

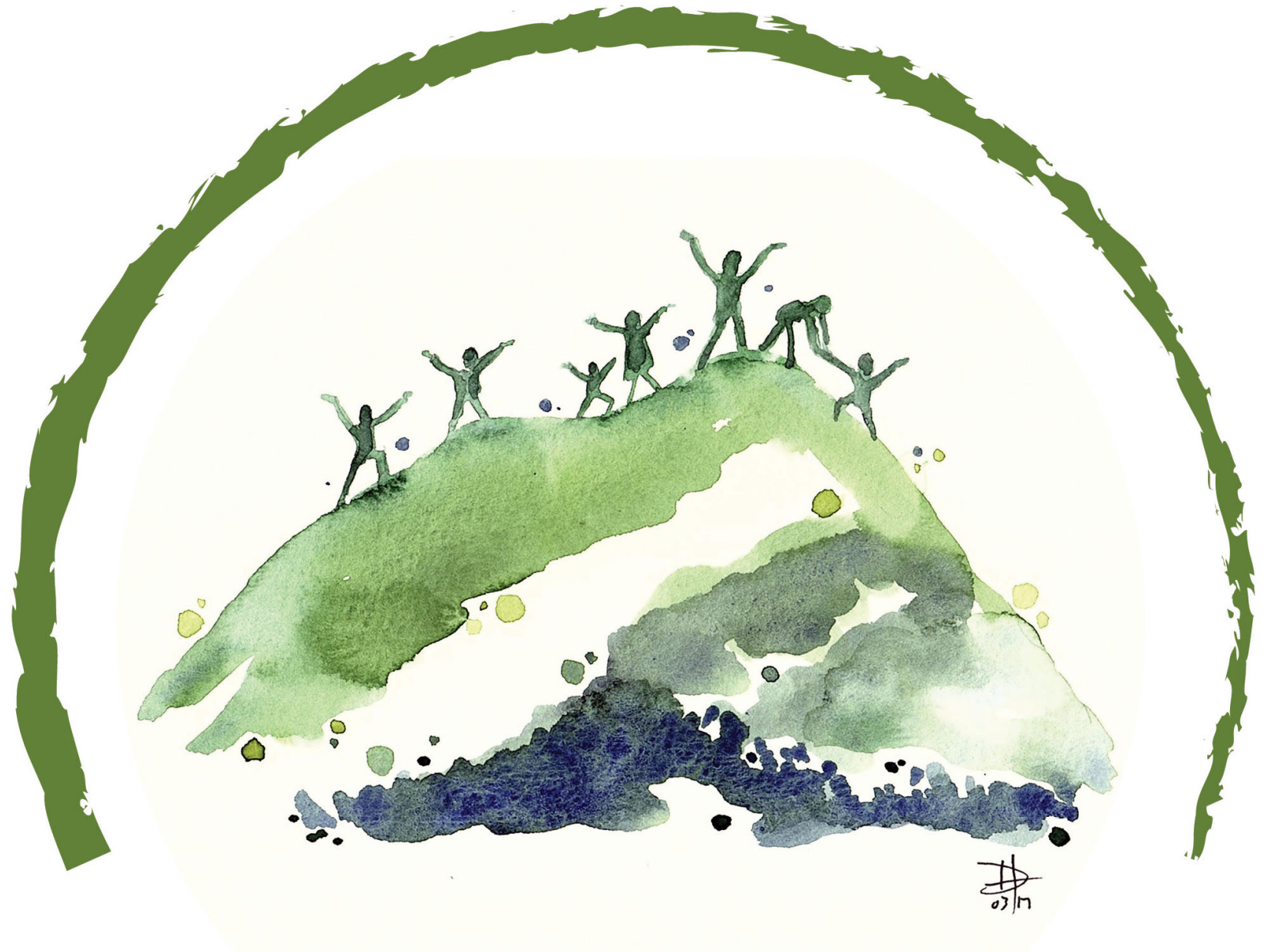
GOOD NEWS in SD10

June 20, 2023



SD10 SCHOOL
DISTRICT 10
ARROW LAKES

World Class Learning in a Rural Environment



NSS Building Memories





BLACK AND RURAL NEWSPAPER INTERNSHIP

Kootenay Teen News embarked on it's first internship! The newspaper hired two Kootenay youth this winter thanks to the Columbia Basin Trust. Shayna Jones, a Kaslo-based, award-winning performance artist specializing in oral storytelling of African and Afro-Diasporic Folklore, mentored Mariah and Nyah through an exploration and reflection process centered on the stories of Black life in the Kootenays. At the end of their time together, they wrote these reflections. The second round of the internship starts next month with two new students – stay tuned to our next issue for their contributions!

