

UNYA NEWS

READING CIRCLES

UNYA's First Nations School Success Program (aka Homework Clubs) held a series of reading circles over the spring break. They partnered with Britannia Community Library to host parents and their children over three days. Activities included: teaching parents how to more easily read with their child, making paper books, arts and crafts, a scavenger hunt, and on the final day all of the children received books to take home. We thank Britannia Library, Darcy, and the parents and children for participating and making the Reading Circles a great success.

TEEPEE CREEPING

The Homework Club team recently purchase a 12 foot teepee which will be used to host reading circles in parks and schools in Vancouver. They will introduce the teepee to the community on June 5th at McDonald Elementary School from 4 – 7pm. Otherwise, if you see us around, please feel free to drop by with your child and share a story with us.

DROP-IN SLEEP OVER

UNYA's Native Youth Drop-in Centre recently hosted two sleepovers for the youth who frequent the centre. The first week 9 males spent the night watching videos, playing games for prizes, interacting with guest speakers, taking pictures, and ended off by making and eating breakfast together.

The following week 13 females spent the night watching videos, playing games, creating their own spa night, braiding each others hair, receiving a gift pack, lipsyncing, playing twister, and they also ended off by making and eating breakfast together.



Good Luck Students

UNYA staff and Board of Directors send out a good luck holler to all those youth working to complete another long year of school. Keep up the great work.

Our Homework Club Team is holding special study classes at Britannia High School during the month of May to help youth prepare for finals. Be sure to ask the First Nations Support Worker about the time and place.

Three more Homework Clubs have recently begun at Britannia Learning Resource Centre on Saturdays, and also at Queen Alexandra School on Thursday s

Tribal Journeys 2003

Our Native Youth Drop-in Centre is currently fundraising to take a group of youth on the annual Tribal Journeys canoe trip. This will be the third year that they have participated. We hope to be holding fundraisers such as carwashes soon. So if you see us out there, please stop by and support this positive initiative.

HOOP DREAMS

Over the March Spring Break thirty Native youth aged 12 – 14 moved one step closer to their dreams of playing like the pros. There were 10 girls and 20 boys who completed the five-day Second Annual UNYA Basketball Camp. They were visited by Mayor Larry Campbell and former world champion boxer Manny Soberal. The youth also attended workshops on HIV/AIDS, Jujitsu, the Young Offenders Act, Transformative Justice, Succeeding in Sports, and the importance of Staying in School.

Twelve youth peer leaders aged 15 - 21 helped coach and supervise the youth. These youth attended a two day pre-level one coaches training session where they learned the basic skills to assist a certified coach. Upon completion of the training they all received a certificate, letter of support, and an honorarium.

All the youth who finished received a trophy, certificate, t-shirt, jersey, a photo album with picture of the camp, and a basketball. There were also prize draws of NBA jerseys, and running shoes. Thanks to all of the volunteers, Steve Dynie from SFU who coached the youth, the UNYA Board of Directors and staff, ACCESS, Sportchek, Aries Project, FNES, Bladerunners, King George Secondary School, and of course the youth for participating.

Chairman of the Boards

Congratulations to Aries student Nat Henry who recently received the Best Defensive Player Award while playing for the Britannia Senior Boys Team during the 29th Annual Bruins Basketball Tournament. Great work.

DANCING TO THE BEAT OF THEIR OWN DRUM

Our Young Women's Drum Group has been sharing their songs at many community events over the past few months, including the grand opening of our Young Mother's Recovery House. Everyone was very impressed and moved by their singing. It is very inspiring to see that these young Native women have the confidence and pride to get out there and share their songs. These young women are currently fundraising to buy their own drum! There is a penny drive (or any other coins) currently happening at our main office to help pay for the drum. Please drop by and show your support by contributing those spare pennies that are sitting around your house.

2003 Indoor Soccer Tourney

The Aries Project hosted the 3rd Annual Aries Invitational Soccer Tournament at the Aboriginal Friendship Centre on February 24. Nine teams from across Vancouver entered. The competition was fast and furious throughout the round robin and the single elimination championship round. All of the teams exhibited exceptional teamwork and the desire to win. Britannia's 8J-9J were the consolation round winners, Tumanos was selected the most sportsmanlike team, and Aries beat out Eastside by a score of 6 - 2 to become the 2003 champs. Congratulations to all participants on a job well done.

Entrepreneurial Project

UNYA has partnered with Cedar Consulting to carry out a project to develop a model for a youth afterschool entrepreneurial program. The goal of the program would be to encourage youth to stay in school though learning about creating and running a small business. We hope to find funding to pilot the program in a local school in the fall.

Writing Whiz

Congratulations to Chantell Davis who recently made the top 100 finalists of the YWCA Real Stories Competition. She was also acknowledged at a YWCA Recognition Celebration.

Did You Know?

That UNYA has created both a Native youth resource manual and a manual on sexually exploited youth issues? You can pick up a free copy of Helping Hands: Empowering Native Youth and Full Circle at our office at 1640 East Hastings Street.

**Check out our
website for
more info on
our programs
and services at:**

www.unya.bc.ca

Young Spirits Daycamp

We will be hosting our Third Annual Young Spirits Daycamp for Native youth aged 12 - 14. This is an educational focused camp with a main goal of encouraging youth to stay in school. The camp includes workshops, lunch, and fun activities. There is no cost for the program, but youth and their guardians must be committed to ensuring that youth show up on time everyday, that they actively participate in all activities, and treat each other and staff with respect. If you would like more information or would like to place your child on the sign up list which will be used to choose the final 30 youth, please check with your child's school after May 26th for registration info.

RECREATION PROGRAM

UNYA will be hosting a 3 year sports and recreation initiative for Aboriginal youth in Vancouver's Eastside. We've completed a survey of 250 youth. The survey was to identify what youth see as lacking and/or important to them in relation to sports and recreation activities, as well as to plan sports & rec activities that Native youth identify as needed. We will also be creating a pamphlet of the survey results so that others are aware of what the needs of Native youth are. A major focus of this program is to offer sports & rec activities in many locations in EastVan so that as many Native youth as possible can participate.

YOUNG WOLVES LODGE

UNYA has partnered with the Coming Home Society and the Homelessness Initiative to open a five-bed house for 17 - 24 year old Native females. Three beds are for young women who have 'lost' custody of their children, and two are for young women who have substance abuse/misue related issues and are trying to work towards self-initiated positive change in their lives. This self-referral program, which began in March, is a live-in program that will work with young women on parenting skills, life skills, personal development, etc. There is a two week assessment period, and up to a maximum three month stay. For more information please call 604-321-1118