

TAKULIRIT

NTA's Quarterly Newsletter

What has been happening in Nunavut Schools?

Take a look at what has been happening in our schools since the last edition.

Election Season

All regional elections will be taking place this May. If you are interested in becoming Regional President, VP, Inuit Member at Large or Secretary/Treasure (if Region is big enough to need one), check out page 10.

NTAAMCC

The NTA will be hosting our Annual Meeting of Central Council on April 2nd. Once the meetings are over we are hoping to have some exciting news to share with our NTA members. Stay tuned to your email and our social media for any and all updates regarding the NTA.



Teacher's at Umimmak School participating in a virtual language lesson during their PD Week

Schools are getting busy!

Since our December 9th issue, there has been a lot on the go. The schools around Nunavut had to face the pandemic head on and we had a lot of missed time with our students. It seems as though things are back on track and we are starting to see a bit of normalcy in our schools. PD week came and went, and our teachers were hard at work bettering their teaching practice. In the picture above, we have Arna Audlalluk and Zuza Mignon from Grise Fiord attending a Language Lesson with an instructor in British Colombia. Check out page 4 for more...



President's Message

With the arrival of Spring comes a chance for some new beginnings. Our schools and our communities have been through a lot over the last few months, but it finally seems as though we can start to look forward. All of our schools are back to operating with 100% capacity, and while attendance from what we hear, is low, we are hearing of a trend that students are starting to come back to the classroom in some of our communities that were hit the hardest.

A lot of mistakes were made during the pandemic, and it is easy to focus on that and feel unappreciated and jaded towards your employer when you felt like you were on your own and undervalued. Seeing how things played out, those feelings would be justified. A new government came into effect and then, unfortunately, the pandemic hit Nunavut harder than it had in the past and it was obvious that people were not prepared. Mistakes were made and schools and teachers were left on their own and the rules were constantly changing. It has been a hard, difficult time to be a teacher and to navigate these challenging circumstances.

These hardships have shed light and brought attention to important issues that were of concern before the pandemic but just were not getting the attention they deserved. A lot of questions are being raised around assessment and our reporting system, and these concerns can no longer be brushed off. We are hoping that the attention that has been brought to them will finally usher in some change to create consistent assessment and reporting across the territory.

A lot has happened over the past couple of months, and years, in our schools and this can't be denied. We can focus on the negative, or we can try to move forward and look ahead. We sincerely hope that things continue to improve and that conditions at work are getting better for all of you. While we are not completely out of the woods yet, we hope that all of you are able to see the potential of what lies ahead for you and your students. Some of our students will be experiencing assemblies and school wide activities for the first time in their school career. That is an exciting thing to be a part of. Community gatherings such as Remembrance Day Ceremonies, Elder's Feasts and Christmas Concerts should be back in our schools soon. With all that has happened, it looks like we can finally start to look forward to something new. Our schools in Nunavut and the communities that we live in are wonderful places that have just had to face some challenging and truly unique situations. Be proud of all that you have overcome with your fellow staff, and look towards new beginnings with your school team and your students.

Cheers,

Justin





Black History Month

February was Black History Month! This year's theme "February and Forever: Celebrating Black History today and every day" strives to encourage everyone to celebrate every day. Heritage Canada gathered some resources to help educators recognize and celebrate the ongoing contributions made by Black Canadians.