Nyah Kennay of Nakusp, age 14

My entire childhood in this town was relatively peaceful, except for the occasional stranger going up to me and touching my hair. I always hated that. I am not a doll or something on display that you can just grab; I am human too.

I want to be treated like everyone else is. By everyone I mean the causal white person. My mom always taught me to be proud of my hair and that being unique is a good thing, but I never saw it that way. Whenever we'd have discussions about our heritage and ancestry in class, I didn't even know what my ethnicity was, never mind my culture. Because I am Black, I am "obliged" to know everything about my culture by a certain age or I wouldn't be considered Black.

I'd even get asked as a child, "what are your culture foods Nyah? What's your heritage?" and my only response was I don't know. I would just say I'm half-Black and half-white, as if that's not already obvious to everyone that sees me. Fortunately, now in my older stages I do know the names and the origins of some, but I still have yet to even try them. As well, I don't know how to properly eat them because that is not offered where I live. The only dining cuisine in my town is restaurant fast food, alcohol or slimy "high quality shrimp and clams." Me not knowing much about myself because of this town has led me to always wonder where I fit in society and where I stand.

I'm not Black enough to complain about my problems and my skin, but I'm not white enough either to have privilege. Where do I go?



Photos submitted. Nyah above and one of Nyah's photographs below of Nakusp.



Mariah Thompspon of Castlegar, age 17

Q: From your experience growing up rurally, what would your advice be to your younger self?

A: I would advise my younger self to be more careful with who you surround yourself with because they might portray their insecurities on you. Meaning they bully you for your skin colour but they want to get darker. Don't be afraid to express and stand up for yourself because people will take you as a pushover and stereotype you. Be yourself and know your worth. Dress according to your style, don't try to dress to fit in. Friends aren't an option if they don't accept you for your skin colour, style and personality. Racism is everywhere but that doesn't mean you should let anyone be racist to you.

Q: What was your experience of the internship?


A: The internship helped me reflect on who I am as a person. Meaning it helps me see that I have no connection to land, ancestors or even my skin colour. Before I moved to Canada I wasn't really paying attention to any of those. I love my skin colour but it wasn't an issue for me to actually be like I'm Black so people are going to be racist to me. Now I feel the need to get connected with those. The internship was a great experience for me. It was so easy to express to Shayna. She gave me a sense of belonging because she understands what it takes to be Black and rural.

Curious to learn more about what it is like to be both Black and rural? Check out blackandrural.com for more stories! Through it, Shayna Jones aims to seek out, honour, and theatrically showcase stories from rurally based Blacks (like herself) to nuance and challenge the monolith of what matters to Black Lives.


NELCC Grand Opening!







Thank again you ladies are amazing I hope u realize how much [REDACTED] and I love this daycare and people running it

