

# Aboriginal Education School Sooke School District

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December 2013

Fall/Winter

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## Inside this issue:

Program Welcome	2
Our Staff	3
School News	4
PRIZE COUPON	26
Upcoming Events	28

## Our Vision, Mission, and Values

**VISION**—The Aboriginal Education Team, comprised of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, believe that through our actions today, our children will be proud to see their culture integrated and respected within schools, community and society. We believe they will become academically and socially successful, proud leaders in their communities.

**MISSION**—The Aboriginal Education Team commits to work for Aboriginal students in an accountable way in order to nurture, support, mentor and teach students to take pride in their culture, their history and their traditions.

**VALUES**—As an Aboriginal Education Team, we believe that personal integrity, honesty, respect and inclusiveness are essential to our work with students, parents, community members, teachers, administrators and each other.

## **Aboriginal Languages**

Below are the three words for thank you for our three island regions:

Hych'ka -  
Sencoten  
Halq'emeylem

Kleco Kleco -  
Nuu-chah-nulth

Gilakasla -  
Kwakwaka' wakw

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# Department News

Our school district continues to embrace the Aboriginal Education Agreement Goals in schools: academic achievement, sense of belonging, Aboriginal ways of knowing and Aboriginal languages. Daily, I see more and more examples of our schools that are connecting to our First Nations and Aboriginal Communities bringing role models into classrooms on a regular basis. It is only December and we have had 182 presentations in classrooms and school assemblies. Presentations range from Indigenous plant walks, traditional 'Tuesday Tea' talks, Métis Enhancement Project presentations, environmental talks, treaty talks and current topics related to our communities and families.

The Family Fall Gathering has been a highlight for our school district on September 25th at Scia'new Nation LLong House. The theme of the night was to honour our role models that volunteer to present in our schools. We have over 90 role models in our departments' Role Model Binder resource! Our school district was very honoured to be invited to the Long House by Scia'new Nation to guide us

through a protocol best suited for a family and school event. In addition, the nation gave the school district permission to share photos of the event. The evening began with traditional welcome by Elder Lavina Charles and Elder Shirley Alphonse and speaker protocols with Rick Peters. One representation from each nation were asked to be witnesses: Elder Burt Charles, Elder Jack Planes, Tara Munro and school district Dave Betts. Our hosts, the Charles family provided a wonderful feast with sixty smoked fish donated by T'Sou-ke Nation. Yellow Wolf Singers welcomed the role models with an honour song. The role models were called up to the centre by Scott Sam, OCM and the each role model was blanketed and words of wisdom shared to each individual by community leader, Chief Russell Chipps. Each red blanket has our department logo and a piece of cedar provided by Henry Chipps. The Tzinquaw Dancers also provided an honour song and dance for all to embrace. Our evening ended with witness speech, friendship dance and an apple treat to go. Congrats to the department's committee, Sharlene Chaves, Sharon Bond, Murielle Lagace, Earleen Covey, Shirley Alphonse and Michelle Thut, for the hard work bringing community and family together.

Our school district has recently signed two LEAs with T'Sou-ke Nation and Pacheedaht Nation. Local Education Agreement, LEA are district level documents that set goals and strategies that support improved First Nation student outcomes.

In support of Aboriginal outcomes the school district would like to thank our partner group Makola Group of Societies for the generous donation toward our grade twelve and adult recognition ceremony. Our year end ceremony grows every year as more and more students graduate.

In support of keeping warm we would like to thank 'Knights of Columbus Coat Program' for donating colourful coats for our department to distribute. And perfect timing as temperatures in December neared -8C and snow was to be enjoyed!

As I read the newsletter submissions by the Aboriginal Education department I am intrigued and invigorated by the diverse services found in schools, and initiatives grow every year; as we strive for safe, cultural responsive, happy, and engaging schools in 2014. Enjoy!

