



## Aboriginal Education Central Okanagan School District

The Aboriginal Education logo has some very distinctive aspects to its design.

At the top of the logo and facing west, we have the black bear. To the Syilx (Okanagan) people, the black bear is culturally significant and is considered a high chief and the eldest of the Four Food Chiefs.

Facing east, we have the Bald Eagle. To the Syilx people, the Bald Eagle is a provider and teaches us about the importance of relationships – Bald Eagle has only one mate for life.

There are seven feathers separating the four quadrants. These are images of the seven Eagle feathers that are on the Eagle Staff and they point symbolically to the power/medicine of the four directions (north, east, south, and west). They represent the Seventh Generation Principal based on the philosophy that the decisions we make today should result in a sustainable world seven generations into the future. Many believe that the youth of today are the seventh generation and are ready to look after the land.

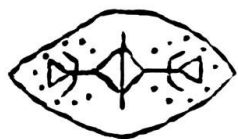
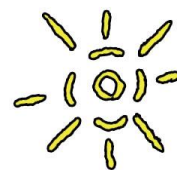
The outside of the logo represent the medicine wheel and the equality in the quadrants remind us to walk in balance. The colours are also representative of the medicine wheel: yellow representing emotional, white representing intellectual, red representing spiritual, black representing physical. The four quadrants are representative of the four seasons (spring, summer, fall, winter), times of day (morning afternoon, evening, night), stages of life (infant, youth, adult, elder), and life givers (earth, sun, water, air). The circular aspect of the logo reminds us of the importance of appreciating and respecting the ongoing interconnectedness and interrelatedness of all things.

The four images inside the logo resemble pictographs that can be found at various locations throughout Southern BC, and they are also represented on the Eagle and Unity staffs which were created by Syilx artist Chad Paul.



Starting at the top left in the physical quadrant is the DREAM KEEPER. Our ancestors tell us that he is the one who lives in the fourth and fifth dimension, and he brings our visions/dreams through our vision quest. We are meant to follow these visions/dreams.

Moving clockwise, the CIRCLE OF LIFE (sun) is representing the Emotional quadrant and is one of the four life givers and known as the protector. The sun is said to be the sacred fire and spirit of the creator.



The bottom right image, in the intellectual quadrant, is a reflection of two people in BALANCE. One represents man and the other represents women. In balance, the energy of both beings provides family and communal well-being. Instilled in this balance is love, respect and health.

The final image in the logo is in the spiritual side of quadrant – the VESSEL OF LIFE. This image depicts three people paddling a canoe. These three paddlers are representing the past, present, and future, and remind us to think of the generations who came before us as well as the future generations while we all move together in the same canoe. The canoe embodies the Aboriginal Education's mantra of "Guided by the past, invigorated by the present, and providing for the future."

