

Issue 3
Spring 2012

PushUp Press

Annual newsletter from Vuntut Gwitchin Government & Chief Zzeh Gittlit School's Culture Camp

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Welcome!

For four weeks over March and April, the students, staff and community members of Old Crow were busy out on the land at the annual spring camp. New this year, Vuntut Gwitchin Government (VGG) and Chief Zzeh Gittlit School (CZGS) welcomed Native Studies students from Cando Community School, Saskatchewan.

A message from our Principal Year 3: Traditions, Arts & Trades

I always enjoy reading and sharing the PushUp Press because it allows me to see the camp experience through the eyes of the students.

The 2012 version of Culture Camp marked the third year of a three year cycle of academic and cultural learning. Each year Old Crow's students develop their Gwich'in language, culture, and traditional land-based skills while also achieving territorial learning outcomes.

With students progressing through each distinct year, with specific activities and learning outcomes for each class grouping (i.e., Grades 1-2-3, 4-5-6, and 7-8-9), each camp experience has been, and will continue to be, different by design.

Chief Zzeh Gittlit School staff



members were honoured to once again be included in the delivery of a camp experience that reflects such a strong partnership with the Vuntut Gwitchin Government (VGG) Education Department and other community organizations.

Mahsi' Choo, Steve Climie



A message from the VGG Department of Education

Tracy Rispin,

VGG Education Director

By the smiles on each CZGS student's face I know that our 2012 Culture Camp, 'Traditions, Trades & Arts' was another success!! Mahsi' choo to all that played a part in this year's Camp. Especially to our teachers!

This year's camp is the final year of VGG Education & Northern Strategy's financial contribution agreement. The purpose of this agreement was to create educational materials that reflect our traditional teachings on the Land with academics, such as literacy, numeracy, history, and science. These materials have already been forecast in and outside the Yukon and have become a very HOT item to have.

As part of this agreement, VGG Education will be launching our materials in the fall to the Depart-

ment of Education. VGG Education has copyright and will be acknowledged for the content of the materials because once we do our launch another First Nation will be able to add their own language and teachings to the template. It is a very exciting time for education in the Yukon and Old Crow has once again played the lead!

A lot of the written content for our Culture Camp materials must be credited to our contractor and former CZGS teacher, Kerri Ceretzke along with the valuable input from the working group committee, Robert Bruce, Lance Nagwan and Erika Tizya-Tramm. After this year's Camp, student guidebooks will undergo final edits and some activity changes.

The visit by the Saskatchewan CANDO students was a highlight for the community. I was happy to

see them enjoying the Culture Camp. Some of the students had never experienced a field trip like this before and they adapted very well. I am sure you will enjoy their stories in this edition of the Push Up Press.

Another highlight of the Culture Camp was the Trading Post. Students worked hard around the camp to earn trading furs and at the end of Camp, they have an opportunity to trade their hard earned furs for something of value with their trade negotiators, Education Support Worker Stanley Njootli Sr and their teacher.

Special thank you to Frances Ross, who coordinates all the layout of PushUp Press. I look forward to this edition in June! Mahsi' choo goes out to the CZGS School Council for sponsoring the Push Up Press this year!



Traditions, Arts & Trades

As the final year in our 3-year annual spring Culture Camp, this year's theme was 'Traditions, Arts & Trades.' Muskrat trapping and rabbit snaring continue to be the main traditional spring activities at camp in addition to other land-based and cultural activities. Students were challenged to explore specific learning outcomes from the curriculum at the same time as living and learning Gwich'in culture.

3-Year Camp Cycle

2010	Traditions & Science - Trial Year
2011	Traditions, History & Geography - Trial Year
2012	Traditions, Arts & Trades - Trial Year
2013	Traditions & Science
2014	Traditions, History & Geography
2015	Traditions, Arts & Trades



TRADITIONS AND THE ARTS

- Beadwork and Traditional Sewing
- Metal Jewelry-Making
- Earring Display Boxes
- Acrylic Painting
- Sketching
- Weaving
- Carving Wood and Soap Sculptures
- Snow Sculptures
- CZGS Art Show and Sale
- PushUp Press Article Writing
- Gwich'in Language in the Arts
- Legends and Storytelling
- Puppets and Plays
- Collage Making
- Music and Songwriting



TRADITIONS AND THE TRADES

- Food Safe
- Meal Preparation and Service
- Ski-Doo Maintenance and Repair
- Muskrat Trapping
- Rabbit Snaring
- Animal Care
- Gwich'in Language for the Trades
- Meat Preparation
- Camp Care
- Digital Media: Video Journaling
- Traditional Trades
- Iron Chef Cooking Competition
- Careers in the Trades
- Gun Safety
- Personal Goal Setting



Limitless learning on the land

Kerri Ceretzke

The clock at Culture Camp may show 3:30 p.m. but that doesn't mean students stop learning. Actually, students do not know when to stop learning at camp except maybe when their stomachs start to growl? But even that's not true. Camp suppers include giving thanks for the food, reflecting on the day, sharing new and old ideas, healthy eating, cleaning up, not wasting food and so much more. Wait a minute - many of the camp meals were prepared by students themselves! They learned food safe rules, how to prepare and cook on a wood stove, kitchen safety, following written and oral recipes, food timing, cleaning up and the great satisfaction of serving a meal to hungry campers.

Camp staff and teachers agree that is difficult to express all the learning that happens at Camp. Vuntut Gwitchin people have long known that land-based camps are the natural environment for using the Gwich'in language, passing on knowledge, skills and stories, allowing students to try out their new skill sets and work together.

Countless times camp staff and teachers paused in amazement as students' demonstrated strong

traditional and academic knowledge and skills. Some of this learning was documented in the student's booklets or in pictures, video clips, surveys, reports and in the students' writing for the PushUp Press. However, some of the learning and student growth is etched deeply in the teachers' and camp staffs' memories, and shared through stories and all the twinkling, big-eyed balled glances between adults.

Working as community, problem solving, socializing, entertaining, giving thanks, keeping one's self and others safe and comfortable, listening to stories and instructions, 'unplugging' from technology, environmental awareness, hygiene and the list grows... limitless student learning on the land.

But how about the learning that occurs within the teachers? Teachers are given the opportunity to learn about the local culture: traditional foods, camp set up, traditional values, the community and the list goes on. Through this, teachers build stronger relationships with their students and community members. By creating this understanding they are able to meet the needs of their students more effectively especially back at the classroom and in future trips.

The energy and curious nature of youth rubs off on camp staff, guest speakers, visitors, parents and guardians. They pick up new information and test new skills. Teachers gain new teaching and learning methods. Everyone benefits from stepping outside!



Senior class is off!

With the sleds loaded, gear stowed away, Ski-dos full and last bathroom breaks, the Grade 7, 8 and 9 students were off for their week at the Fish Lake camp!



A chilly delay!

Grade 7, 8, and 9 Camp was delayed one day due to windy weather causing extreme temperatures. Wind chill (often called the wind chill factor) is the felt air temperature on exposed skin due to wind. With wind chill temperatures from -37 to -43°C at camp, school staff took special precautions to ensure safety: helmets with visors, proper winter gear, traveling as a group and much more. The frigid temperatures lasted for the first four days of camp but everyone worked together to stay warm and have fun!!