Kleco Kleco

Hych'ka

*Kathleen King-Hunt, Principal*

## Our Traditional Territories

School District Schools are located on two traditional territories:

- **Coast Salish**

- T'Sou-ke Nation – Sooke
  - Scia'new Nation – Beecher Bay

- **Nuu-chah-nulth**

- Pacheedaht Nation – Port Renfrew

*'SD No. 62  
There are 1034  
Aboriginal students in  
our program this  
year!' First Nation  
represent 10 percent  
of Aboriginal  
students.'*

## Métis Organizations

- Métis Nation of Greater Victoria. MNGV
- Métis Community Services
- SD No. 62 has 287 Métis students in our schools!
- Marsee—Michif Language

# Our Staff

## **School — District Teachers — Aboriginal Education**

**Norma-Jean May** – Belmont Secondary & ESD Teacher

**Kathy Sudlow** – Edward Milne Community School, EMCS & ESD Teacher

**Gillian LeRose**—Westshore Schools & ESD Teacher

**Erin Wood** – Dunsmuir Middle & ESD Teacher

**John Pearce**— Journey Middle & ESD Teacher

**Jon Carr**—Spencer Middle & ESD Teacher

**Lisa Spalding** – Port Renfrew Elementary and Pacheedaht WS Yellow House

**Marlys Denny** – ESD Teacher & Literacy Teacher, Saseenos Elementary

**Huw Griffiths** – Elementary ESD Teacher

## **School Teachers**

**Loni Skelton** – Westshore First Nations Grad Program

**Shannon MacDonald** — Port Renfrew Elementary

## **District E.S.D. Support Workers**

**Sam Peekeekoot** - Elementary Schools

**Kenneth Kissinger** - Hans Helgesen Elementary

**Murielle Lagace** - Ruth King Elementary

**Sharon Bond** - David Cameron Elementary

## **Other District Staff**

**Pam Jones** - Noon Hour Supervisor Assistant, Port Renfrew Elementary

**Lavina Charles** – Halq'emeylem Language

**Shirley Alphonse**— T'Sou-ke Elder Project

## **District Aboriginal Education Support Workers, A.E.S.W.**

**Trish McNabb** – Edward Milne Community School, EMCS

**Billy Yovanovich** - Edward Milne Community School, EMCS

**Lynn Ferguson** – Belmont Secondary

**Laurie Gibson**— Pacific Secondary & MTC

**Sherri Rose**—Savory Elementary & WS First Nation Grad Program

**Weyla Chipps-Roy** - Sooke Elementary

**Derrick Titian** - Dunsmuir Middle, Sangster & Nature 'K'

**Dennis Warbrick** – Westshore Goldstream

**Michelle Wolf** – Journey Middle

**Charlene George** – Poirier Elementary

**Edie Charley** – John Muir & Elder Project (John Muir, Sooke, Saseenos Elem.)

**Rosalind Wilkinson** - Happy Valley & John Stubbs Elementary/Middle

**Nadine Charles** — Wishart Elementary & Spencer Middle School

**Murielle Lagace** – Ruth King Elementary

**Sharon Bond** – David Cameron & Saseenos Elementary

**Kenneth Kissinger** – Hans Helgesen Elem.

**Sharlene Chaves** – Lakewood, Millstream, Crystal View, Willway & Colwood Elem.

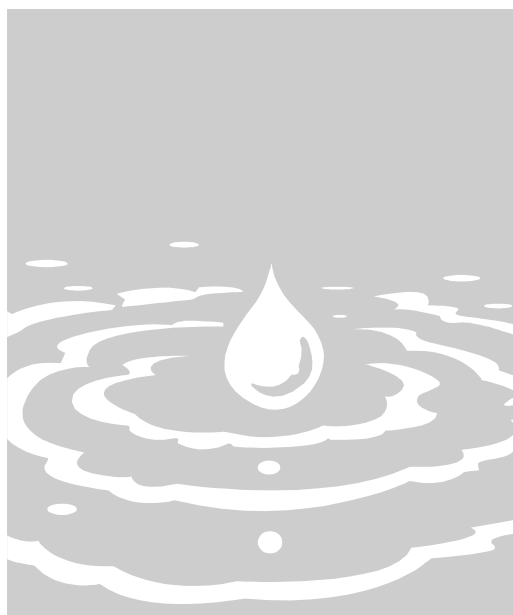
## **District Office**

**Kathleen King-Hunt** – District Principal

**Leslie Morison** – Secretary

## **Our Website**

[www.sd62.bc.ca/ Aboriginal education](http://www.sd62.bc.ca/Aboriginal%20education)



# Early Learning News

## Journeys of the Heart

The Journeys of the Heart Program is now accepting new participants for the 2013/2014 school year.