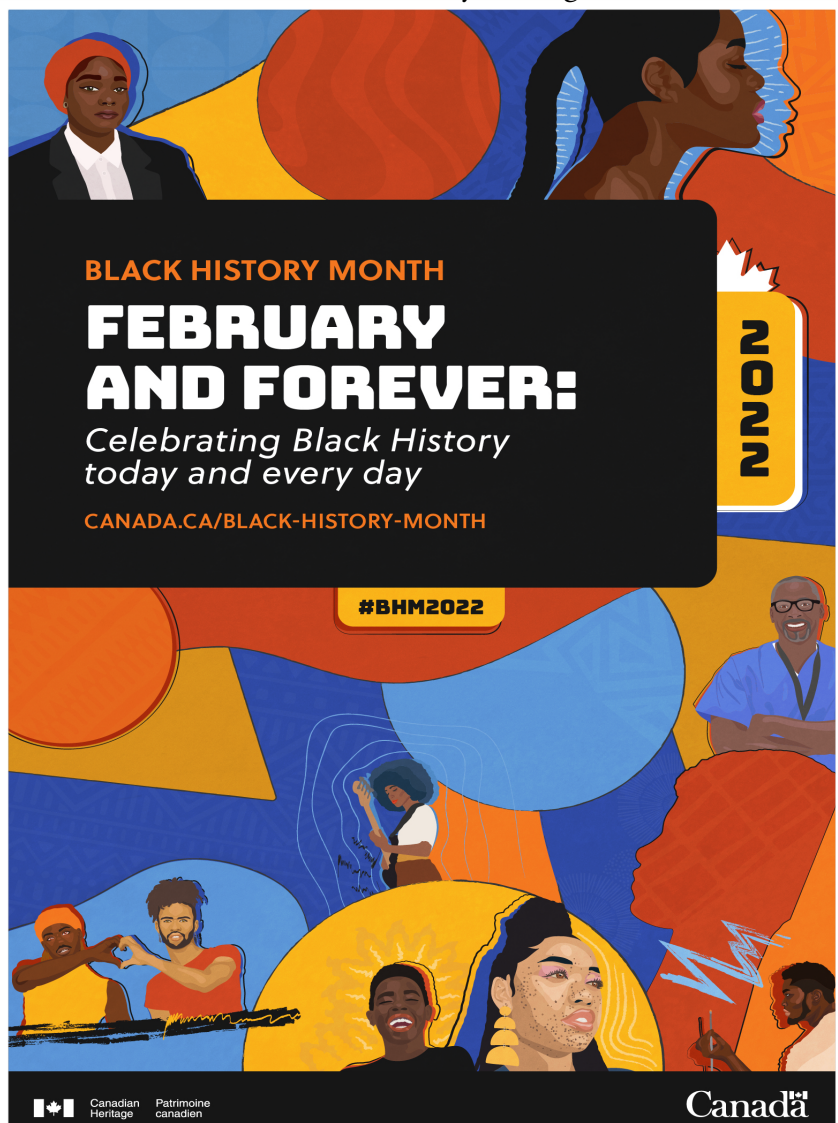
It is important to recognize this month and its importance.

While this Newsletter was not ready to come out in February it is still important for us to recognize this month and represent our strong contingent of black teachers here in Nunavut..

With all that has transpired in the last year, representation and seeing yourself acknowledged and represented is an important thing. Diversity and Inclusion is something the NTA strives for and we will continue to work towards all our members feeling seen and represented.

Black History Month in Canada

Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the UK also devote a month to celebrating Black history. While some provinces were recognizing Black History Month on their own, in 1993 the Ontario Black History Society successfully filed a petition in Ontario to proclaim February as Black History Month. Following that success, Rosemary Sadlier, president of the OBHS, introduced the idea of having Black History Month recognized across Canada to the Honourable Jean Augustine, the first Black Canadian woman elected to Parliament. In 1995, the House of Commons officially recognized February as Black History Month in Canada on a motion introduced by Dr. Augustine.



Amazing Activities from our NTA Members!



Kylie Geary of Igloodik at Sivuniit Middle School wanted to share the beading work they learned during PD week when they made these great earrings.



Shawna Thomson of Iqaluit celebrated Pi Day with her students at Aqsarniit School. Thanks for sharing!





Lindsay Walthert of Igloolik at Ataguttaluk Elementary School made these wonderful seal skin mittens during her PD week.



Marsha Rhodes of Iqaluit at Joamie School has been working on sound walls and implementing "kid lips" and orthographic mapping.