CANADIAN WIND CHILL INDEX												Air Temperature °C											
												0	16	14	12	10	8	6	4	2	0	-2	-4
WIND SPEED km/h	4	16	14	12	10	8	6	3	1	-1	-3	-4	-6	-8	-10	-12	-14	-16	-18	-20	-22	-24	-26
	6	16	14	12	9	7	5	3	0	-2	-4	-7	-9	-11	-14	-16	-18	-20	-23	-25	-27	-30	-32
	8	16	14	11	9	7	4	2	0	-3	-5	-7	-10	-12	-14	-17	-19	-22	-24	-26	-29	-31	-33
	10	16	13	11	9	6	4	1	-1	-3	-6	-8	-11	-13	-16	-18	-20	-22	-25	-27	-30	-32	-34
	12	16	13	11	8	6	3	1	-1	-4	-6	-9	-11	-13	-16	-18	-20	-23	-26	-28	-31	-33	-35
	14	15	13	10	8	6	3	1	-2	-4	-7	-9	-12	-14	-16	-19	-21	-24	-26	-29	-31	-34	-36
	16	15	13	10	8	5	3	0	-2	-5	-7	-10	-12	-15	-17	-19	-22	-24	-27	-29	-32	-34	-37
	18	15	12	10	8	5	2	0	-2	-5	-7	-10	-12	-15	-17	-20	-22	-25	-27	-30	-32	-35	-37
	20	15	12	10	7	5	2	0	-3	-5	-8	-10	-13	-15	-18	-20	-23	-25	-28	-30	-33	-36	-38
	22	15	12	10	7	5	2	0	-3	-6	-8	-11	-13	-16	-18	-21	-23	-26	-28	-31	-34	-36	-39
WIND SPEED mi/h	24	15	12	10	7	4	2	1	-3	-6	-8	-11	-13	-16	-19	-21	-24	-26	-29	-31	-34	-37	-39
	26	15	12	9	7	4	2	-1	-3	-6	-8	-11	-14	-16	-19	-22	-24	-27	-29	-32	-34	-37	-40
	28	14	12	9	7	4	2	-1	-4	-6	-8	-11	-14	-17	-19	-22	-24	-27	-30	-32	-35	-37	-40
	30	14	12	9	7	4	1	-1	-4	-6	-9	-12	-14	-17	-20	-22	-25	-27	-30	-33	-35	-38	-40
	32	14	12	9	6	4	1	-1	-4	-7	-8	-12	-15	-17	-20	-22	-25	-28	-30	-33	-36	-38	-41
	34	14	12	9	6	4	1	-2	-4	-7	-10	-12	-15	-17	-20	-23	-25	-28	-31	-33	-36	-39	-41
	36	14	11	9	6	4	1	-2	-4	-7	-10	-12	-15	-18	-20	-23	-26	-28	-31	-34	-36	-39	-42
	38	14	11	9	6	3	1	-2	-5	-7	-10	-13	-15	-18	-21	-23	-26	-29	-31	-34	-37	-39	-42
	40	14	11	9	6	3	1	-2	-5	-7	-10	-13	-15	-18	-21	-23	-26	-29	-31	-34	-37	-39	-42
	42	14	11	9	6	3	0	-2	-5	-8	-10	-13	-16	-18	-21	-24	-26	-29	-32	-34	-37	-40	-42
WIND SPEED km/h	44	14	11	8	6	3	0	-2	-5	-8	-10	-13	-16	-18	-21	-24	-27	-29	-32	-35	-37	-40	-43
	46	14	11	8	6	3	0	-2	-5	-8	-11	-13	-16	-19	-21	-24	-27	-30	-32	-35	-38	-40	-43
	48	14	11	8	6	3	0	-3	-5	-8	-11	-13	-16	-19	-22	-24	-27	-30	-32	-35	-38	-41	-43
	50	14	11	8	5	2	0	-3	-6	-8	-11	-14	-16	-19	-22	-24	-27	-30	-33	-35	-38	-41	-44
	52	14	11	8	5	3	0	-3	-6	-8	-11	-14	-16	-19	-22	-25	-27	-30	-33	-36	-38	-41	-44
	54	14	11	8	5	2	0	-3	-6	-8	-11	-14	-17	-19	-22	-25	-28	-30	-33	-36	-39	-41	-44
	56	13	11	8	5	2	0	-3	-6	-8	-11	-14	-17	-20	-22	-25	-28	-31	-33	-36	-39	-42	-44
	58	13	11	8	5	2	0	-3	-6	-8	-11	-14	-17	-20	-22	-25	-28	-31	-34	-36	-39	-42	-45
	60	13	11	8	5	2	0	-3	-6	-8	-12	-14	-17	-20	-23	-25	-28	-31	-34	-36	-39	-42	-45

From -25 to -34°: Frostbite likely after prolonged skin exposure to wind
 From -35 to -60°: Frostbite possible in less than 10 minutes
 Below -60°: Frostbite possible in less than 2 minutes





The great Iron Chef cook-off!

Nathaniel

On the last full day of Culture Camp we did an Iron Chef competition for supper. There were teams of 3 or 4. The teams were C n' C Pizzeria and the team was Haley, Darcy and I. Team Gwitcherman was Ty, Dakota, David and Marlon. We had to make an appetizer, a dinner and a desert. We had to make all that in 1 hour and Mr. Climie was the time



keeper. We made sweet and sour caribou bites, caribou bannock pizza and a fruit pie. They made salmon bites, a caribou bacon roll and smores. They won the appie and the desert we won the dinner. It was a pretty close game. We only had three players too, but we had fun!



So many visitors!

Melayna

We had lots of interesting visitors come to Fish Lake this year. The first visitor was Mary Jane. She taught us about beading and it was fun to have Mary Jane out there.

Esau came out and talked about skidoo safety and how to always carry extra skidoo parts, extra clothing and other stuff.

Later April came out to visit. Louis drove her and she stayed out for a while. She made me feel that I wasn't the only girl.

After April came out, John, Louis and Myra came out. Myra talked about alcohol and how to say no. She gave us prizes. I got a picture frame and nail polish.

Philip F. and Philip R. came out and talked about gun cleaning and it was cool. When I was ready to go, Leila and Birch came with a bunch of people to write a song. The song sounded good and was funny when I read it.

Culture Camp was so fun because we had all these visitors come out.!



NEW Word Alert!

Ever hear of a meat dance? It's where meat gathers to have a good time. Meat never meets at a meat ball. Right, Miss Hill?



NEW Word Alert!

Outdoor-ish. Where technology is being used while taping a snow shoe race in -30°C... what?



The Culture Camp Blues

Darcy

The Culture Camp Blues is the grade 7-9 camp song. We worked together to create the song, but Dakota came up with most of the rhymes and words. It was fun listening to the music. We plan on making another song next year but we think we will make something that is more funny, and has more lyrics.

The people who helped us with the song were Birch and Leila, and the Dawson people. The instruments that played the rhythm were a fiddle and a guitar. Then, Nate and I videotaped it on the iPad and camera. It's the first Culture Camp music video, straight from Fish Lake!

The song was originally done by Johnny Cash.

*I heard the skidoos a comin'
Comin' round the lake
Tryin' to keep the fire goin'
Tye's Chief for a day!
I never seen the sunshine
Since I don't know when
If that skidoo keeps going
I'll be so happy then.*

*The Rangers came and told us
Don't ever play with guns
But they shot a caribou in
Crow Flat
And we had a lot of fun ...
and then we ate the tongue.
We ate a lot for supper
And then we weighed a ton.*



Poker at night

Marlon

Every day at the Culture Camp we earned trapper money for packing in wood, getting snow and washing the dishes for the cooking tent.

Every night we would play Texas hold 'em' poker for five trapper dollars. There was Nathaniel, Darcy, Dakota, Tyrel, and me, Marlon. Nathaniel was always the dealer.

The very last night we had a twenty dollar pot and Nathaniel won two hundred and fifty dollars (I think). It was a good game. I think Nathaniel was the best player there.



Old Crow students represent at Ottawa conference

Percilla

I went to Ottawa for a conference with Cheyanne and Shaylene during culture camp. We went to see Parliament. We were going to Parliament with all the other groups in the conference. When we got off the bus, everyone stopped so we could take a picture of the building. Then after that everyone walked up to the door. Everybody went through security and we walked up stairs and walked through the halls. Everyone looked at art and artifacts. Then everyone started to walk through the halls really fast. People went to go see the cats, looking at statues, and taking lots of pictures. When people were done looking some started to go to the mall, some of them stayed, and some went to the hotel Shaylene and Jenna went to the mall while Cheyanne and I went to the hotel!

Cheyenne

The dance was in the Travel Lodge Hotel's basement. That's where the youth conference was. That's where we stayed, and the dance was so fun and awesome. I filmed some parts of it and I danced the rest of it. I danced my heart out. Then something embarrassing happened to me... but I don't want to say it because it's personal!

At the end of the dance I walked around with my friends and they were nice. Then we had to go to our rooms and it was sad but still fun at the same time. I kind of miss being there but then I thought, "Oh well, there's always next year and the year after that and maybe the year after." The airplane ride was so long and so boring! The dance was the best!

Shaylene

The dance was downstairs at the hotel. I was going because it was going to be fun and it was part of the conference. You didn't have to go if you didn't want to. The dance was happening in Ottawa at The Travelodge Hotel. The dance happened Saturday when the conference was over. The music that they played was Much More Music and it was cool. I really liked the songs they put on. I mostly danced to all of them, well some of them.

What I will remember from the dance is that all of the kids had a good time and I danced my heart out. I really had an awesome time and there were a lot of people dancing.



Busy campers

Right from the start, students are outside working on their land skills. Everyone is pretty good at dressing for the weather, particularly after a week on the land!

The first afternoon included snowshoeing, setting rabbit snares and muskrat traps. It is always busy at Culture Camp!



Poker nights, snow-shoeing and ski-doo rides!

Dakota

When we were in camp we played poker at night for trapper money. It was so fun. We played it all the time in Old Crow. I only won two times in a row and we had fun. I was really good. I was always in second place or third when I play people.

In the morning we checked traps and snares, and we caught three muskrats. When we went to check the snares I would always go with David. He is a fun driver and he goes through deep snow all the time. It was so fun.

Owl watching

Haley

While checking our rabbit snares we spotted a Great Gray Owl atop a tall, dead tree. It sat there for several minutes before flying across a lake and to another dead tree. We followed it by skidoo and were able to observe it for some time. It sat high in the tree, with the beautiful mountain landscape behind it. We sat on the skidoos quietly watching it while Stan told us it



was hunting for animals under the snow. It looked around alertly until it finally flew away silently. We could see it swoop down into the snow far off in the distance. We hope it caught whatever animal it was hunting.

Upon returning from Culture Camp, I was still thinking about the Great Gray Owl we saw, so I looked it up in our classroom bird book.

Great Gray Owls live year round in the Yukon and that they prefer eating small rodents like voles and mice, unlike the Great Horned Owl, who prefers to feast on Snowshoe Hares. Gray Owls build stick nests in wet (riparian) forest areas. Our Great Grey Owl sighting and viewing was a great way to finish off our Culture Camp experience.



