Indigenous Education, Mathematics Education and the Curriculum

6th Aboriginal Math K-12 Symposium: Sharing Approaches for Improving Aboriginal Mathematics Education

Thursday May 12, 2016, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm.
UBC First Nations Longhouse (1985 West Mall)

Please join us for the 6th Aboriginal Math K-12 Symposium at the First Nations Longhouse, UBC on May 12, 2016. This symposium is an opportunity for teachers, administrators, Ministry representatives, community members, and academics to connect, explore, imagine and share new ideas, resources and research on Aboriginal mathematics education from kindergarten to Grade 12. Together we hope to:

• Learn about new research in mathematics and Aboriginal education
• Discuss and share approaches, research and educational projects for improving Aboriginal math education
• Develop community connections to facilitate and support improving Aboriginal math education

Program Description
During the day we will work on activities that involve the connections of mathematics, students, and community. Participants will have opportunities to do mathematics, explore cultural connections, network with others, share stories, and discuss and share their research and teaching strategies with each other.

Agenda: 8:45 am – 3:00 pm

8:30 – 9:00 am Pick up registration material. Coffee/Tea available. Meet & Greet.
9:00 – 9:15 am Welcoming Remarks and Story
9:15 – 9:45 am Math Activity with Shawn Desaulniers
9:45 – 10:45 am Weaving Aboriginal Ways of Knowing and Ethnomathematics with Carolyn Roberts (20 minute presentation followed by 20-30 min discussion)
10:45 – 11:00 am Refreshment Break
11:00 – 12:00 am When Math Meets Weaving with Karla Gamble, Matthew Houghland, Daryl Goeson and Maria Nicolidakis (20 minute presentation followed by 20-30 min discussion)
12:00 – 12:45 pm Lunch is provided
12:45 – 1:45 pm Doing Mathematics While Building Community with Lori Bernard (20 minute presentation followed by 20-30 min discussion)
1:45 – 2:45 pm Math and Drum Making with Don Bowser, Katrina Melan, and Rob Wielgoz (20 minute presentation followed by 20-30 min discussion)
2:45 – 3:00 pm Wrap-up Discussion, Door Prizes.

For questions, please contact our Symposium Graduate Assistant: kwesi.yaro@alumni.ubc.ca
Featuring

Carolyn Roberts, Langley School District

Carolyn is a District Aboriginal Teacher in Langley School District focusing on Grade 6/7 Math and Early Literacy. She is currently pursuing her Masters degree in the UBC Aboriginal Education, Leadership and Administration program. She has a Bachelor Degree in Education from UBC and a Degree in Jazz Studies from Capilano University. Carolyn will introduce us to the field of Ethnomathematics as a way of opening up possibilities for seeing mathematics in new ways. With Carolyn’s presentation we can engage in discussions on strategies for bringing Aboriginal ways of knowing and mathematics into the classroom.

Karla Gamble, Matthew Houghland, Daryl Goeson and Maria Nicolidakis
Burnaby School District

This creative team of Burnaby School District educators has collaborative lesson designs for introducing Grade 10 students to weaving and linear equations. Karla Gamble is an Aboriginal Resource Teacher, Maria Nicolidakis is an Aboriginal Success Teacher, while Matthew Houghland and Daryl Goeson are classroom mathematics teachers. They build on our previous Symposium weaving sessions by weaving with a “twist” and using a graphing App to engage students in writing equations of woven patterns. We’ll be weaving and mapping algebraic equations while discussing the possibilities these kinds of activities offer teachers, students and the community.

Lori Bernard, Burnaby School District

Lori is a mathematics teacher currently teaching Math 8, 9 and Calculus in the Burnaby School District. Lori will share two projects she’s developing with Grade 9 students that bring mathematics, community and culture together. With student projects and photos to present along with highlights of interviews with students on their project experiences, Lori’s presentation will provide an excellent grounding for discussions on the possibilities and challenges of designing mathematics with Aboriginal/Indigenous education.

Don Bowser, Katrina Melan and Rob Wielgoz,
Kamloops School District

This collaborative team of drum and curriculum makers will share highlights of Secwepemc drum making with students through inquiry and self-discovery. Don Bowser is the District’s First Nations Education Worker, Katrina Melan is a Year 2 Teacher Education Student at Thompson Rivers University (TRU) while Rob Wielogz is a classroom teacher and TRU sessional instructor. Students as drum makers experience cultural appreciation for drumming, the environment, the process and an enhanced value of math and science. This team will provoke our thinking about what counts as mathematics and help us consider both First Peoples Principles of Learning and mathematics education.