As Aboriginal families, we believe that it takes a whole community to raise a child.

The Journeys of the Heart program helps families to build and strengthen their child's foundation. The staff of the Journeys of the Heart program work with the child and their families (at least one adult) to determine their child's individual learning styles to help make learning fun.

We believe that a child's identity is very important to their self esteem. We believe that children who have a firm sense of identity do better in school. Cultural identity is a key part of the Journeys of the Heart curriculum.

Let's work together and celebrate our Indigenous heritage while building our children's self esteem and knowledge base so that they may enjoy their lifelong learning experiences.

The program is free. We run Mondays and Wednesdays for a morning program 9:00 to 11:30am and an afternoon program from 1:00 to 3:30pm and siblings are welcome. The program is at Wishart Elementary School, S.D. No. 62.

We are ready, we just need you.

To find out more about our program or to register please contact:

Winnie Williams BSW  
Hulitan Manager of Family Services

250-384-9466x251

[wwilliams@hulitan.ca](mailto:wwilliams@hulitan.ca)

## Outreach StrongStart

Strong Start is a free program where children aged 0-5, accompanied by a parent or caregiver, can participate in organized sessions which include play activities, circle time, snack time, and activities that help develop gross motor skills. All Welcome!

A Place to Play—Beecher Bay Strong Start is every Tuesday & Thursday afternoons.

Jayne Gusman—new coordinator!

**Tuesday**

8:45 – 11:45 a.m.

Beecher Bay "A Place to Play"  
4901B East Sooke Rd  
Sooke, BC V0S 1N0

**Thursday**

8:45–11:45 a.m.

At Hans Helgesen Elementary  
250 478-3431

Pacheedaht Nation - Strong Start

Rosslyn Anne- coordinator

Mon – Wed 1 pm – 3 pm

155 Tataxawo Street, Port  
Renfrew, BC V0S 1K0

250-647-5521 ext. 253

## Ready, Set, Learn Events

The Aboriginal Education Department hosts Ready, Set, Learn events at our early learning Aboriginal programs over the year. Please connect with one of the above programs for the event dates.

[http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/early\\_learning/rsl/2009/rsl\\_english09.pdf](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/early_learning/rsl/2009/rsl_english09.pdf)

District Ready, Set, Learn dates

Wed., Jan. 29: Sooke Community Hall,  
Sooke, 10 am to 1 pm  
& at Western communities,

Westshore Town Centre : 12 to 4 pm



Pita Tree

## **HEAL TIP—Island Health**

Quick-fix healthy breakfast options. Here are a few ideas including some which can be grab and go:

- Peanut butter and jam on a whole grain English muffin with milk to drink
- A bowl of high fibre cold cereal with milk topped with sliced banana and almond slivers
- Cheese, ham and lettuce sandwich on wholegrain bread served with milk to drink
- A small oatmeal muffin served with apple slices and a cheese stick or hard-boiled egg

Fruit smoothie made with milk, yogurt and fruit (fill up a "to-go" cup and take it with you)

# Elementary News

## PORT RENFREW ELEMENTARY

The Port Renfrew Elementary start up this year has been inspiring. As I sit here reflecting on the last few months, it brings back memories of an opening pancake breakfast full of community spirit, our new little drumming circle making beautiful music on the rug, First Nations art and music projects that line the hall of the school, walks down to the local park for exploration, fun, and fitness, fishing with the Pacheedaht First Nation on Community Fishing Day, the Community Club gatherings at the new Pacheedaht Health Centre, and much more. I have to say that our busy little class has been on some pretty wonderful adventures, both in and out of the classroom, so far this year.

I have the privilege to work with the Port Renfrew Elementary School K-5 students on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday mornings this year. On Mondays, I spend my time supporting literacy in the classroom with Shannon MacDonald and introducing as many Aboriginal stories, songs, games, art activities, and poems that I can muster. In the next few months, you'll find more and more role models will be working with the students on Mondays, developing a richer and deeper understanding of the First Nations, particularly the Pacheedaht people. I'm so excited about it that I can't wait to tell you more about it in our next newsletter. On Tuesdays, I offer more literacy support with a First Nations story, Words Their Way, reading, and journaling practice. On Wednesdays we finish off our Words Their Way for the week, have another First Nations poem or story and move into our Talking Tables groups. You'll notice that there's a lot of reading, listening for comprehension, and journaling in the program. I have found that the more students practice these skills, the more literate and confident they become. My goal, over the next few months, is to

increase each student's reading and writing levels. I am hopeful that the parents will all continue to read, read, and read some more with their children at home. Aside from all of the amazing classroom work the students have already accomplished, we have made a few exciting trips outside of the school and into the community of Port



P.R.E. student work displayed!