Hands-on experience = trades certificates

Tyrel

Trade certificates are a kind of award that you get when you pay attention and learn about what people are telling you. We got trade certificates for **food safe, skidoo safety and maintenance, Chief and Council, breakfast and lunch making, drying meat, muskrat trapping and rabbit snaring.**

In these pictures you can see us working towards these certificates. We got the certificates after we ate dinner. Sometimes we got trading post money with the certificates.



Five~star food from the wall tent kitchen

Jesse Jewell

When you imagine 'camp food' certain images come to mind. Bottom-less pots of moose stew and tasty bannock, steaming oatmeal and sizzling bacon. This year the Grades 4, 5 & 6 students took camp food to all new heights. The students were broken into two cooking teams and then ideas and eventually the flour began to fly! Each team of camp chefs was challenged to prepare a main course item and a desert item for that evenings dinner.

After consulting a few classic bush/camping cook books the chefs set off on a 3 hour cooking frenzy. Their creativity and collaboration skills were put to the test – a wall tent kitchen outside of Old Crow has only so many ingredients! One group made a Sheppard's Pie and Apple Crumble, and the other group made Ribs, Fried Re-Fried Rice and Brownies in a Pan.

With no oven in sight most courses we're cooked on a Coleman camp stove or right on top of the wood stove. Students quickly learned that cooking on a wood stove requires paying special attention to the heat level, time and position of the pot. They

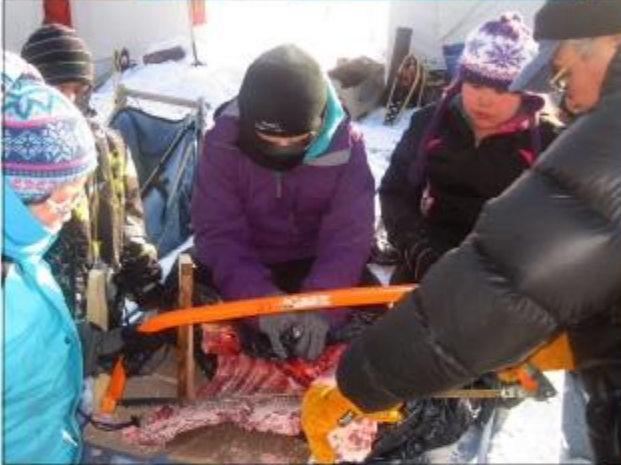


also learned a lesson in order of operations. If the meat in a Sheppard's Pie is going on the bottom and it takes the longest to cook we'll need to start it first. Wait the potatoes are frozen! We should hang them in a bag near the fire. Who's peeling the apples? Do we have cinnamon? So busy!

After the cinnamon-dust settled, the table was set. Our taste-testers we're hungry and could smell the savoury scent blowing in that persistent North wind. Everyone went back for second and third helpings of this meal and the cook tent was alive with chatter about the flavour and creativity. The student chefs were humble

and proud of their fine meal. Most of the humility came from learning that cooking a wide variety of food meant piles and piles of dishes! Who could have predicted such an awful thing? Dishes at home seem to just clean themselves!

The taste testers left the tent after desert to discuss the specific qualities of the meal as the chefs waited with excitement. It was decided that the Ribs with Fried Re-Fried Rice won the main course prize and the Apple Crumble won the desert prize. In the end everyone won and walked away with full belly and some great memories.



Camp Top 10

Aaron

My top ten list of things we did at Camp:

1. Muskrat trapping
2. Rabbit snaring
3. Packing in wood
4. Iron Chef competition
5. Snowshoeing
6. Trading post money
7. Trading post
8. GPS
9. Hot cocoa
10. ... and sleeping!

It was the most fun, ever!

Madison

It was the most fun night at culture camp - we stayed up all NIGHT! Our teacher was sleeping but we whispered about ourselves when we get older, who we are going to work for and how big are houses are going to be! It was fun and cool.

We were muskrat trapping all week and one of the muskrats was alive when we got there! We learned how to clean it in the snow.

When we went back to camp we had to cut the skin of the muskrat

off and then you can eat the muskrat. We cooked the tails and everything and ate it.

There was a puppy there too! It was very cute, his name was Red and he was Wes' pup. We had fun playing with him!

I want to go again because it's fun at nighttime and muskrat trapping was fun too! I can't wait until next year for culture camp. I bet its going to be fun!



Grades 4, 5 and 6 camp messages, Gwich'in style!

Percilla

Nits'oo khyah nitr'iinlii, gyah di'tr'itl'i gadiigoonahtan gat'iinihthan. Tsii'in tr'ahtsii gat'iinihthan. Dinjii kat ts'ihnuu gat'iinihthan. Łaii nadiihaazhik gat'iinihthan. Zhehgwadhoh troo nihdajihkii gwits'ihnuu.

I like learning how to trap and snare. I like playing games. I like to help people. I like going dog sledding. I help pack wood into the tents.

Aaron

Tr'al zhit tr'igwich'ii srigoonch'uu. Geh gyah, dzan katr'idi'in haa goots'ih nuu. Troo haa gwitr'it t'agwaa'in gwits'ih nuu. Kerri ch'ik k'eech'ahtryaa vits'ih nuu.

Staying at Culture Camp is fun. I helped with getting muskrats and rabbits. I helped with working with the firewood too. I also helped Kerri with washing the dishes.

Candace

Tr'al zhit tr'igwich'ii gat'iinihthan, vike'trahch'uu ts'at chan ch'itr'idi'ee. Drin tagwinaach'uu tsiitr'idi'in. Dzan eenjit khyah nitr'iinlii, geh eenjit gyah di'tr'itl'i. Gwitr'it t'agwaa'in geenjit chan dinehtl'ee lazraa tr'ahtsii. Vah ookat tr'ahtsii.

I liked Culture Camp because we were cooking and doing all kinds of art. We played games everyday. We set muskrat traps and snares for rabbits. I liked working for trading post money to buy stuff at the trading post at the camp.

Jocelyn

Tr'al zhit tr'igwich'ii diiyah srigoonch'ii.

I liked staying at Culture Camp because it was so fun.

Madison

Tsii'in tr'ahtsii ts'at dzan eenjit natr'aazrii gat'iinihthan.

I liked it because we get to play board games and hunt muskrat.





Sewing with Mary Jane

Candace

Mary Jane came to culture camp to sew with us. She had some beautiful projects that were just started and some that were done. There were lots of beautiful things.

The first thing you have to do when you sew is you have to get all the materials together. Then you got to sew around it so it could hold both of the other part together the paper with the felt.

The colours I used were purple for the material, the backing was a paper bag, the beads were light ones, blue and pink! The pattern was with two small flowers. There were so little and cute!

I'm making some little slippers for my little cousin! And Jocelyn Benjamin is making slippers to for someone too! We are going to work together with her mom on the skin part! And if it doesn't fit my cousin I'm going to give it to my other cousin!

My favourite part was getting started with sewing. I'm really excited to give my project to my cousin! I can't wait until I'm done my sewing project!



Native Hockey Tournament

Teryn

I went to hockey not culture camp. I played in the NHT tournament. There was Ty, Tyler, Jarret,

Brandon, Tyrone, Marlon, Nate Dakota, Johnny, Cameron, Will, Josh and myself on our team. I played for the Gwich'in Braves and was #14. I almost scored a

goal but I missed the net. We only played 2 games and then we were out!!!! But we did good!!!! The best part of the tournament was opening ceremony I got to go in the puck drop!



The best time... EVER!

Jocelyn

At Culture Camp we had lots of fun! We even had a little igloo behind our tents. But it was NOT finished. It was only half done. When the Grades 1, 2 and 3's went to the camp they made three igloos. If we had seen the little igloo, we would of made one. We had fun playing in the igloo.

Plus one more thing that was really fun was we had an Iron Chef cooking competition! We had the best

chef ever — Jesse. He was a visitor and we made Sheppard's pie and for dessert we had..... APPLE CRISP! Doesn't that sound like a great meal?

We won the contest for our best desert apple crisp! The other group made ribs, rice and brownies. I had lots of fun at camp.



Thank you
CZGS School
Council for
sponsoring the
2012 PushUp
Press!



A letter from Camp to Old Crow

Dear Mom,

How is Logan? I wish I lived at Culture Camp. I went to check our muskrat traps and two were alive! We work hard here. I pack in wood to each tent, sweep and helped Saniz cook. (But don't get any ideas about me and house work, OK?) Dad sleeps in our tent.

