



ONTARIO PUBLIC
SCHOOL BOARDS'
ASSOCIATION

Leading Education's Advocates

EFFECTIVE PRACTICES IN INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

School Board Waterloo Region District School Board

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Name of Program/Initiative/Strategy Indigenous Recognition Week

Hyperlinks to Documents or Website(s) Describing this Program/Initiative/Strategy [Indigenous Recognition Week Calendar](#)

Description of Program/Initiative/Strategy

The focus is on practices that excite, engage and increase student confidence, achievement and well-being. In the brief description please provide answers to the following questions: Where the program/initiative/strategy is delivered (school/board locations)? Who is responsible for delivering and monitoring the program/initiative/strategy? Who is the target audience? Are there any community partnerships involved? Are there any staffing or budget implications? Are there any special resources required? What are your indicators of success, etc.?

We held a series of weeklong activities to educate students about indigenous culture, engage students in creative experiential learning as well as service learning (money for Woodland Cultural Centre and moccasins for "So they can go home").

This was a student lead activity using the SpeakUp grant. Glenview Cares staff and students organized the event throughout the winter while including all staff in the assembly and activities. We were involved with Conestoga College and Wilfrid Laurier University LSPRIG diversity groups, Niagara Peninsula Aboriginal Area Management Board, Anishnabeg Outreach, elder Garry Sault from Mississauga Credit Nation and partnered with Board Equity Officer Nicole Robinson. It was very beneficial for our students to see so many community members coming together for an event held at our school.

There was also a workshop for identified students through Guidance. We saw an increase in attendance and engagement as they came into activities with a sense of pride that was not evident prior to this week.

We now have ongoing land acknowledgement with an understanding of the meaning behind this. We are hoping to host a pow wow in 2018. Our main goal is to improve recognition of key days of significance for our indigenous community members.

What has been the impact on Student Learning?

Students came into the week with limited knowledge of indigenous issues, history and culture. After the whole school assembly students gained a sense of empathy and started to think critically about how they can be an ally to our indigenous community. The in-class activities allowed students to connect what they learned at the assembly to curriculum. They were engaged in themed lessons throughout most subject areas. The scope of this week had a noticeable impact on the culture of our school and the sense of community. This was a goal we had at the outset of our planning. The relationships that we built with our community partners have opened the door for future dialogue, class visits, PD sessions and events. Our school is very diverse and seeing our staff and students coming together to celebrate a culture increases that sense of belonging for all students.