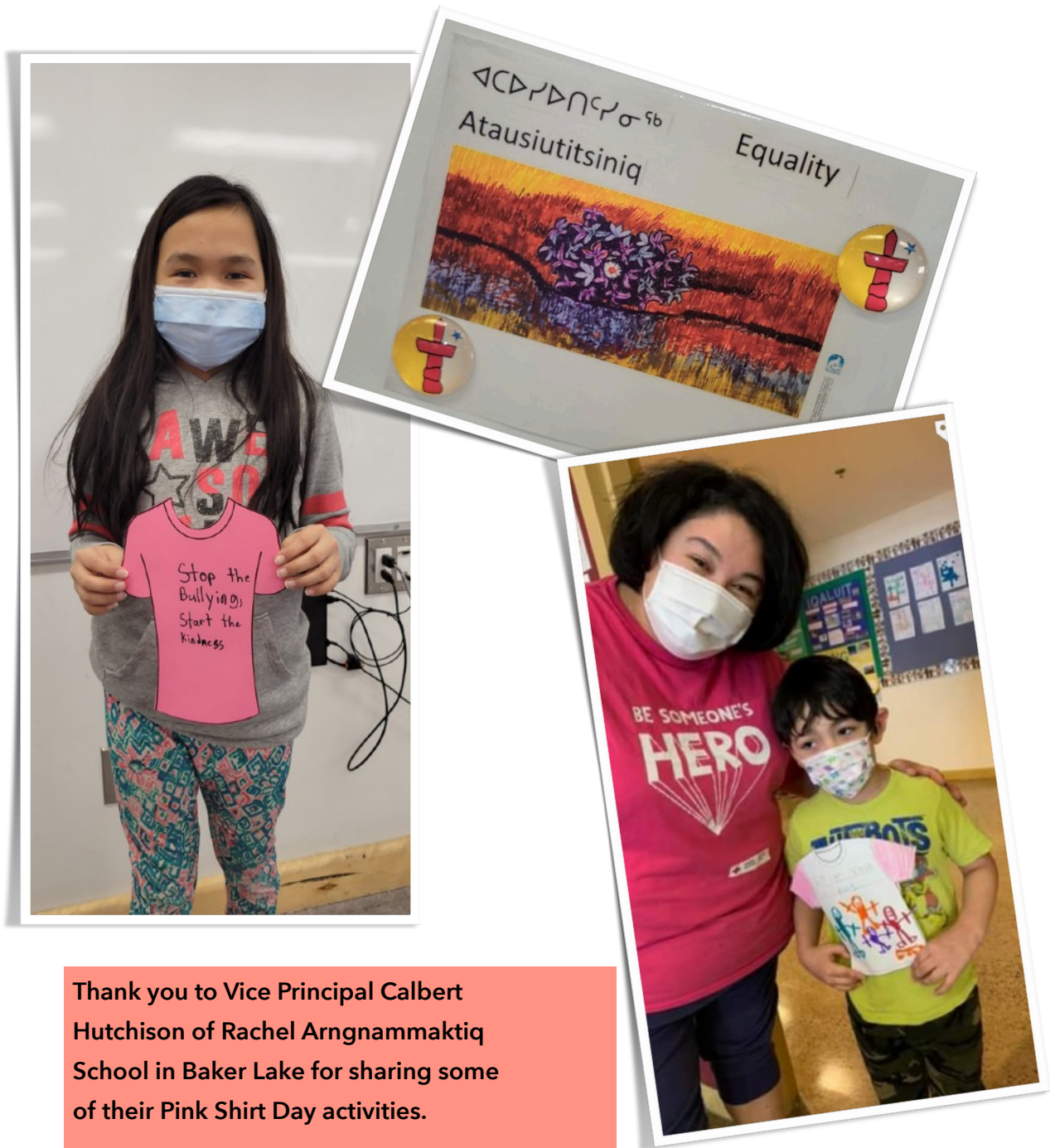


NTA President Justin Matchett and Minister of Education Pamela Gross were able to meet to discuss a variety of important issues on February 23rd, which happened to be PINK Shirt Day. Here they are showing their support of the event, and saying NO to Bullying!

Below:

Principal Jeff Avery of Kullik Illihakvik School in Cambridge Bay shows us some of the activities that took place at his school for Pink Shirt Day.