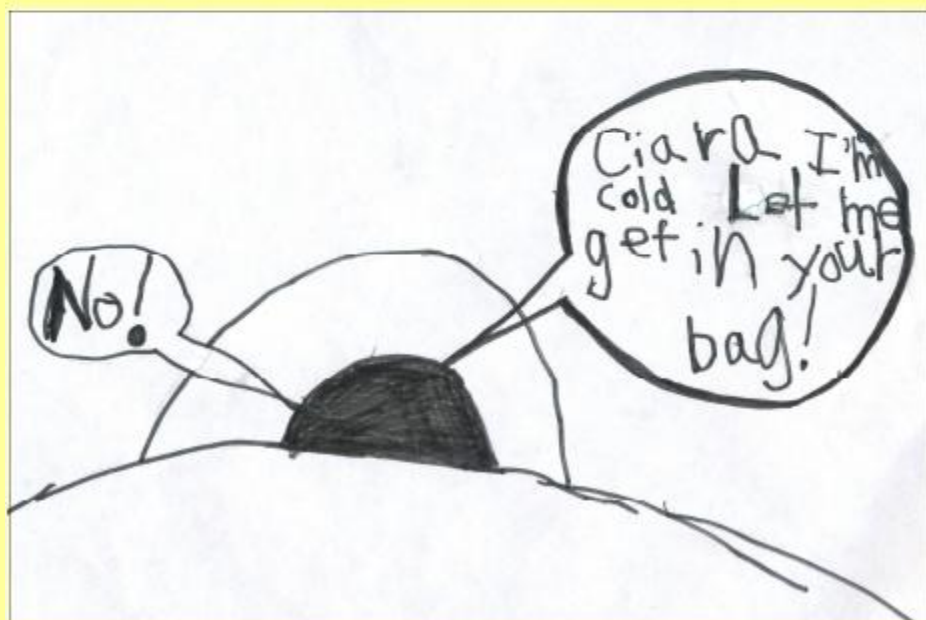
There are snow shelters. David said we could sleep in the snow fort, but we didn't end up sleeping in it. I think it would be cool to sleep in a snow fort. We play Polar Bear and Seals and run around a lot.

Hope work is fun.

Love, Aidan



A cartoon from Ciara



So many things to do at Camp!

McKayla

On the first day of Culture Camp, I fell off the Bravo and hurt my knee. But I like to go muskrat trapping. I made puppets and we did a show. We wrote a song. I slept in a snow shelter it was awesome and warm but when

I woke up I was cold. But we have hot and tasty breakfasts.

I played games like Polar Bear and Seals, tag and chased other kids. I chased David. I had a lot of free time. I made necklaces. I made an apron and helped cook.

The worst thing of Culture Camp is

washing your body and going to the bathroom — it is the worst thing of my life!

I love Culture Camp, it was my first time there and it was fun. I think I will go to Culture Camp again next year. I know that we will have lots of fun again!



Kiss the cook!

 On Day 2 we helped Saniz cook dinner. Saniz is very careful with the food. She has a clean kitchen. We washed our hands a LOT!

The students cooked vegetables and rice and made juice. It was a lot of fun. We are really good cooks! Thank you Saniz for all your help and tasty meals!



All in a Camp day

Tyra

When I was at Culture Camp, I stayed there for one day. McKayla and I made \$50 bucks for packing in wood and other things! That was exciting.

I painted an apron and it was fun.

We wore our aprons when we were helping out in the kitchen tent. I miss Culture Camp, but I had fun there and when I was in MacPherson, NWT.



Our camp song!

Oo'ok Gwi'ilik
Camp Song

Write the lyrics (words) to your camp song below and the next page -

Title: Covert

We all want to
Culture Camp
because we would have fun.
we went out to
check our traps
And 2 were alive.
Every day we pack in
wood
so we can earn cash
our trading post is

Club Caribou
We hope they have good stuff
(Song to the tune of Mary Had a Little Lamb)

Draw you or your friends or maybe everyone playing the camp song together.

Our song, written in Dean's student workbook



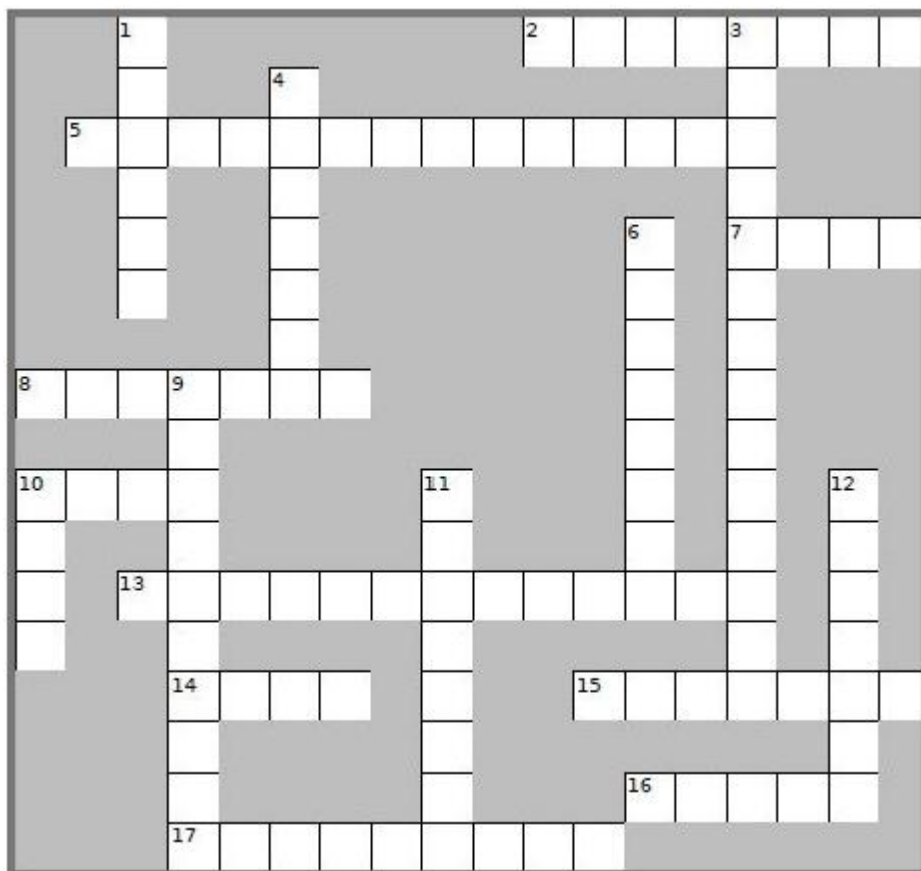
Traditions, Arts & Trades: Activities Pages

Try these puzzles and activities,
inspired by Culture Camp 2012!
The answers are on page 35.



i p n t r c o m e d y y n i r g a r g
e r l t r w r i a u e t i e i y f r f
e s r a d a c n g i s e d g i e e e t
n g o u y t d n e p n g e e i s h h y
y r l e w e j i e r u t p l u c s c l
w e l d e r r g n i l l e t y r o t s
s t r e t c h i n g n i n n a l p u n
a n t n n o r e n u p n t o a e g b a
n i v j c l w c o g t o w o e n d r b
e a s c o o l e a d e r s h i p c e c
r p u p u u t c a r n e i t a s a e i
e n n n n r r j e v p o t t k d r e e
t u m e c h a n i c i e i i i o v s m
f r u l i j p s a g s n n n o o i d b
t e s s l j p n p l c n g t r w n i d
r n i o y e i e a t i r n g e e g n n
e o c h r u n o g n r n r r g r k t s
d a u i c r g d g r y a g e l i w a i
n u e b a r g h i h l e l y l f a c b

sculpture
leadership
trading post
chief
council
nutrition
planning
lyrics
maintenance
trapping
skinning
stretching
acrylic
watercolour
jewelry
carving
beading
journaling
weaving
comedy
music
legend
storytelling
layering
goal setting
firewood
baker
painter
chef
mechanic
carpenter
welder
butcher
design



Use these Gwitch'in words to find the
English words in the crossword. If you
get stumped, this website will help:
www.firstvoices.com/en/Vuntut-Gwichin/words

Across
2 mukluks
5 chief
7 firewood
8 soap
10 thread
13 snowmobile
14 belt
15 fry pan
16 meat
17 break-up

Down
1 they are eating
3 fiddle
4 lynx
6 bannock
9 sewing needle
10 plate
11 stove
12 beads





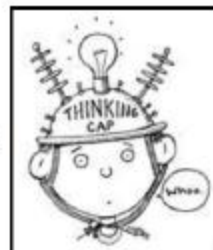
Hey there parents, guardians, siblings and other family members!

This is the self-assessment that the senior students reflected on after Culture Camp. Run through this list and see what skills you and your family and friends can work on together! Just think, less than one year until Culture Camp 2013... gotta keep practising!

Student Assessment - How Did I Do?*

Think...reflect...remember....how did YOU do with the various traditional activities?

