



Dear Teacher,

Summer HEAT 2015 was a huge success and we are thrilled to be able to share with you some of the progress made by the children who attended. For those of you who do not know, Summer HEAT is a three week summer learning program for DSBN students entering junior kindergarten to grade 4 in the fall. The program involves an academic component, daily physical activity, a home reading program and three parent engagement sessions.

The student information attached provides a snapshot of the student learning that occurred both academically and socially during the camp. The First Nations, Métis and Inuit Summer H.E.A.T **school name** site focused on inquiry in literacy and numeracy. An outline of the curriculum is below.

Students were actively engaged in a variety of literacy and numeracy activities that focused on traditional First Nations, Métis, and Inuit teachings. Students participated in hands-on lessons with an inquiry-based approach to explore the theme, "Taking Care of Mother Earth." The curriculum introduced students to FNMI perspectives about nature and teachings that are important to all of us as keepers of the Earth. Several FNMI guest speakers visited our program to share traditional teachings to support the lessons. The curriculum was designed for JK to Grade 4 students, introducing First Nations and Métis cultures in our Niagara Region, leaving students with new ideas about the diversity and richness of FNMI culture. Teachers facilitated a learning environment that supported critical thinking and collaborative learning. Students reflected daily using their own Thought Book and journal. This mapped their development, thinking and making connections between lessons, teachings and to real life experiences. The literacy program included guided, shared and independent reading. To honour traditional oral storytelling, storytelling was a regular feature of the classroom and provided many opportunities for group talk. Sharing and talking circles also took place daily and further supported oral communication skills as well as integrating it as a FNMI teaching. The program fostered a holistic approach to support the student's physical, emotional, spiritual and mental well-being. The D2L platform was used for daily communication with parents. This use of technology also supported student learning by providing resources for them to access at home. Smart board lessons created an interactive and engaging learning environment for the participants as well.

We hope you find this information helpful during the transition of these students to your class.

Respectfully,

*The Summer
H.E.A.T. Team*