

# News

## Book Bucks



CORY BIALECKI/MORNING STAR

**Lenaya Sampson (right), Okanagan Landing Elementary student, accepts \$1,000 as the winner of the Raise A Reader essay contest from Sandra Lynxleg (left), principal of aboriginal education, and support worker Robin Genthon. The money will go towards books with aboriginal content.**

### **"Raise - A - Reader" Grant**

Recently our (Okanagan Landing Elementary) school was selected as a recipient for the \$1000.00 "Raise -A - Reader" grant. Here is the winning entry by Lenaya Sampson, Grade 7. Thank you Lenaya for your thoughtful essay!

## **Why My School Needs More Books**

Hello, my name is Lenaya Sampson, an Aboriginal student of Okanagan Landing Elementary School. I feel our school is in need of more books because, a couple of weeks ago, I wanted to sign out a book on Aboriginal culture from our school library and was disappointed when I realized there were NO books on the subject.

Aboriginal people have wonderful stories, myths, and legends I would like to share with my fellow students of Okanagan Landing Elementary School, so they could learn more of our culture. The availability of Aboriginal reading material would help to build an understanding between different races, helping to prevent racism. If people had the opportunity to read up on Aboriginal history, they would understand why we give back to the Earth, keeping everything in balance.

All schools in the country should have at least a few books on Aboriginal culture and history to pay respect to the first people of this land we call Canada. A significant piece of Canadian history is missing from our library due to the lack of Aboriginal books. We should also have Aboriginal books in our library because we have a large number of Aboriginal students in our school and many of them do not understand the contributions and importance of their own culture. The teachers could also use them as teaching references for lesson plans so students in their classrooms could learn of Aboriginal culture as well.

Please consider Okanagan Landing Elementary School for a recipient of the Raise A Reader Grant. We are in great need of funding to purchase Aboriginal literature for our library.

Thank you,  
All my relations,

Lenaya Sampson  
Student of Okanagan Landing Elementary School