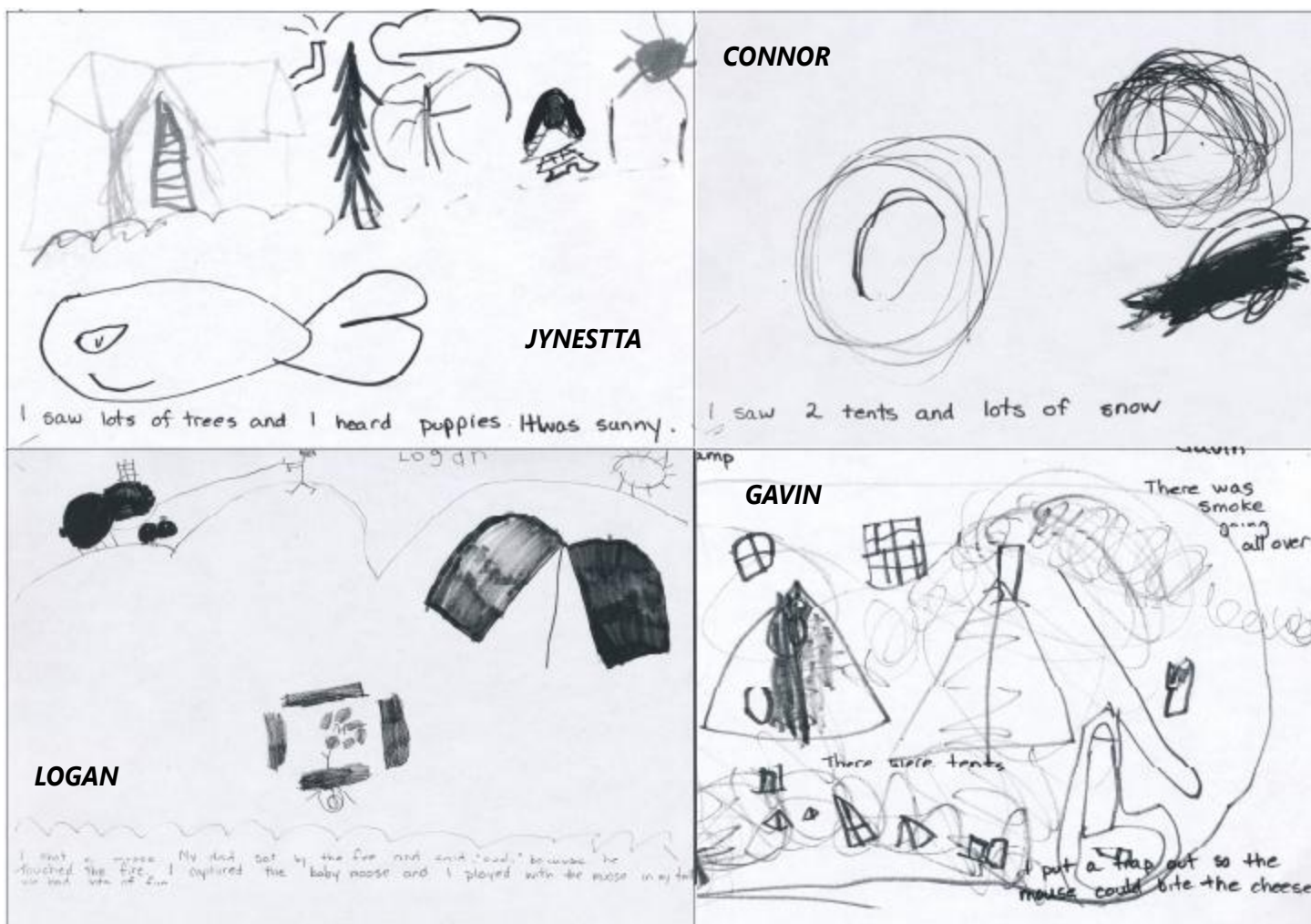
**Adapted from Spring Trapping on Crow Flat*



<u>Activity</u>	<u>Help Needed</u>	<u>Okay</u>	<u>Master</u>
Pack gear safely and securely.			
Know the area around Fish Lake Camp.			
Know surrounding creeks, mountains & trails.			
Know how to collect & store wood.			
Keep stove safe & working well.			
Understand muskrat behavior at different seasons.			
Understand muskrat reproductive cycles.			
Understand muskrat feeding patterns and relate these to trapping activities.			
Understand muskrat populations and when to leave an area so the population can recover.			
Know how many muskrats may use a muskrat house.			
Know how to identify a muskrat pushup.			
Find a door in a muskrat pushup.			
Take top of the muskrat pushup.			
Set trap in a muskrat pushup.			
Know different ways of setting a trap in pushup.			
Know how to make a plan if the house is slanted.			
Know how to leave no trace of ice or smell in muskrat house.			



Artwork from the Kindergarten class



Tidbits from Culture Camp

Colton

Culture Camp was fun. We like David to chase us and play games. We had a puppet show. I liked playing tag too. I had \$280 because I washed lots of dishes.

I like muskrat trapping. I liked checking to see if we had caught any muskrats. I liked the trapping game because we get to speak in Gwich'in. I can't wait until Culture Camp next year.

Ciara

In the second night, I slept in the snow shelter with McKayla, Dean and Tracy. I was warm in my Dad's big sleeping bag. Have you ever slept in a snow shelter? It was pretty cool. I was surprised, it wasn't dark in the snow shelter!

We talked and laughed a lot. I had a good sleep. It was fun at Culture Camp.

Cameron

I love muskrattng. Trapping muskrat is fun. You get to dry them in the snow. We got six muskrats at Culture Camp. Stan killed two because they were alive in the traps.

Skinning muskrats is cool too. There are lots of steps to remember when you skin a muskrat. I am glad Stan showed me. Thanks for helping me Stan!

Skinning a muskrat in six easy steps!

Rylie

1. Check for poop
2. Hang from a rope
3. Start skinning at the tail
4. Leave the fat on the body
5. Cut out the legs
6. Stretch on a frame to dry



Smiles with friends!

Culture Camp is the place to be if you want to have a lot of fun and share some big smiles with your friends!



Camp interview with the Kindergarten class

We asked the Kindergarten class if they could answer a few questions we had about their time out at the Culture Camp this year!

How did you get to camp?

Jynestta: We went by skidoo.

How was the ride?

Jynestta: It was fun but too bumpy. I was just hugging Adam.

What did you see?

Jynestta: I saw a skidoo

Where did the campers sleep?

Gavin: They sleep in the tents.

How did they stay warm at night when they're sleeping?

Gavin: They have blankets, a sleeping bag and a fire.

Would you like to stay in the tent all night?

Gavin: YES! It is more fun!

What animals did Stanley have?

Brianna: He had lynx and muskrat. He trapped them.

What did he do with them?

Brianna: He cut the skin off.

What is the fur used for?

Brianna: To keep warm. For a blanket. For a hat.

What did you eat at camp?

Adam: Caribou meat, fish, bannock, and juice. Yum!

Who cooked for us?

Adam: Saniz cooked for us.

What was your favorite food to eat at camp?

Everyone: Easter Eggs!

Who was at camp?

Koome: Stanley, Saniz, Kerri and lots of other big people.

What were they doing?

Koome: Stanley was skinning a muskrat and the other people were listening to Stanley.

Why were they at camp?

Koome: They are learning.

Did you want to leave camp?

Brianna: No, but it is ok now.

Did you enjoy the trip back?

Brianna: Koome and Connor fell asleep.

What did you do at camp?

Logan: I had a good sleep in a tent. I liked to play around in the snowforts. I liked to eat the granola bars!

Do you want to go again next year?

Everyone: YES!



Pictures from Camp



The Big Owl: Vii'idzee Choo

Nathaniel

Drin daang tl'ee geh gyah
natr'anaa'in, David (Frost)
iitsii.

Khał kak Ty, Marlon, shii hah
diayah zhoh diniinchii.

Khał zhit tr'oodii ts'o' dii'anał-
traa.

K'iinjik natr'eedadaa vii'idzee
tr'anah'in, aachin tr'aa'ii. Geh
K'ih nahandit'ee.



I think this was on the fourth day .
We went to check the snares.
David drove Marlon, Tye and I. He
took us through deep snow (we
were in the sleigh).

On our way back we saw an owl.
It was huge. We watched it fly
around for half an hour. It was
hunting too. It was going down
to the ground after a rabbit.



Kerri came back!

Melayna

Juk khaii dinjii zhuh gwiłr'it
gat'iinihthan, diigwiłr'it gwi-
inli'. Jidii datthak gwiinzii sriina-
gogwiniiaii. Aii geenjit Kerri
Ceretzke nakhwak'anadik.
Ch'adanh k'aiik'it tr'iinin
nakhweenidhijil. Nakhwah srigwi-
inchu'.

This year Camp was fun. We did



lots and they planned it well because
Kerri came. All the Cando students
came from Saskatchewan. It was fun.

Culture Camp

Cheyenne

K'eejit khaii oo'ok tr'igwich'ii,
diiyeenjit gwiinzii.

Nakhwagwiłr'it gwiinchii.

Oo'ok tr'igwich'ii gat'iinihthan.

We stayed at camp last year it was
great. There was lots of work to
do. I like staying in the bush.



Culture Camp 2012 Q & A with Stanley Njootli, Sr.

VGG Education Support Worker

In addition to being the ESW, Stan is also our Culture Camp Tradition Teacher.

What were you most looking forward to at Camp this year?

Mainly working with the kids, doing all the activities and projects with them. It's always busy.

What was new this year?

We had some other students and teachers from Saskatchewan, which was new. The Grades 4-6 and 7-9 students really enjoyed and were involved in the cooking. They were meticulous and involved with the cooking competition, iron chef. And they were responding well to clear instructions. They were in the zone!

What do you think was the biggest success?

The students they learned and everyone worked well through the cold weather. It was pretty cold this year, a lot colder than last year. We kept the fires going, the students learned how to dress warm and keep the fires going. We had the wall tents to work in. There was a cold wind so we did a few more of our activities in those tents this year.

