***HIDDEN VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL***

**December 2016: UPDATE – Experiential Learning/Inquiry Spiral**

Over the past year, Hidden Valley School has been involved in a ‘spiral of inquiry’ to explore how ‘making small changes’ could lead to ‘transformation to an authentic and embedded, culturally-inclusive school environment. As 2016 concludes, we would like to provide an update for our school community.

We are pleased to report that many ‘small changes’ have indeed been implemented, resulting in significant and dynamic results for learning at Hidden Valley School. ( For a summary of accomplishments during the 2015-2016 year, please visit [www.noii.ca](http://www.noii.ca) > AESN Case Studies > 2015-2016 Case Studies > Hidden Valley Elementary.)

To continue the significant achievements of our inquiry-based work, since the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year at Hidden Valley, we have:

* embedded the Southern Tutchone language and First Nation cultural perspectives into daily learning
* fully integrated the First Nation mentorship role (whereby learning is shared with the First Nation Language Teacher, and with students and staff)
* enjoyed experiential learning opportunities with George Bahm, of the First Nations Programs and Partnerships Unit of Yukon Education, in various grades
* engaged in planning our place-based experiential learning resource with teaching staff
* participated as a team in Yukon Education’s “Learning Network” with teachers alternating attendance at meetings

As 2017 gets underway, we hope to:

* develop student-centred learning activities based on the ‘places’ of our experiential learning: Lake Laberge, Hidden Valley, Asheyi (Aishihik Bison Camp), Takhini River, Ibex Valley
* host a round-table collaborative session with community partners
* expand the cultural opportunities for students through the weekly ‘Culture Club’
* incorporate beading and design instruction as Grade 7 students create their Graduation Vests
* prepare students for participation in community events (hand games tournament, traditional walk)

Please contact us at Hidden Valley School if you have comments or questions – 667-8164

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