Renfrew.

On one particularly cloudy day in September, our class ventured across the small bridge in Port Renfrew and met the Pacheedaht Community for Fishing Day. As Shannon, Laurie, and I sorted out and secured the life jackets on the students, they wiggled and giggled their way into the power boat beached on the riverside. Clinging onto the side of the boat, we glided up river to a tiny island in the middle of the river. We jumped and splashed our way into the deeper grass and watched as the elders showed us how to spread the nets. The students learned the fine art of patience as we watched the community move nets off of snags and move the fish into the nets. It was quite moving how curious about everything they all were. When it finally came time to pull in the nets, all of the children eagerly grabbed a spot on the ropes and pulled with all of their might. As the fish came up and out of the water, the children smiled from ear

to ear. We only caught eight fish, but you'd think we had won the lottery. As the fish were laid out in front of the children, they had some fun trying to figure out what each fish was named and took turns holding the fish. We paused for a moment to talk about respecting fish and the environment along with it. All in all, the day was very successful. We may not have caught many fish that day, but we certainly grabbed all of their imaginations and taught them about patience and the beauty of community.

On another fine October afternoon, we journeyed down to the new Pacheedaht Health Centre for Community Club. Amanda, a Port Renfrew Firefighter and mother of one of our students, took the time to teach the children all about her different duties as a firefighter. She read a story, talked about fire safety, identified each piece of equipment she uses and how it works, allowed the children to try on the outfits, let them race to see who could get dressed fastest, showed us how she can lift very heavy objects quite easily to help people (yes....we all took turns being lifted high up in the air), ate a healthy lunch, did a craft, practiced



stop, drop, and roll for prizes, and spent time wandering around and in the fire truck. The children particularly liked it when the

horn was beeped and the fire engine parts opened and closed. All in all, the children saw the humanity in Amanda, and that in itself is worth a million. Perhaps now they won't be as scared if they should ever need her help in an emergency.

At the beginning of November, we ventured down to the new Pacheedaht Health Centre for Community Club again. *Continued on next page....*

# Elementary News

PORT RENFREW *continued*

On this particular day, the VIHA nurses came down to teach us about healthy eating choices and diabetes. The children seemed truly surprised by how many sugar and salt packages came with some of their favorite meals. Frankly, there was quite a bit of heading shaking among all of us. I think this was a really relevant/practical learning experience for everybody. We then ate a healthy lunch together, read a story, created poppies for Remembrance Day, and played food identification bingo for prizes. Everyone, as usual, left happy with a full belly, new things learned, and a gift to share with their family at home. Many of the children took home a music cd full of traditional Aboriginal music. I hope they all loved it!

It's now getting late into November and the children are learning to drum in a circle, getting ready to make a trip to John Muir for Transition Days and swimming, and are already talking about Christmas and parties. The Port Renfrew Elementary School, StrongStart, & Pacheedaht Preschool Christmas Celebration, in fact, it's coming up on Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at 12 noon. Let the baking and crafting begin.

Lisa Spalding, Teacher

## JOHN MUIR

Wow, it seems like just yesterday we started school and Christmas is already around the corner. John Muir Jaguars had a very busy start to the school year. There is never a dull moment here at our school. Since September many activities have happened. We had a scarecrow fest, a Halloween dance; and a whole teddy bear picnic in the gym. It was great, I have never saw so many stuffies in one room at once. Not to mention pajama day, the 4Cats Art Studio visiting and we

had discovery afternoon on Fridays. There were fun activities like pottery, jewelry making, sewing, graphic novels/comics, and beach/golf. The Jaguars have a lot of talent, way to go Jaguars!

We have been doing a few fund raisers through the Book Fair, working with Harbour View Lions club to raise money for "Change for diabetes". The best PAC fund raiser is the latest-Purdy's Christmas chocolates, poinsettias, and cookie dough. The school has collected food for the Sooke food bank and Mrs. Wilson's grade 2 class held a toy drive collection and sold items to raise money for the Sooke food bank. Way to go grade 2s. Our Jaguar clothing sale was a success. We get to wear it with pride.