What was learnt at Camp this

year that will be changed for next year?

We need to do more instructional work with the students. There are lots of activities to do at the camp, so we can use the students even more to have practical experience, like hauling firewood to camp. There are lots of components of that and they need to know how to do it safely: how to be safe out on the land, how to load the firewood onto your self, and how to handle the sled with the Ski-do. We started to do more of that this year with the cooking, but we'll need to do more of that in the future. More hands on! The teachers are also working on how to teach these hands-on skills. Everyone is learn-

ing, all the time, at Camp!

Why is Culture Camp important?

I think it keeps us all practical, lets us work on those skills, mental, physical and emotional skills. And that's good for us to be connecting with everything – what's out there in the wilderness, with the teachers they work with here. So I think it's good that way.

What was your favourite memory from Camp this year?

There were lots of great moments with the students. There are so many good memories with the students. Lots of fun activities. And the students were working well with the teachers.



Could you point me to the ladies room, please?

Rhonda

When we arrived to Culture
Camp
Excitement was in the air.
You didn't need a weatherman
To know it's 30 below.

"There is no running water."
That's what had I heard.
It's then that Mother Nature calls
And you begin to wonder....

"Could you point me to the ladies
room please?"

Stanley leaning back,
Said not a word but with pointed lips
And nodded toward the shack.

For us, it was the dead of winter,
It was with much reluctance,
To the little house you'd go.
Bend low, with dreadful fear,
You'd blink your eyes and grit your teeth
As you settled on your rear.

The snow was on the ground
And frost was on the seat.
You took care of the paperwork,
then up and on your way
It didn't take long to get out of
there, I'm sure you wouldn't stay.

The memories are there
And thought I should share
The little house by Fish Lake
Where we went cuz we had to go.



Role models

Cheystin

Brandon and Paul are councillors that were
elected by the people of Old Crow. I'm
pretty amazed by these two young guys and
think they are great leaders.

They knew about their people's history
and culture. They listened to
their people and had a plan for the
future; like building an ice road so
building supplies can be brought to
the community to build more

houses. I was impressed that the
people of old Crow owned 49% of Air
North! They also protect Crow Flats
and the Arctic National Wildlife Ref-
uge.

The councillors said that the commu-
nity wanted to build leaders and had
plans for their youth because they
want them to be great leaders in the
future.



Snow hut

Sheena

Not everyone can say they slept in a snow hut in the Arctic but I CAN! During our camp, we made three snow huts by piling up snow, letting it freeze and the hollowing them out. Some of the girls were saying they wanted to sleep in it but the decided not to. I thought it would be interesting; so I said I would

if I had a partner. Kendra said she would stay in the hut with me. So that night, we brought out our sleeping bags, found a candle and borrowed a flashlight and settled into our snow hut for the night. People ask if it was cold but really only my nose got cold. I kept warm by spooning with Kendra. Like I said, not everyone can say they had the awesome experience we did and I'm so proud that we did it!



How to burrrrrrrrow yourself into the snow



Kyra

If your going to burrow yourself into the snow, first make sure that you have warm gloves on! Predict how much space you take up with your legs crossed. Then check to see how deep the snow is before you hit the ice/ground. Now begin burrowing; make the hole big enough that your legs and feet are inside. Once you have your hole, begin refilling the hole with snow. (It's about now your fingers will begin to freeze if your gloves are not warm enough!) Make sure your friend takes a picture of you in your snowy burrow!



Boots and salutes!

Sharice

Things to learn from Allen

Kendra

1. How to play the fiddle with my feet.
2. How to take pictures with a deadly camera!
3. How to do finger illusion tricks.
4. How to tell funny stories and be Pinocchio's uncle.
5. How to put a smile on everyone's face!

BOOTS:

- The Outhouse!
- Being away from home.
- The smoke from the stoves.
- Being cold!
- Waking up early EVERYDAY!

SALUTES:

- Friendly people from Old Crow
- Skidoo rides
- Checking our traps & snares
- Spending time with friends
- The great camp workers
- Taking a post-Camp shower!



Caribou head soup

Joshlyn

So I tried the caribou head soup. I was told that I would be eating caribou but I forgot about it. I wasn't going to be rude and I did plan on saying "no thank you." Then when we finished eating, the cook said "You just ate caribou head soup!." I said "What? Are you for real?" But it was good and now you should try it too!

Ingredients:

2 caribou heads

1 bag of carrots

½ bag potatoes

2 onions

Salt & Pepper

Directions: Skin the caribou heads. Take the meat off and then boil the bones to make broth. After a couple of hours, remove the head bones. Cut up the meat and add it to the broth. Chop up and add the carrots, potatoes and onions. Simmer for 1 hour and add salt & pepper to taste. Serve with fresh bannock!



Snowshoe hiking

Renelle

One of the best experiences for me was when Ashley, David, PJ, Ryan, Kirkland, and I hiked up a hill wearing snow shoes. I've never worn snow shoes before so it was kind of tricky for me.

David told us stories during our trip up the hill about which mountain was which, where our camp was, also when Old Crow had a forest fire in 1990. The fire was very big and everyone in old crow had to evacuate. They had to take all their sled dogs too.

He also told was one story about when he and his brother were walking through the bush and a bear came walking towards them; almost like they were having a standoff. David and his brother stood still for a few minutes and the bear lucky just walked away.

The hike up the crevice was hard up David's stories kept us focused and we made it to the top! What an amazing experience.

Ski-doo's & Stanley I survived!

Ryan

I had a lot of great experiences in Old Crow but the one I will remember the most is driving a ski-doo with Stanley. Stanley and I were heading back out to the camp, when he asked me if I wanted to drive his machine. I was stoked because I really had never had the chance to drive one before. Stanley told me what to do and I then was driving! It was awesome with all of the beautiful mountains and epic scenery.

I noticed there were a lot of jump-like bumps and I was hitting them and getting a little bit of air. I had forgot that Stanley was riding in the sled behind the ski-doo so when I looked back I was shocked to see Stanley standing up sled surfing! He's 60 years old! I slowed down but he kept signaling me to go faster, so I did! When we arrived at camp I asked him where he had learned to sled surf over jumps!? He told me you get used to it when you're an experienced dog sledder! I think he is modest and is simply the most talented person I know!

Chase

My experience at camp was an unforgettable one. On the last day we shoveled a pile of snow and let it settle and freeze. When we came back from checking the muskrat traps, the snow was hard enough to make a shelter. It took us three hours to hollow it out. We then laid spruce branches inside. Then my bro Dave and myself set it up with sleeping bags, two thick blankets, one small candle. We went to bed with our warm blankets, ski pants, toque, and mitts.

It was the coldest night I ever had but I think it was worth it in the end. I woke up shivering in the night. It was so cold, I could see my breath. I covered my face with my blanket hoping it would heat my body. I slept the rest of the night comfortably and woke up well rested. In the morning I crawled out and screamed "I SURVIVED!" I later thanked Stanley for teaching me to make the snow shelter. On the last day I was sad to leave the camp- it was the best week of my life!



An awesome time

Cheystin

I really had a great time in Old Crow. It was very awesome, I really, really, enjoyed myself here. I felt so welcomed here, but I times I did feel homesick. Other than that, it was fantastic. The Camp was amazing. I learned a lot of new things such as trapping muskrats and building a snow shelter. I really enjoyed listening to the two councillors when came to

the camp. They were so wise and very great leaders. When I am an adult, I want to be like Brandon. He made me think about so much and made me want to be a better person. I learned so much from Stan Sr. too. He is a GREAT TEACHER and can still run like a teenager too! That's awesome!

I really enjoyed the snowshoe race. It was fun and I had a blast racing against David! He said I took first, but I believe he did. We are all winners

anyway. David is a great guy and a really hard worker. Everyone here are very hard workers and I appreciate all they have done for us. I enjoyed spending time with Robert cutting wood and ski-dooing. I love everything about the Yukon. It's the place to be. I wish I could move here and spend everyday with you guys. I will never forget this experience, you will always be on my mind and that's a special place. Hiy-Hiy for everything!

Bro tips

Sheena

I have come up with some tips to help those who plan on visiting Old Crow, Yukon. I hope they are helpful and I wish someone would have told me!

Bro tip #167: When you're out in Old Crow, be sure to have **Mukluks**.

Bro tip #761: When you go by sled dogs **don't run by them screaming**, otherwise they will "play" with you by ripping your jacket up.

Bro tip # 867: Remember **867** is Old Crow area code, not 306....

Bro tip # 1526: **Always help out** at culture camp and you will make

muskrat bucks to trade at Young Crow Trading Post.

Bro tip # 0229: When you're at Old Crow, **make sure you're ready** for any kind of weather.

Bro tip # 480: When you can always **stay in a snow hut** in the Arctic!

Bro tip # 306: Be sure to **not floor it** with a ski-doo because you might almost crash into a snow bank! (Sorry Wes!)

Bro tip # 2245: Always remember that everyone in Old Crow, Yukon are **amazing friendly people**.

Bro tip # 716: When you're in Old Crow and there's jigging music on, **make sure you jig** because it's an amazing experience!

