

The Year of...

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION



3rd Aboriginal Math Symposium

Sharing Approaches for Improving Aboriginal Mathematics Education



Symposium Summary February 8 2013



On Friday Feb 8 2013 more than 150 educators from across the province met at the UBC Longhouse to explore, imagine, and discuss new ideas resources and research for improving mathematics education for Aboriginal learners. Participants including educators, administrators, ministry representatives and academics attended from communities including Bella Bella, Haida Gwaii,

Kamloops, Lillooet, Prince George, Sechelt, Vancouver Island and across the Lower Mainland.

The event was hosted by the Office of Indigenous Education and the Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy in the UBC Faculty of Education, and the Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences.



The Symposium began with **Dr. Veselin Jungic**, senior lecturer and adjunct professor of mathematics at Simon Fraser University. Dr. Jungic introduced a project called *MathCatcher: The Adventures of Small Number*, a series of animated films of a young boy named Small Number and his mathematical encounters. The series is available in multiple First Nations languages including Nisga'a, Heiltsuk, and Nuu-Chah-Nulth. The Mathcatcher series has visited many communities/schools throughout the province.



Christine Younghusband, education consultant and SFU doctoral student, provided a powerful afternoon session highlighting her work that brought Aboriginal education and mathematics education together. One project shared involved students exploring the math embedded in Musqueam artist Susan Point's work and then creating their own designs

Symposium Summary continued...



Elaine Colgate



Latika Raisinghani



Paul Beland



Gerry Mulligan

Elaine Colgate, Ministry of Education, presented BC's new curriculum design features for K-12 for a more conceptually based curriculum that embeds Aboriginal voice throughout. http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/transforming_curriculum.php

Latika Raisinghani, PhD student, Faculty of Education, Department of Curriculum & Pedagogy, presented a project that explored mathematics in Kosraean Weaving (Micronesia).

Paul Beland, Lillooet School District presented a teacher resource for Math 8 that includes cultural and place connects using a photo and math question for each of the Math IRPs.

Gerry Mulligan, Bella Bella Community School, provided ideas for inviting community members into the classroom to speak about their work and the role of mathematics.

Liz Barrett, JUMP Math, shared a video clip of John Mighton, founder of JUMP Math and presented key aspects of the JUMP program.

John Hamel, Howe Sound Secondary, Squamish School District shared ideas that focused on the need: to develop First Nations youth's sense of belonging so that they are "culturally-intact" and prepared for post-secondary education.

Noreen Pankowich, Kamloops School District, District Resource Centre, shared ideas for lesson templates for Aboriginal themes and lessons.

Joanne Yovanovich, District Principal of Aboriginal Education Haida Gwaii and **Billy Yovanovich**, Haida artist introduced the book *Thuuwaay Waadluxaan Mathematical Adventures* as a resource that connects math, community and culture.



Liz Barrett



John Hamel



Noreen Pankowich



Joanne Yovanovich & Billy Yovanovich



The Symposium concluded with small group discussions around the questions: 1) How can Aboriginal education and mathematics education work in productive conversation? 2) What more do we need to know to improve Math education for Aboriginal learners? and 3) What goals should the BC K-12 Aboriginal Math Network undertake?

The Aboriginal Math Network blog was also launched and is available at <http://blogs.ubc.ca/aboriginalmathnetwork/> for current ideas and lessons, resources and events focusing on Aboriginal mathematics education. Further details on the 3rd Aboriginal Math Symposium can also be found at the Network blog.