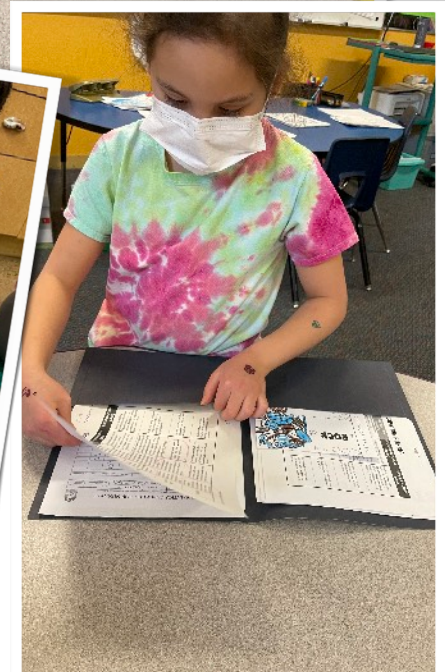
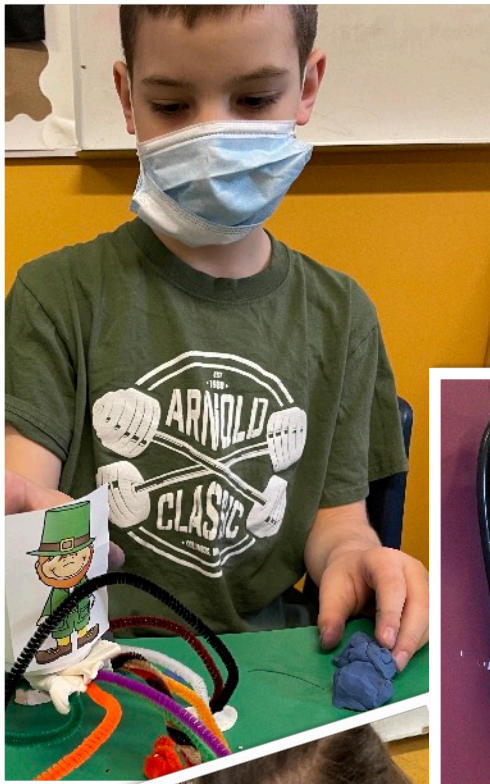




Thank you to Vice Principal Calbert Hutchison of Rachel Arngnammaktiq School in Baker Lake for sharing some of their Pink Shirt Day activities.

Also supporting Pink Shirt Day is Neevee Wilkins of Joamie School with one of the students reminding us to "always be kind"!

Taylor Matchett wanted to share some various activities from her class at Joamie School in Iqaluit. Below you will see some Leprechaun Traps, 100th Day of School Activities, Read Aloud + STEM Builds as well as some students preparing for their Student Lead Conferencing. Thanks for sharing!



Central Qikiqtani School Staff Scavenger Hunt - February 2022

The Central Qikiqtani Regional Executive recently arranged a School Staff Scavenger Hunt for all schools in Iqaluit/Apex. The event was promoted as a simple, quick distraction that gave staffs the chance to have a little fun together while still following the current social distancing protocols. And to add a little competitive juice, we offered the winning school coffee and donuts to be delivered to their school on the final day of our PD week.

The Scavenger Hunt required each school to create a small team (or teams) who were to hunt down items and/or create scenes involving items found in every school, take a picture of a different staff member posing with each item or scene, and to upload/send those pictures to the organizers. The first team to send all required photos would be declared the winner and proclaimed coffee break heroes by all their staff. Four out of the six schools in the region took part in the Scavenger Hunt. The list of required photos was sent to a member of each staff at 9:00 AM on Wednesday morning and the winning team, Joamie Illiniarvik, completed the task by 9:20.

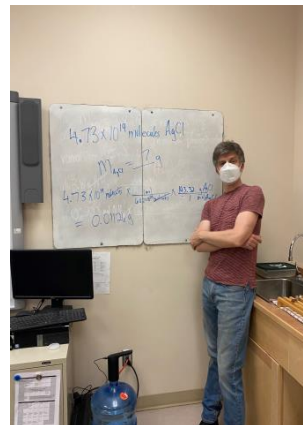
The short-lived event was exactly what it was supposed to be: a chance for our members to have a little fun and forget about the stresses of the last few days, weeks, and years. As you'll see in some of the attached photos, teachers were more than happy to pose for a few silly photos for a couple minutes. What you won't see: the teams of 3 or 4 individuals at each school behind the lens frantically running around trying to see who has the dirtiest white board and then trying to clean it as fast as they can (your welcome BTW!). Or the creative genius that went in to recreating the cover scene for the movie *The Usual Suspects* out of play dough.