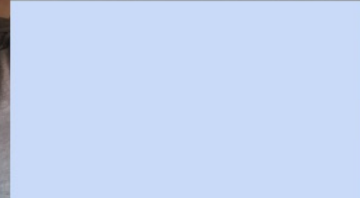
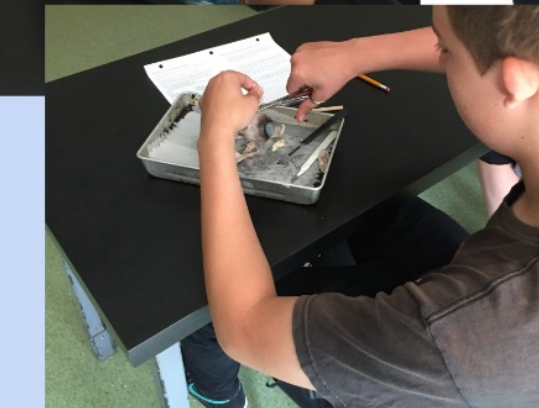
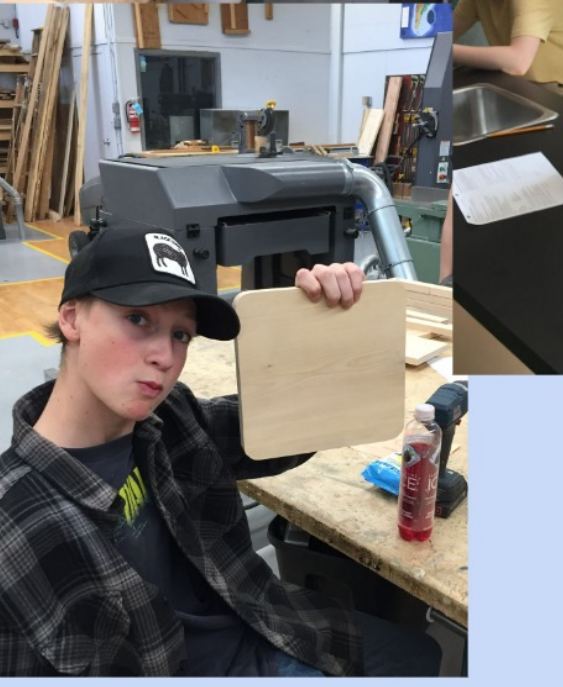
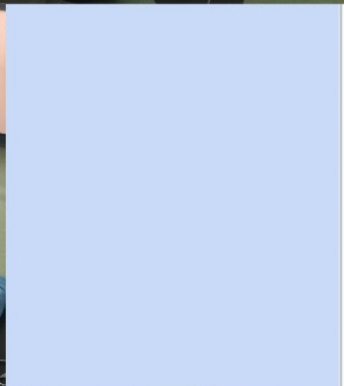
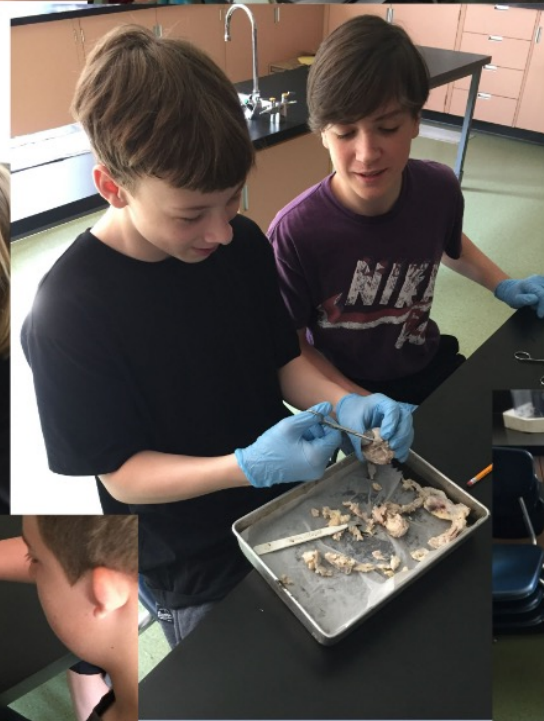
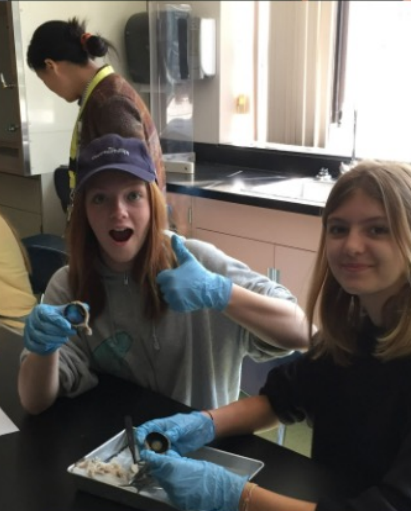


11:31 AM

Lucerne Learning In Nature









Burton
Is
Exciting!



Edgewood Outside



Active
NES!!!







And....that's
the Good
News for June!

See you in
September!



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