

## **EEPSA Kootenay Lake local chapter Networking Event and Meeting**

**Thursday, February 7th, 3:30 pm in Rosemont School Library**

### **Present:**

Linda Out - grade 4/5 teacher at Winlaw Elementary;  
Monica Nissen – KBEE Coordinator, Environmental Education Program Manager with Wildsight, CBEEN Board of Directors  
Denise Currie - teacher at South Nelson Elementary  
Nicole Murray - Greenhouse & Garden Manager at SEEDS  
Vanessa Finnie - Curriculum Support Teacher and Innovative Learning Services  
Joanne Siderius - Senior Naturalist at Kokanee Creek Nature Centre  
Kathleen Edwards - Secondary Science Teacher at Mt. Sentinel School  
Sarah Lieffering - Primary Teacher at JVH School, Kaslo  
Wendy Maslechko - Primary Teacher at Rosemont School  
Gabriel Keczan - Art Therapist, Counsellour and Coyote Mentoring Educator  
Megan Jamison - Intermediate teacher and current TTOC  
Jackson Giroux – current TTOC (had to leave at 4:00)

3:30 — Networking Activity: sharing an EE related project, idea, etc.

4:20 — Official start of meeting

Linda - talked about CBEEN Wild Voices Programs; for \$25 per year teachers can get a FREE field trip or in school program.  
Monica - mentioned that Wildsight also offers free field trips.

Joanne - mentioned that she has funding to take schools to Kokanee Creek Park, and she also has funding to bring programs into schools. Both are FREE

Nicole - SEEDS - their programs are also FREE for teachers

Linda showed a short slideshow and explained the EEPSA Local Chapter goals, and our history. Last year we organized two pro-D workshops as well as a meeting with our new superintendent.

April 8th Pro-D possibilities...

-we have funding for up to \$1000 from CBEEN to provide pro-D workshop(s).

We discussed some possible workshops, such as Get Outdoors, Storytelling with Dave Verhulst, Youth Safe Outdoors, Wild BC, etc.

Kathleen - suggested that a workshop with Brad w/ the Chamber of Mines to explore sites for mineral exploration, mining history, geology, etc., would be good for secondary teachers

Monica - talked about organizing a pro-D day with community educators and teachers coming together to see how they can collaborate to offer more place based learning for students

-we have a great opportunity on April 8th to turn it into a pro-D day that will be useful for as many teachers as possible

-because of our connection with CBEEN, we can access \$1000 for pro-D, as well as support for registration and advertising

Kathleen - offered to help organize pro-D for that day too

Monica - talked about many options and possibilities that other nearby school districts are doing, such as having a teacher mentor in each school to mentor other teachers in taking their students outside and doing more EE.

- Classrooms to Communities (C2C) Fair...we can organize one for next fall.

Denise - talked about having a book study on the Coyote's Guide book on Coyote Mentoring.

Gabriel - talked more about Coyote Mentoring. He said that when Coyote Mentoring comes into a school, there is a paradigm shift because it is very fluid and flexible. It is about connecting to place, connecting to the spirit of the place.

- He agreed that there is more learning when we can harvest the wisdom of a group of educators, rather than listening to a single keynote speaker.

Monica - A possible option for professional development on April 8th: Dave's Storytelling Workshop (1/2 day workshop) plus Gabriel facilitating an open discussion.

Linda - could host a discussion on school gardens, if we do an open space discussion.

Kathleen - mentioned that she is willing to become involved on the executive

Sarah - said that she is also interested in becoming involved on the executive

Megan - said that she is happy to take on more of a leadership role in the executive. Currently she is the secretary.

Monica - talked about how the EEPSEA chapter is supported, for example, by the KBEE (made up of superintendents and other upper admin)

-there are 4 - 5 spots available for each EEPSEA local chapter team to go to

Nipika on April 24 to 26th for the Leadership Clinic

-need to look into release time for the Friday

-showed part of a video made at the previous EEPSEA Leadership Clinic in May of 2017.

Megan - we are hoping that one teacher from Creston can come to Nipika as well

Linda - is willing to help organize the pro-D day, then she would like to step down from her current role as president of EEPSEA.

Vanessa - said that she is also keen to be involved on the executive

**We would like to welcome the following people as the new EEPSEA local chapter executive:** Kathleen, Megan, Sarah, Vanessa

Denise - how can we apply the principles of Coyote Mentoring into teaching in the classroom?

Kathleen - said that she knows environmental educators who are more motivated by the outdoors than by storytelling

- Local science knowledge is necessary, especially for teachers who are new to the area.

- She suggested that we offer a workshop for teachers to learn more about local history and science

Wendy - agreed that this would be beneficial for teachers

Megan - I will ask Brad if he is willing to offer a field study for teachers, or someone from Kootenay Lake Stewardship Society

Kathleen - mentioned that she has done invertebrate studies with her students with educators from Selkirk College. More hands-on science would be great.

Linda - said that Shanon with Slocan Valley Streamkeepers also teaches hands on science workshops. (She also does this with Know Your Watershed - Grade 9 program)

Vanessa - said that she is keen to help plan a C2C event for next October

Meeting adjourned around 5 pm.