concern of parents but thinks there will be benefits because the older students can tutor, and other opportunities will arise for peer mentorship and leadership.

"We like to look at it from the positive perspective."

McDonald mentions he was working in Logan Lake 29 years ago when Grade 7s were brought into that high school.

"It was a very positive experience for them... We expect this to be a positive experience. It's a cool school with excellent teaching staff; there will be boundless opportunities for these kids."

*Martha Wickett / Salmon Arm Observer April 25, 2018*

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## FEEDBACK

If you have any suggestions on what you would like to see in our future newsletters please do not hesitate to contact myself at (250) 679-3203 ext. 105 or email your suggestions to:

[btomma@lslib.com](mailto:btomma@lslib.com)

Would you like our newsletter mailed or emailed to you? Please send your request and preference.

For submissions to our "Student Showcase" please send information by the end of the month. Please include a picture, name, grade, school and write-up.

***Publications of the newsletter:*** September, December, March & June

### ***Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band***

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*Beverly Tomma, Education Assistant \* [btomma@lslib.com](mailto:btomma@lslib.com)*

