

The Journey of Discovery – Aboriginal School Program

Here is information on the culture and education resources we offer schools.

Our presentation features a collective of indigenous facilitators from across Canada. The series is built around the theme, 'The Journey of Discovery' as students discover the rich heritage of traditional culture while exploring their own creative expression. A morning presentation includes drumming, dance, music, storytelling, live performance painting and slam poetry. First Nations, Métis, French and English speakers provide a multi cultural perspective on colonization, cultural diversity and the possibilities and opportunities our unique gifts and abilities allow us to make as we build a future together.

The Journey of Discovery continues in the afternoon as students learn about traditional culture and heritage through a series of participatory workshops.

- singing around a pow wow drum
- beading and regalia making
- traditional dances
- stories and songs

Students also explore unique ways of expressing themselves creatively through,

- slam poetry
- song writing
- visual art
- video production, combining script writing, acting, directing, producing, editing

Our clinics can be presented over one day or as a week-long residency in a school or district. When presented over several days the clinics can lead up to a mini pow wow where the visual art created decorates the space, dancers wear the regalia they made as they perform with drummers and singers. This can be an incredible investment into the creativity and cultural life of a school and community.

Our workshop series brings Aboriginal and non Aboriginal students together to experience traditional First Nations culture through modern forms of creative expression. Our goals and objectives are centered around the *Ministry of Education's, First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework* launched in 2007.

Miigwetch/Merci!

Rik Leaf
Creative Director
Victoria, B.C.
250 896 2572

Tribe of One – Promo Video

<http://youtu.be/7012O7CTCWw>

Culture & Art Workshops

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O_WqOvWf3JA&feature=share&list=UU0_ZUdSN9gWMEUxtBzfBjw

Additional Workshop Presentations

Slam Poetry explores the combination of creative writing and the public performance of that writing. The workshop can be offered in a single session, multiple sessions throughout the day, or over the course of an entire week working with numerous classes. Rik has worked with students from grade 2 all the way through high school, as well as teachers during a Pro D day and workshops in communities.

Multi Media Storytelling - students fill all the creative and technical roles, working together to produce a short film.

Students will,

- identify their individual skill set of talents, interests and abilities
- recognize how their piece compliments those around them, especially those gifted differently!
- enjoy working cooperatively and creatively with others
- have hands on experience with script writing, acting, graphic design, creating music sound track, operating video cameras, photography, sound engineering, editing and directing.

At the end of the week we have short film festival where each class screens their film for the whole school. It's an exciting environment to celebrate the creative risks the students have taken and recognize the creativity that exists in each school. The momentum can continue after we've left as students are empowered to create and share videos, photos, original songs and creative writing on the school web site or blog.

Multi Media Storytelling fits with themes of positive risk taking, team building, multi culturalism and curriculum in English, science, social studies, computer, electronics, theatre and music.

About the Project Producer

Rik Leaf is a professional Recording Artist, TV/Film Producer, Author, slam poet, keynote speaker and founder of the multi cultural Canadian performance collective, Tribe of One. For 18 years Rik has worked with educators across Canada, traveling with the Canadian government and UNICEF to work with children in war torn countries. In 2011 he published Four Homeless Millionaires, a hilarious account of his adventures traveling around the world for a year with his wife and two kids.

Reviews & Recommendations from Teachers & Administrators

Our school year started with a one-week residency with the incredibly talented Mr. Rik Leaf bringing his passion for life and artistry to our students through "Slam Poetry". Rik's ability to connect with the students and staff was amazing and he left us with the message that positive risk-taking is what makes life interesting and worthwhile. The culminating performance was a highlight of the week - showcasing student performances as well as Rik's songs and poems. It is without hesitation that I recommend Rik Leaf to schools wishing to enhance creative writing and public performance skills and to build self-esteem, motivation, and resilience in their students. We can't wait to have him return to our school!

Laurie Shuster

Vice Principal, lshuster@prn.bc.ca

(250) 785-2321

Rik Leaf is a captivating, artist who recently was at Bert Ambrose Elementary for a one-week residency! He touched base with 321 students, 16 teachers and everyone loved him. Rik is a singer, songwriter who teaches "Slam Poetry" and he made every child feel awesome! We are still talking about how awesome your week long residency at our school was!

"A great start to this school year, building self esteem!" ("Every child has a voice!")

D. McCracken, Principal

dmccracken@prn.bc.ca

"Your workshops inspired our youth and helped feed their creative spirits and your performances left memories which will last a life time. Who could ask for more....Mahsi Cho"

Brent Kaulback, Regional Director, South Slave District School District, NWT,
2010

"Students were challenged and engaged by workshops focusing on dance, art and story. The workshops demanded risk-taking, courage and creativity from the students and they stepped up! Thanks very much for your visit to our community and we certainly hope to see you again next year!!"

Sheila Cavanagh, Principal, Lutsel K'e Dene School

"Their high-impact visit gave a real boost to the fine and performing arts in our school, and I shudder to think that we might have missed an amazing opportunity had I been too quick to hit the delete button."

Geoff Bueger, Principal, Princess Alexandra School, Hay River, NWT, 2010

On behalf of Sydney Academy I would like to thank you for your presentation to our music, art and drama students today. Coming from a region of the country that is experiencing full force, the downturn of the economy and collapse of all primary industries, the arts are providing hope, especially to students struggling to find their voice. Your presentation has been invaluable to them, as you have encouraged them to imagine, create and persevere.

Verne Lorway, Music Director, Sydney Academy, Cape Breton, 2006

"I found it to be a very enlightening and cultural experience. I thought it was awesome that students were exposed to this sort of experience. I considered it to be the best presentation I have ever seen throughout my entire High School career."

Jon MacNeill, President SRHS Student Council, Sussex, NB, 2004