It was great to have Port Renfrew students come and visit our school and spend time with our students.

The role model program is excellent. We bring in community members to enrich the student's lives. Which brings us to the Elder's project, the kindergarten students are learning the Sencoten language. We have one class at Saseenos, three classes at Sooke and two classes at John Muir. The students are learning numbers 1-10 and animal names and actions. We learn about the seasons through what the animals are doing. For example, in the fall squirrels are getting ready for winter, bears ready for hibernation. We incorporate stories about our chosen animal of the week. The children are enjoying the program and we have positive feedback from their parents. We also had Jeff Welch come in for teaching drumming, the children loved it. Thank you, Jeff.

We would all like to wish you the best through out the holiday season! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Edie Charley, AESW, Shuswap Nation

Huw Griffiths, ESD Teacher

Elder Shirley Alphonse, Elder Project

## SAVORY

The beginning of the school year has been busy and full of activity. Our year

of presenters started off with "Ed Peekeekoot". Ed engaged the school with his original songs reflecting on his Cree heritage and oral story telling. Many of the kids enjoyed participating with Ed in front of the school playing along with some of the instruments he brought with him.



It was so much fun to see our kids dress up and take part in Halloween. They played games, ate candy, and created some fantastic Halloween art.



Savory— Ed Peekeekoot

# Elementary News

*Cont'd from Page 6 Savory*

This Remembrance day, many of the classes created beautiful poppy art and took part in the annual Remembrance Day assembly in the gym. They were very respectful of the day and how our soldiers helped make it possible for them to be here today.



MNGV- Mr. and Mrs. Perkins



In late November the Grade 4 class had presenters Mr. and Mrs. Perkins from the Métis Nation of Greater Victoria. The entire class was completely enthralled, attentive, respectful and asking great questions. In January we will be having story teller "Michael Kusguk" along with his wife in to do a presentation to the school. Michael tells stories of his experiences of what it was like living a traditional nomadic life of Inuit, along with the tremendous change that has occurred in the past 60 years. It has been so great connecting with the kids, getting to know them and seeing all of their hidden talents. All

of them are amazing, so fantastic to see how talented our kids are and the things they can do. I cannot wait for Celebrating Student Success night to show off all of the work they have been doing! I'm so looking forward to the rest of the school year and seeing what our kids will amaze me with next.

Sherri Rose, AESW

## SASEENOS ELEMENTARY

This year I feel fortunate to be at Saseenos Elementary School on Wednesday and Friday mornings. I begin in Ms. Armstrong and Ms. Parliament's grade 1 / 2 classroom and then move into Ms. Symington's kindergarten room between recess and lunch.

In Grade 1/2, I support students in literacy development activities alongside Mrs. Armstrong. We work together to stretch students' read-to-self time, spelling, writing, and oral language skills. Each Wednesday, the class is divided into two groups that cycle through to both Ms. Armstrong and me. This allows Ms. Armstrong to do some targeted skill building skills with one group while I share a read-aloud infused with Aboriginal content and ways of knowing with the other. While with me, the students revel in the before, during, and after reading activities; especially sharing personal connections. In addition to regular morning events on Friday, I am fortunate to be one of the participants in Ms. Armstrong's "Read with Me" activity. This is a fantastic way to share the joy of literacy as family, school, and community members come together to read to students.

Working in the Kindergarten room is a lot of fun too! Students have been busy learning and practicing letter sounds through a child-centered approach of using actions. Just recently, students have begun representing ideas in their very first school journal. Mrs. Symington and I enjoy talking with

students about what they have on paper as we scribe their stories for them. Another highpoint in kindergarten includes a visit from our Aboriginal Education Role Model, Jeff Welch. Thank you for coming in to drum with the kindergarten class Jeff! Who knew making music could be so much fun? Hych'ka to Saseenos for such a great start to the school year! I look forward to the excitement and learning that 2014 brings. I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate Mrs. Baty on her upcoming retirement. Over the years, she has been a wonderful supporter for Aboriginal education as well as an incredible principal to work with. All the best Mrs. Baty – we will miss you!

