As a potential teacher for the Doig River First Nation’s children I believe it is very important that I am sensitive and encourage open discussion of the Dane-ẕaa’s culture, traditions and beliefs. I believe establishing the classroom as a place where we respect ourselves, each other and the community is a good place to start. Respect is a core concept in Aboriginal tradition, and I believe it should be strongly established in the classroom. I think the students would really enjoy if I or themselves invited older family and community members into the classroom on a weekly basis. For example, if we could invite an elder every Friday to share a story with the students in the traditional Dane-zaa Záágéʔ language not only would it give the students a nice break from typical school curriculum, but it would also encourage the revival of their historical language. Also, it is a common practice of the Dane-ẕaa culture to pass on knowledge and practical skills from generation to generation, so this weekly presentation would help strengthen that practice. Additional traditions enjoyed by the Dane-ẕaa community include song, dance and art. These traditions are drawn from the practices of the Dreamer’s who would share their dreams by singing, dancing and drawing. I would incorporate this into this classroom in two ways. First off I would have the students practice a specific dance as a component of the physical education curriculum. I would also have the students work on the song that accompanied that dance in addition to the instruments involved. The goal of this assignment would be to perform the songs and dances to the community at the cultural centre. In order to address the art tradition I think it would be neat to incorporate it with the Dane-ẕaa tradition of change from season to season. This would be accomplished by changing the art within the classroom as the season changes. Not only would art in the classroom give the students a sense of belonging and pride, but it will also give them an opportunity to express themselves.

There is no question that the Dane-ẕaa community went through incredibly hard times in the past. As a result, I think it is very important that the students are aware of the past, and how their community has persevered. I would make sure to incorporate information on the fur trade, having to move to the Doig River reserve, government schools, and treaties, and address the implications the Alaska Highway had on the community. Moreover, I would also have the students keep up to date on the current events occurring within the community and around the world. Since they live so far north it is easy to become separated from the rest of the world, but I think it is important that they are aware of what is happening around them. Findings could then be presented orally to the class and I would make sure to encourage dialogue and question during this process. For myself, I think it is important that I remain unbiased during these discussion because they may be very emotional topics for some of the students. I would try and ease into it. Therefore, slowly introduce these topics, but ensure that the students understand the full story. I would make sure to highlight the respect rules prior to beginning these discussion just so that students are aware that they are in a comfortable environment and should feel free to ask questions, provide comments and voice their concerns.

I would also make sure to utilize the cultural and administrative centres gym and gathering spaces. In doing so, I would hope that it would make the students more comfortable with the building and the people of the community. Lastly, I believe that the community is doing an incredible job at promoting their culture, traditions and beliefs to the world. In particular, the development of the project website has done wonders for moral of the community. In order to help build and grow this project I would introduce the students to a variety of different multimedia resources that they could use to help contribute and potentially enhance the website even further.

* Aboriginal cultures, including Dane-ẕaa , pass knowledge from generation to generation and

practical skills are learned by young people from older family and/or community members

* The extended family is important in Dane-ẕaa culture and in many other cultures around the world
* Elders have an important role in the Dane-ẕaa community
* Remembering community members who are now gone is essential to the Dane-ẕaa concept of

respect, and is also important to families and cultures around the world

* Elders and younger community members can work together, using new technology, to document and

preserve Aboriginal oral traditions.

* New technologies, including websites, can be utilized by Aboriginal peoples to tell their own stories,

in their own way.

* Cultural appropriation, copyright, and intellectual property rights, as they relate to information

technology, are emerging issues for Aborigin

* Aboriginal cultures create art for ceremonial and functional purposes
* In our Dane-ẕaa community, drums were used by Dreamers, such as Gaayęą, in the past and are

used today by our Doig River Drummers who perform at Dreamers’ Dances and community events

throughout the year.

* Dane-ẕaa Dreamers were given songs in dreams and visions. The Dreamers’ songs deal with

the right way to live on our traditional land, with bringing on good weather, with ensuring

good hunting, and with how to live in order to follow the road to Heaven.

* Only Dreamers can draw or paint their visions on drums.
* Our last Dane-ẕaa Dreamer, Charlie Yahey, died in 1976.
* Our Dane-ẕaa Songkeeper, Tommy Attachie, and our Doig River Drummers continue to

perform songs that were handed down by our Dreamers and these songs give us strength to

face the challenges of today

* Aboriginal cultures create art for ceremonial and functional purposes.
* Cultural appropriation, intellectual property rights, and repatriation are important issues facing

Aboriginal people and communities today.