Bro tip # 416: When in Old Crow, **make sure you meet Stanley Sr.** - he is the best muskrat trapper!

Bro tip # 123: When you're riding on a sled, make sure you **hold on tight** because David might tip you in the snow and the snow is deeper than your knees!

Bro tip # 480: When you're in Old Crow, make sure you walk **on the ski-doo tracks** otherwise you will sink in the soft snow.

Bro tip#2012: When you're out in at culture camp **DO NOT wear make-up!** Because if you do and you go on the skidoo all your make-up might smudge and make you have racoon eyes!

Set a muskrat trap

Dave

1. Poke for a push-up on the lake
2. Make a hole.
3. Put a willow in the ice.
4. Set a muskrat trap.
5. Put the trap in the ice.
7. Don't forget to go back and check your trap for muskrats!

Snare a rabbit

Dave

1. To get a rabbit, you need to put a snare around a stick.
2. Then rap the snare around itself.
3. Place it in the snow.
4. Put the sticks in a line so the rabbit won't get away with your snare.
5. Check your snares.

Skin a muskrat

Brent

1. Clean off the animal.
2. Have a good sharp knife.
3. Start from the legs.
4. Work up to the head.
5. Hang it upside down.
6. Take out the insides.
7. Cook the meat.



So many firsts

Brent

Coming to Old Crow was a good experience for me. I had a great time learning about skinning a muskrat and a lynx.

Meeting new people from Old Crow interesting and they are all loving and caring people. Old Crow was the best place I've ever been and I'm really glad I took the trip up here.

It was fun sleeping at the camp and doing fun things with Stanley, Robert, David, and Wesley like cutting wood for the camp and cleaning up after ourselves.

I'm going to remember this place and the people. I would like to come back to see these new friends again.

Old Crow days

Kyra

The first days at camp were cold, especially on the ski-doo. That was first ride in a long time. I enjoyed all the things that I learned.

The people here were very welcoming when we arrived. When we first came to the school, the kids here made a welcome sign for us. That was nice.

Some of the things I learned about Gwich'in culture is that they say a prayer before they eat. Saniz made pretty good meals for all of us.

My favorite part about camp was when the boys and Stanley had a snow shoe race. It was fun to watch. I also had fun when I buried myself in the snow.

Thank you!

Kendra

My week at camp was awesome. I enjoyed everything about it - the beautiful scenery, the people, and even the caribou head soup. I liked that no one judged you and it was easy to talk to everyone.

I liked checking the traps in the morning. It was nice to have different experiences. I never thought that I would ever sleep in a snow shelter or trap muskrats. I also found that it was nice to get away and just enjoy ourselves without technology.

What I liked most was that everyone welcomed us and respected one another, young and old. I will miss Old Crow and the wonderful people. I am grateful to have had the opportunity.



So many memories

P.J.

It was a fun experience at the culture camp. I had fun hiking and I also had fun seeing different kinds of animals. I even had a chance to taste caribou. It tasted a lot like deer meat. I really enjoyed meeting other people and learning how they live. It was pretty great to see some of the councillors of the Vuntut Gwitchin Community. They are always coming up with

new ideas for their community. They told about their history and the election process. Thanks guys! The first few days at camp were very cold but we got used to it. Through the night, we took turns putting wood in the fire. When we went hiking, we saw lynx tracks. I set up some rabbit snares and I watched Stanley set up muskrat traps. It was nice getting to know people in the community. It was fun taking the skidoo ride up Crow Mountain. It was great to camp

out at their school. We had fun there and played floor hockey against some of their players. I hope to come back someday soon. I'm going to miss all the people very much.



Memories of OCI

Ashley

My favorite memory about being in Old Crow, Yukon is when Wesley let Sheena and I go for a drive on his skidoo. It was fun driving around the town. We almost hit a snow bank and a pile of logs. Oops. We missed both thanks to the brakes. Thanks to Wes for not being cheap with his skidoo. It was a good experience learning new things from our

homie Stanley Sr. He taught us how to snare rabbits and muskrats. It was cool staying at the culture camp doing things we wouldn't normally do back in Saskatchewan. He's a pretty cool guy. Another memory is when David Frost showed Delaney, Renelle, and I the Northern Lights. It was awesome seeing them, they look pretty. I guess that's why the north is famous for them. Thanks David! I'm glad I had the chance to visit the community of Old Crow and meet the people of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation.



Beauty of Old Crow Set a muskrat trap

Sheena

I've had a lot of experiences in my life. One of the best ones was right here in Old Crow. Two planes, seventeen students, and three supervisors to get here. It was an amazing nine days. Stanley showed us around and basically taught us everything. He taught us how to skin muskrats, lynx, and fish. Where I'm from there are no mountains at all—but Old Crow is surrounded by them! Everything looks beautiful here. Ski-doo's are everywhere, snow, lakes, and rivers. Stanley, David, Wes, Robert, Saniz and Kerri are all amazing people helping and organizing the Camp.

Delaney

It was fun when we arrived to Old Crow and drove to the culture camp on skidoos. The first day at camp was fun. It was cold, but I slowly got used to the weather. It was interesting when we went muskrat trapping because I have never had that experience before. I didn't even know what a muskrat looked like!

I never knew how to snowshoe and now I know. It was fun making snow huts and some students even slept in them. It was nice meeting Stan Sr., David, Saniz, Wes, and Robert but now it's sad to be leaving Old Crow.

Thank you!

Chase

Iwould like to thank Stanley, David, Robert Wes, Saniz, Steven Frost, Kerri, Brandon, Paul, Stan Jr. the Kindergarteners and the rest of the Old Crow community for teaching me how to be kind and respectful. I will always have a special place in my heart and soul for all of you. Hiy-Hiy



Setting goals

Kirkland

The goal I wanted to learn is to set a muskrat trap on my own. Some of the things I need to do before I reach this goal is listen to Stanley and do what he says. I also had to watch Stanley set the traps before I try. I reached this goal! The person who helped me was Stanley. Thanks Stanley!



Having a great time

Dave

Ihad fun learning how to make a snow hut, setting traps, and getting to know Stanley and other friends at culture camp. Sleeping in the snow hut was cool. It was fun putting traps in the ice. We went back to check the traps and we got three muskrats! We set rabbit snares but never got any rabbits.



The places we've been!

Taynasa

I had fun in Old Crow at their culture camp. I'd like to thank Tracy and the community for allowing us to join their culture camp and Easter festival. Camp was fun. It was really a great experience for me.

I learned how to get river ice for drinking water, thanks to my new homeboy Robert. I finally got to go dogsledding, which was awesome! The first time going dog sledding was alright, but the second time was dope. Except when the sled tipped and I rolled out! Thank you David for going through all that stress of hooking the dogs up, controlling them and driving the sled just to take me for a ride.

Learning how to set a muskrat trap, how to skin a muskrat, and how to

skin a lynx was very interesting. I would like to thank Stanley Sr., my homeboy, for teaching our group all of those things. I would also like to thank my homegirls Saniz and Kerri for cooking for us everyday at camp three times a day. Wes, thank you for collecting firewood, Lance for giving my homies transportation to camp and for lending us Saniz so she could cook for us.

Thanks to Allen and Berch for entertaining us with your music. Thank you to Paul and Brandon for talking to us about leadership and the history involving the Vuntut Gwichin. Thank you Leila and Mike from Parks Canada for showing us how to use the GPS. Anyone else I may have forgotten, you are all my new homies!!

The experience

Ryan

I had a lot of great experiences at Vuntut Gwitchin Culture Camp. It was a lot of fun. I met some great people like Stanley, David, Robert, and Saniz.

Stanley is a very wise, intelligent man. He is very active for his age. He is 60 years old (more like 20) just kidding. Stanley taught me how to snare rabbits, which was a first for me. He also taught me how to trap a muskrat on the ice. It seemed difficult at first, but once he explained the details, it was incredibly easy. Stanley was very kind to me. He let me drive his Bravo, another first for me. I will really miss being around him and his stories and jokes. He's the grandpa I never met.

The other person I really enjoyed being around is David. He's awesome and very cool to be around. He told me some stories of his life and I could really relate to what he told me. He's also a sick hockey player (sick meaning AWESOME!). I couldn't match his skill. I really enjoyed snow shoeing with him too. He took us on a hike up a big hill, it was a great experience. I am really going to miss his presence and I hope to see him later on in my life.

Saniz and Robert were also very helpful. Robert helped us get wood to keep us warm. Saniz is a great cook and I really enjoyed talking to her.

All of these people made me a better person. I'm really going to use the things they taught me.

Set a muskrat trap

Grayson

Vuntut Gwitchin Culture Camp was a big blast of fun! I had such a good experience out here with my teachers and classmates. Stanley Njootli is the Educational Support worker at the school, and an experienced guide. He showed us many things over the past week: skinning muskrat and lynx, setting traps, building a snow house, and animal calls. It took us two planes to get to Old Crow and a 20 minute ski-doo ride to get to camp. When we arrived we unpacked our stuff and got settled in. Stanley showed us the basics about traps, fire, and respect. Thanks Stanley.





A shout out!

Sharise

he things we did at Camp were an entirely new experience for me, even though I got really, really homesick. I did have an amazing time. There are many things that will be forever in my memories. I will never forget the kindness that every worker at the camp showed.

