



# CLES ABORIGINAL PROGRAM



This year CLES has 14 students with Aboriginal ancestry, an increase of 3 students from this same time last year. I am at Christina Lake the third Wednesday of each month. There have been several changes to our program this year. The components of my program at CLES are:

- \*Guest speakers for each grade level across our district.
- \*Cultural lessons that are taught to whole classes on a monthly basis.

Guest Presenters - This year to date we have had three guest presenters.

**Michael White** - Grass Dancing, Gr. K-3

**Pat Bruderer** - Birch Bark Biting, Gr. 2-3.

**Bev Lambert** - Métis Dance, Jigging, Gr. 4-7

All presenters were a huge success and we are looking forward to their return next year. Here are a few pictures of the classes at work.

## GRADE 2-3

We had a famous elder, Pat Bruderer in to teach Birch Bark Biting.

They had a wonderful class and amazed themselves as they learned to create intricate patterns into the inner layer of birch bark using only their teeth.



BIRCH BARK BITING



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**MICHAEL WHITE - Grass Dancing Grades K-3**



**Grades 4-7**

We had dance classes, Métis jigging, with Bev Lambert. Bev talked about the significance of Louis Riel to the Métis people and how their customs were a combination of two cultures. She also had costumes and band instruments for the students to use just like the Métis would have traditionally had.



**Grades 1-3**

We have completed the Life Cycle of the Salmon with the book "Salmon Creek." The first lesson was science and focused on the changes the salmon goes through as it develops into an adult. The second lesson was art and focused on the adult salmon as the students recalled the details necessary to complete their drawings.

**Grades 4-5**

We have completed a study of plant dyes derived from plant and flower leaves. We did plant pounding and studied the different colors and effects plants gave as they were pounded into fabric.

**Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or if you would like to share culturally-relevant information.**

**All My Relations,**

Wanda Hecht - Aboriginal Education Teacher  
Christina Lake Elementary School