* In the past, our Dane-ẕaa Dreamers were given songs in dreams and visions. The Dreamers’

songs connect Dane-ẕaa people today to our cultural beliefs and traditional homeland.

* Cultural appropriation is the adoption of aspects or symbols of one culture by a different cultural
* group.
* Cultural repatriation refers to the return of cultural, ceremonial, or artistic objects to their place of

Origin

* Traditional Aboriginal activities and lifestyles changed with the seasons.
* Dane-ẕaa follow a traditional lifestyle, utilizing resources found in our traditional homeland at

different seasons.

* Our Dane-ẕaa Dreamers, their songs, and their lives are intimately connected to our Dane-ẕaa

traditional homeland, and specific places are associated with specific Dreamers and stories

* Existing treaties within British Columbia and the current treaty process in British

Columbia are part of complex Aboriginal land issues.

* Our Dane-ẕaa Dreamers, their songs, and their lives are intimately connected to our

Dane-ẕaa traditional homeland.

* After World War II, Dane-ẕaa lost some of our original traditional lands through the encroachment of

agriculture and through oil and gas industrialization. Despite this fact, our Dane-ẕaa people continue to

be strongly attached to, and use, much of our traditional homeland. Where access was blocked because

of agricultural and oil and gas activities, such as at Gat Tah Kwą̂ (Montney), our Dane-ẕaa leaders and

elders worked to receive compensation.

* Today, Dane-ẕaa continue to use and value our traditional lands. We have a deep spiritual attachment

to the land, to the places where we have lived and gathered for Dreamers’ Dances and to where our

Dreamers lived in the past, and to the places where we live and make our living today

* Aboriginal people have diverse cultural traditions and spiritual beliefs.
* Aboriginal dance is performed in many communities and has specific roles and purposes in

traditional and contemporary Aboriginal Culture.

* Music also has specific roles and purposes in Aboriginal culture.
* Dreamers are Dane-ẕaa spiritual leaders who received songs from Heaven in their dreams,

helped our people to live in the past, and helped to prepare us for the changes of the future.

* Dane-ẕaa hold Dreamers’ Dances throughout the year and songs handed down from our

Dreamers are performed by our Doig River Drummers and our Songkeepet Tommy Attachi

* Music, songs, and other oral teachings have specific roles and purposes in traditional
* Aboriginal societies.
* The lives and experiences of Aboriginal musicians and traditional spiritual leaders are positive
* examples for others.
* Dance has specific roles and purposes in traditional and contemporary Aboriginal culture.
* Dreamers are Dane-ẕaa spiritual leaders who receive songs from Heaven in their dreams,

have helped our people to live in the past, and have helped to prepare us for the changes of the

future.

* Dane-ẕaa hold Dreamers’ Dances throughout the year, and songs handed down from earlier
* Dreamers are performed by our Doig River Drummers and our Songkeeper Tommy Attachie.
* The Dreamers’ Dance brings our Dane-ẕaa community together and provides strength to our

community as we continue to defend our Aboriginal and Treaty rights

* Aboriginal cultures pass knowledge from generation to generation through oral traditions.
* Storytelling is an important activity in Aboriginal cultures.
* Participation in Aboriginal storytelling and other group activities requires effective and

responsible listening skills.

* There are many forms of traditional Aboriginal music.
* Stories and songs are an important part of Dane-ẕaa oral traditions and we Dane-ẕaa have

maintained our stories and songs for many generations

* Aboriginal storytelling has social and cultural functions.
* Aboriginal storytelling has a strong influence on contemporary Aboriginal (Indigenous)

literature, art, and film.

* Traditional Aboriginal music has a distinct influence on contemporary Aboriginal music.
* Stories and songs are an important part of our Dane-ẕaa oral traditions.
* Dane-ẕaa have maintained our stories and songs for many generations and our Dane-ẕaa elders

share stories with youth today, and youth also carry on Dane-ẕaa oral traditions as members of

groups like the Doig River Drummers. Our stories and songs provide guidance for our people as we

face the challenges of the present, and the future, and help us maintain a strong sense of our Dane-

ẕaa culture.