Marlys Denny: Kindergarten & Grade 1/2 Aboriginal Literacy Teacher

## RUTH KING ELEMENTARY

This is our first newsletter of the year and Ruth King has been a busy and fun place to be.

My name is Murielle Lagace and I have been at Ruth King for many years now as the Aboriginal Education Support Worker (AESW).

Let's start with September. First things that happen in my line of work is what we call a 1701 this is establishing the First Nations, Métis and Inuit students. We started the year with 50 students and



Alicia K. artwork

Continued next page...

# Elementary School News

## RUTH KING Continued

as the months have gone by we are basically still around that number of students. The children are getting used to being back at school and so are we. Then we make a timetable so I can accommodate all the students, parents and teachers.

The first big event took place on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> at the Beecher Bay Long House. It is known as the Family Fall Gathering. It was a beautiful and culturally relevant event. If you missed it do yourself a favor next year and plan to attend. There is a bus to events leaving Ruth King each year. We also had picture day at Ruth King in September too.

Next came October and the school hosted the 'Cops for Cancer' as we have for many years. The riders come through our school grounds and collected the funds that our students had collected in the month. In the classrooms over the month of October I found myself working in all the different classrooms and developing new relationships with new students and of course it is always great to work with the returning students. Salmon Enhancements were with the grade 1 and 4 classes and students learned the life cycle of the salmon. The children also took their small salmon to Goldstream Park to release them there. This is always special for the children. The children all got all excited and ready for Halloween and the school dance, a good time was had by all. There was a very respectful and well attended Remembrance Day Assembly.

Now we come to November or what is also known Movember where our teachers and students sell, as well as, sport mustaches in honor of Men's Health. Our school collected \$200.00 at least. It was great seeing people with mustaches on. The grade 4 and 5 class were studying Compare and Contrast in their Language Arts so I decided to ask all the kids in the class to bring a fact that compared Coastal First Nation and

Interior First Nation. What an engaging hour and a half that was. The students were so involved. Sports teams playing Volleyball with other schools went very well too. There has been so many events that I believe I must stop now.

Here we are in December and it is almost Christmas. I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Festive season in which ever manner you and your loved ones celebrate.

Murielle Lagace, AESW

## DAVID CAMERON

Hello, My name is Sharon Bond, I am the Aboriginal Educational Support Worker at David Cameron and Saseenos, I am also the English Skills Development support worker at David Cameron Elementary.

My role as an AESW is to bring culture and offer resources to our classrooms. Each teacher will have different needs, and ideas on what they would like to see in their classrooms. This year we have had T'Sou-ke artist Charlene George visit our school. She came in and introduced her art in the form of a paddle. Students were then treated to a song and dance with Charlene. She also brings her Coast Salish language with her, teaching the students the names of some of the animals featured in her designs.

Fern Perkins, from the Métis Nation of Greater Victoria visited Saseenos, and David Cameron's Gr. 4/5 classes. She brought with her artifacts from her Métis culture. Students learned who the Métis are, and learned a little bit what their culture is about.

My role as an English Skills Development worker at David Cameron has me working with students that qualify for additional support in achieving the expected learning outcomes of the provincial curriculum. ESD also helps strengthen oral language strategies, and acquire the language proficiency skills. These services are delivered in

class, and are done so through team-teaching services within a mainstream classroom.

We are nearing Christmas, and I am looking forward to Christmas in the school with all the activities that are happening. I am going into the new year with hopes of many great things happening at David Cameron and Saseenos. Have a great 2014.

Kleco Kleco, Thank you,  
Sharon Bond.

## ELEMENTARY, E.S.D.

It has been fantastic working with students from last year and also getting to know and support the new students to our program.

Many thanks to Sam Peekeekoot, Murielle Lagacy, and Sharon Bond, our ESD Support Workers for their continual hard work and support they provide to our students. We'd also like to welcome Kenneth Kissenger to the Aboriginal Education Department and ESD Team. There has been great feedback from the staff at Hans Helgesen about Kenneth, and we look forward to working with him more in the future.

The ESD program aims to provide academic support to students in their classroom. As a team we strive to assist our students in developing their individual potential. We enjoy working and collaborating with the many wonderful teachers across our district. A highlight this term has been sharing academic material with Aboriginal content with teachers to use in their classrooms. Many new and exciting resources have been well received by teachers and most importantly, our students.