We all know how much teachers love free stuff. But free coffee and donuts? Seriously, we had to do this when there were no students in the building because apparently teachers will do anything to win free coffee and donuts. From running through the hallways to sending smack-talk texts to members of other staffs, the teachers involved were out to win. But in the end, it was all in good fun and the event was a complete success. Congratulations to all the staffs at Joamie, Nakasuk, Aqsarniit, and Inuksuk Schools. Stay tuned for a similar event before the end of this school year.

The cutest and coolest Usual Suspects since the 90's



Dirtiest board

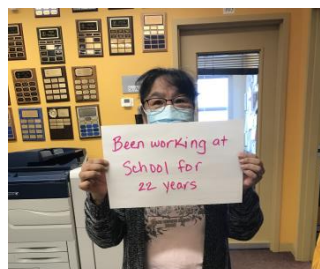


Not anymore! Thanks Bart!



Elizabeth using an ulu.

Opah is the longest serving staff member at Joamie Illiniarvik. 22 years! Qujannamiik Opah!



"You see a messy desk, I see organized chaos." says Samantha!



Maybe the new
NTA mascot?



NTA ELECTIONS

The nomination period for the election of Communication Liaison (CL), Professional Development Liaison (PDL), Regional Executive positions for all 6 regions, and the vacant territorial NTA Secretary-Treasurer position opens Friday, April 1, 2022, and closes on Friday, April 15, 2022.

- By-law 7: outlines duties of the territorial Secretary-Treasurer (**only territorial position vacant**)
- By-law 9: Election of Regional Representatives is a great point of reference for anyone who wants to familiarize themselves with the process (see By-law and Policy Handbook on our website www.ntanu.ca).
- By-law 16: School Organization – 16.2.4. – speaks to the length of term for our CL's – maximum number of consecutive terms is two years. Those of you in your first year as CL are eligible to run again! Those of you who are ineligible to run again as CL may be nominated for any other role, including PD Liaison.

Regional Executive Positions – the composition of the regional executive depends on the number of members in each region. See below:

Regional President	All Regions
Regional Vice President	All Regions
Regional Inuit Member at Large	All Regions
Regional Secretary Treasurer	North Qikiqtani, South Qikiqtani, Kitikmeot

- The term for Regional Executive positions is July 1, 2022 to June 30 2024 (2-year term)
- The term for the NTA Secretary-Treasurer Position is July 1 2022 to June 30, 2023 (by-election 1 year term to fill a vacancy)
- Members CAN run for both school and regional/territorial positions, and all members are eligible to run for these positions. You CAN vote for a member for BOTH a school position AND a regional/territorial position
- All members who are interested in filling a role for a school-based, regional or territorial position MUST submit a completed nomination form to Sonja Lonsdale (slonsdale@ntanu.ca) but the nomination deadline of April 15th at 5PM
- Election Committee will consist of the following members: Andy MacDonald, Karen Ross, Shawna Thomson, Erika Thompson and Jeff Avery
- Election Day is May 3, 2022
- All information has been sent to your school Communications Liaison



Nunavut Teacher's Association Contact Information

The NTA office location is:
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Iqaluit, Nunavut

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Assistant Executive Director:
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Director Member Services:
Sonja Lonsdale
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867-222-5127 (C)

Financial Controller: Brian Barry
867-979-0750 ext. 227 (O)
867-222-1090 (C)

PD Coordinator (Acting):
Craig MacGregor
867-979-0750 ext. 223

Next Issue:

We are still looking for members that would like to be contributors to Takulirit. If you enjoy writing we would like to hear from some members who would like to share some of the struggles they have faced during the pandemic and how they were able to overcome them.

We would also like to run a "Taking Care of Me" photo contest. For our next issue submit a photo of what you have been doing to take care of yourself this year. Have you been going to the cabin, out for a skidoo ride, ice fishing, or just hanging out with your friends? All members that submit a photo will have their name placed in a draw to win a prize from the NTA.

To those communities having a spring break enjoy your time and stay safe.