My favorite experience was when Stanley took everyone out on the lake and taught us how to check and set traps. A big shout out goes to Stanley for teaching us many new things that we will carry with us in the future. Also, a big shout out to Saniz for cooking delicious food for the students and staff of Cando School. Also to Robert and Wesley for chopping wood to keep us warm.

Last but not least, I would like to thank David for taking me to the nursing station when I was not feeling well. Thank you for lending me all those warm clothes. There is no way I can explain how grateful I am to all of those that helped us. You made us feel at home. Thanks everyone.

Thank you...

Tammy Riel

To everyone who helped with this experience! Your hospitality, friendship and humor will be remembered by all of us forever. The Cando students have been forever changed by this experience; you have helped to give them confidence, understanding and goals for their futures. We are eternally grateful and will be forever in your debt. We hope that all of you someday find an opportunity to travel to Cando, where we will be waiting to return the favor!



Thanks for the hospitality

Rhonda Wuttunee-Barber

Thank you to all the community members of Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation for hosting an amazing Culture Camp and Easter festival. These events are excellent examples of fostering a commitment to culture, pride, collaboration, and education.

As educators, we are constantly thinking of ways to meet the needs of our students. Being part of the Culture Camp for our students is something they will never forget. They have many stories to tell about their experiences at camp and in the community of Old Crow.

Thank you for sharing your stories of Rampart House, your history, language, culture, and beautiful scenery.

I would like to acknowledge the people who made our journey unforgettable.

Guest speakers: Leila and Mike from Parks Canada

First Nations Leaders: Paul and Brandon, VGG Chief and Council

Elder: Stephen Frost Sr.

Ski-doo drivers: community members

Cooks at camp: Kerri and Saniz

People at camp: Stanley Sr., Robert, David, Wes, and Janet

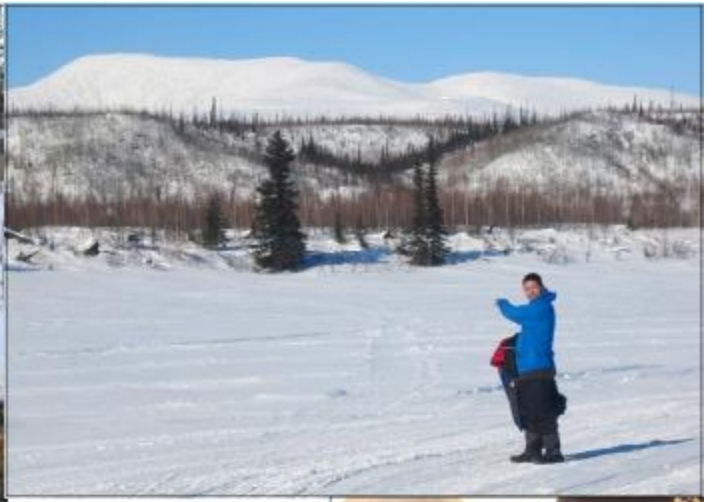
Entertainment: Stanley and Brenda for the Trapping Game, Allen and Birch for the music

Organizers: Thanks Tracy & Education staff for all your planning and organizing.

We would like to express our gratitude to the community of Old Crow for your kindness. Also for allowing us to camp out in your school.

Hiy-Hiy, Mahsi chool!





Chief Joe Linklater welcomed Cando Community School supervisors and students to the community of Old Crow and land-based experiential learning



Culture Camp in review: Three years and three themes

Kerri Ceretzke

In 2010 the Vuntut Gwitchin Government (VGG) and Chief Zzeh Gittlit School's (CZGS) Culture Camp underwent some significant changes. A closer camp location, attendance by teachers, and the development of formal traditional and academic programming rolled up into Camp themes were the most significant changes. We also closed the Camp with a community celebration and ensuring the wonderful memories and significant learning continues by everyone sharing their stories in this Press.

Now in 2012, each of the Camp themes has been delivered once (woohoo!). In the 2010 Culture Camp 'Traditions & Science' we watched as muskrat trapping and skinning concluded with the students learning how to use a microscope, how to identify all the muskrat organs in English and Gwich'in, about how climate change is altering the Arctic and also how to calculate trapping income and trapping expenses. Students also interviewed an Elder to compare pelt values from the past to present.

After the 2010 Camp, our eyes opened to the limitless potential of teaching on the land, so in the 2011 Culture Camp-'Traditions, History & Geography' adjustments included increased use of resource people in the community especially Elders, Chief & Council, Parks Can-



ada staff, VGG staff, local musicians and others who wanted to share their knowledge and skills. We increased the use of locally developed learning resources and the Gwich'in language. The VGG Heritage Branch supplied us with numerous resources as well as pocket-sized translation camp booklets. Activities ranged from trapping to learning about Global Positioning Systems (GPS). Notably, two very important lessons were designed and rolled out in 2011 including role-playing activities such as 'Chief & Council' and the 'Trading Post'. These two activities were key in teaching students how to work and live together in our small camp community.

Vuntut Gwitchin people are well known for their variety of skills and knowledge of their country. Likewise, the 2012 Culture Camp-'Traditions, Arts & Trades' allowed students to learn and practice these skills with two purposes:

- 1) to live & survive on the land
- 2) to consider how these skills could be used in a future career

The art portion of the camp included beading but also learning new skills such as song writing, carving and silver jewelry making. Students were able to showcase these talents in the CZGS Art Show & Sale, the Camp wind-up that included a community supper and slide show.

Thank you to all of those who gave positive and constructive feedback in the camp's programming. Students, school staff, VGG staff, camp workers, Working Committee and community members are working together to ensure the programming meets the traditional and academic needs of Chief Zzeh Gittlit School students.

All resources will be available to the public in the fall of 2012 through Yukon Education.



A message from First Nations Programs & Partnerships

Janet MacDonald, Coordinator, First Nations Programs & Partnerships Branch
Yukon Department of Education

I remember standing outside the tent frames and looking at the moon rise in the pink sky with billowing smoke coming from the stove pipes. Laughter bubbling from the tents — that makes me smile even thinking about it now. I had the wonderful sensation of being grounded to the place, the sights, sounds and smells. Everything seemed brighter — the sun, snow, people's grins, conversations, and dreams and hopes for

the future. As I reminisce, it seemed there was a mutual awareness about the importance of connections to the land and to the people. Some people may choose spas or retreats to learn how to relax, to breathe and to appreciate the present but I found that this happened naturally at the Old Crow culture camp. I am thankful for the experience.



Answers to
activities on
pages 18 & 19





Thank you Jane!

Thank you to CZGS Gwich'in language teacher, Jane Montgomery for all your ongoing hard work and dedication! The language teacher is very busy in the weeks leading up to the spring camp. Translating the student camp booklets, preparing trading post 'furs' and ensuring there are Gwich'in posters around camp help to ensure the Gwich'in language stays strong at camp! Thank you for being such a role model to our students.



Thank you to all the wonderful people
involved in Culture Camp 2012!
- Mahsi' Choo -

Working Committee

Lance Nagwan
Erika Tizya
Robert Bruce Jr.

Chief Zzeh Gittlit School Staff

Steve Climie
Kathryn McDonald
Patti Tetlich
Jane Montgomery
Haley Kuntz
Lisa Hill
Tracy Kapuschak
Briana Tetlich
Marion Schafer

Gwich'in Booklet Translations

Jane Montgomery
Marion Schafer
Brenda Kay
Mary Jane Moses
Robert Bruce Jr.
Esau Schafer
Artwork by Meagan Garrett

Dakota Foster - Camp Motto
Aaron Andre-Josie - Camp Logo

Camp Staff & Volunteers

Tracy Rispin, *Director of Education*
David Frost, *Camp Coordinator*
Stanley Njootli Sr., *Education Support Worker/Traditional Teacher*
Saniz Catholique, *Cook*
Theraz Tizya, *Camp Hand*
Wesley Smith, *Camp Hand*
Joseph Bruce, *Camp Hand*
Robert Kyikavichik, *Camp Hand*
Kerri Ceretzke, *Consultant*
Frances Ross, *PushUp Press Designer*
Brandon Kyikavichik
Mary Jane Moses
Stanley Njootli Jr.
Megan Williams
Michael Peter
Rosalie Abel
Jesse Jewell
Stephen Frost Sr.
Brandon Kyikavichik
Paul Josie
Esau Schafer
Briana Tetlich
Joel Peter
Freddy Frost
Faye Elias

Mary Tizya
Margaret Frost
Birch Kuch
Leila Sumi
Guitar Player from Dawson
Phillip Rispin
Phillip Frost
Allan Benjamin
Jimmy Linklater
Janet McDonald
Corporal Karina Watson
Constable Jon Dixon
Constable Louis Allan
Tammy Riel
Rhonda Wuttnee
Brenda Mosquito
Myra Shilleto

*And a big thank you to
the visiting community
members, and those who
generously donated meat
to the Camp!*

CHIEF ZZEH GITTLIT SCHOOL

Box 93, Old Crow YT, Y0B 1N0, Canada

P: 867-966-3151 F: 867-966-3702

www.yesnet.yk.ca/schools/chiefzzehgittlit