

Aboriginal Art & Culture Presentation

What we offer

For the past three years we have assisted teachers in fulfilling the Aboriginal Studies of the Ontario Curriculum.

I am a West coast Salish woodcarver and Todd Jamieson is a Native painter from the Oneida reserve, painting in the traditional woodland style. During our presentation we display our art and tell the meanings and stories behind what the children are seeing.

We bring into the class an assortment of objects for the children to handle and explore. These include deer antlers, fur pelts, sweetgrass, moccasins, Pow Wow feather fans and more.

We have talked to classes from grade three to high school. We have presented to art & history students. Teacher workshops & adult sessions addressing stereo typing have also been part of our program.

We have also worked with several public libraries during their March break programs. The younger children participate by drawing their own birth month totem to display in the classroom or take home.

The high school presentation consists of a short lecture plus a display of the different art forms. There is a question and answer period included.

We are making you aware of our program because we believe that both teachers and students would benefit from our program.



Content of Classroom Presentations Visual aids used

- * Native art work - paintings, carvings, drawings, cards.
- * Furs-rabbit, mink, beaver, bear.
- * Skins-moose, deer.
- * Hand made beaded Moose skin mitts and Deer skin moccasins and vest
- * Four sacred medicines: sage, cedar, tobacco, and sweet grass
- * Sweet grass
- * Feathers - wild turkey wings, owl.
- * Snow snake
- * Deer and Elk antlers
- * Pre-printed drawings to colour - bear, wolf, turtle, raven, killer whale and salmon.

Unified Classroom Discussions

- * Animal totems-Haida and Ojibwa birth chart,
- * Discuss actual animal totems: dreams, visions and quests
- * The importance of the stories & Art as a way to share our traditions.
- * Describe the native way of life: lodges, food, weapons, tools and culture.
- * Legends and stories: Woodland Native stories such as "How the Bear Lost its Tail" and West Coast Native stories such as "Raven Steals the Light" or the "Wild Woman of the Woods"
- * A description of the Iroquois Nation, the Six Nations and their importance to Canadian society today
- * Knowledge of the Oneida culture with description of the clans
- * The interpretation, meaning and symbols of the artwork.
- * The importance and use of the Medicine

Student Activities

- * Colouring or drawing a pre printed totem spirit animal. Each student will be provided with a frame.
- * Creating a Talking Feather (additional cost)
- * High School Students have an in depth presentation including native art elements, planning and starting their own painting or drawing.

Letters of Thanks

East Gwillimbury Public Library Parent Comments:

- "This is the best craft my child has ever produced at a library program and we've been to most of them"
- "Alfie and Todd really taught the parents something, too, about Native culture...when are you doing an adult program!"
- "When are you coming back to the library to do another program for the kids? This was fantastic!".... and so on.

Dorset Public School Teacher Comments:

- The Native presentation was a big hit with all of the grade 3 students. The manipulatives were great for them to see up close and the paintings made the children ask some very interesting questions. The follow up activity of colouring was very good for the students and the results were very interesting, especially when you looked at the use of colours. Overall the students had a better understanding of what Native people are all about and that they are still around today (a big misconception in grade 3). Thank you so much for coming and hopefully we will see you next year.
Jacinth Page

High School Students Comments:

- "I came out of the sessions knowing a lot more about Aboriginal people and their way of life. I felt comfortable asking questions that I might not have ever asked if I had not been given the opportunity to do so here."
- "The experience with the Native presentations was very insightful and showed us that we should treat all human beings as equals, and not according to their religion or race. The presentations were very useful for us to understand the problems Native people faced. Also, I learned a great deal about the culture and traditions of Aboriginal peoples."

Recent Presentations

- **York Catholic District School Board:** Aboriginal Education contract, 20 school visits, grades 3 to 12
- **Sacred Heart Catholic High School:** Native History Lecture Hall. 120 grade 12 history students
- **YCDSB:** Religious Education ABQ, Aboriginal Art & Culture Workshop, 40 Teachers
- **Mount Alverno Retreat Centre:** YCDSB Student Mentorship Training, 120 Grade 12 students
- **San Marco Catholic School:** Aboriginal Art & Culture Presentation, 80 Teachers and Staff Workshop
- **Sheridan Park Public School:** Aboriginal Art & Culture Presentation, four grade 3 & grade 6 classes
- **Dorset Dr. Public School:** Grades 3 & 4
- **Daniel Cook Television Show:** Guest Artist
- **Mount Albert Public Library:** Aboriginal Art & Culture Family Program
- **Whitchurch – Stouffville Public Library:** March Break Children's Program
- **St. Edmund Campion High School:** Grades 9 & 12 Art Students

About the Artists

Todd Jamieson & Alfie J. Fishgap

Contact Us

An Oneida of the Thames, born in London, Ontario, Todd's art is representative of the early native one-dimensional drawings recovered throughout North America. The father of three now lives in Brampton and is active in researching native artifacts and ancient crafts.

Alfie, who resides in Holland Landing, descends from the Salish First Nation. Totems, spirit lures, masks, halibut hooks, boxes and canoe paddles are all part of his repertoire. His work exhibits Alfie's heritage and the spirituality of his people. Each piece is one of a kind, meticulously designed, hand carved, burned and painted in the traditional style of each tribe. Alfie's artwork speaks to a new generation while honouring the traditions of the past.

Alfie and Todd recently co-created a painting that the artists presented to Lt. Governor of Ontario, James Bartleman, upon his retirement.



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Sessions are 2 hrs

Fees: depending on activity chosen. Additional sessions at a reduced cost

Based on 30 students maximum per session

Morning or afternoon sessions available.