In addition to the above, we are participating in a province-wide initiative which aims to increase the number of BC children who are engaged, competent readers. Together we are excited to

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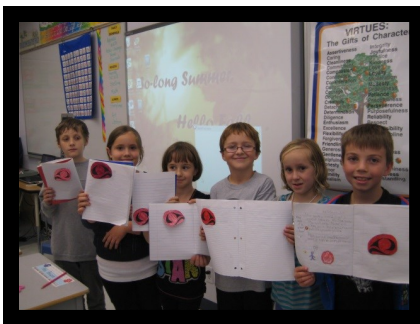
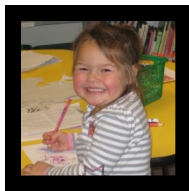
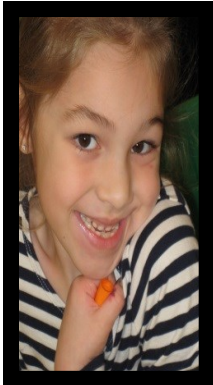
# Elementary School News

explore and implement effective literacy strategies that may prove invaluable in helping students experience the joy of reading.

Happy Holidays to everyone.

Huw Griffiths & Marlys Denny, Teachers

## ECOLE POIRIER



Ike sqwel ~ it is such a good new day!  
Hello all ~ my name is Charlene George from T'Sou-ke. We are having an awesome year here at Poirier. So many happy excited faces! Many Hych'ka's to staff, students & parents for bringing me into the family. As you can see by the pictures we have been very busy. We

have THE GATHERING at lunchtime 3 days a week.

At THE GATHERING (& some special times in the classroom) we have been focusing on the cycles of the moon; using the Sencoten Calendar. Please check out the display board just as you come into the school for the full moon we are celebrating (in English, Sencoten & French).

I raise my hands to the many helpers; these lovely young students help in many ways. Here is a couple of them.



The older students have the opportunity to do additional activities; including making bannock. Many thanks to all those who helped to make the Métis presentations in November a success; the students & teachers found this to be an awesome presentation—many Hych'ka's to our visitors from the Métis Community.

We are looking forward to having Hudson Webster & Jeff Welch in our school in December to help start the celebrations for the Winter/Christmas Season.

Charlene George, AESW



Book Source: The Saanich Year, by Earl Claxton Jr., John Elliottt



# Elementary News

## SANGSTER ELEMENTARY

Here we are again off to another school year. I'm happy to be back for my third year at Sangster, Happy to see returning students and staff. This year I'm here two days week Tuesday and Wednesday. I've gotten myself into a regular routine amidst the construction going on here, which is for the better.

Tuesday I'm here for my first year with the Nature Kindergarten class, which is amazingly awesome! In the morning we as a class go out to the Royal Roads University forest to study everything about the forest, the kids learn about the trees, wildlife, plants, and the general surroundings. In the afternoon they are read a story, then we talk and write about what they have learned about in the forest, then they have centers for the remainder of the day. I work with two amazing teachers, and have four Aboriginal students in this class. Both staff and students welcomed me with open arms. Together we all have learned a lot and I'm anxious to learn even more in the near future. It has been arranged for Shirley Alphonse to come into this class to welcome and do a territory acknowledgement with another local role model from the territory we are on. We have also had Earl Claxton Jr., and John Bradley Williams, accompany us into the forest and explain some of the cultural uses of the forest, and to tell us some legend stories. Jeff Welch came in for a second appearance to do a drumming presentation, and explain how the drum is made. He did a stunning job with the class. Another role model came to do a carving demonstration and show us some of the things he has carved out of the cedar tree. The kids were amazed with the artifacts he presented. Andre Spencer came to the class to tell some legend stories from an eastern point of view. He told us about the bear, the wolf, and the coyote tale. For the future we as a class group look to learn even more about the Aboriginal background of the forest with our future Aboriginal

role models.

On Wednesdays I have gotten myself settled into a routine of going into the student's classroom and giving them academic support. I help in language arts, math, reading, science, and spelling.

For Aboriginal role models they have carried over from the Nature K class. I have brought in Earl, and John. They have come to the grade five and one class, Murray Campbell has come to the grade one class, Jeff Welch has come to a class. Andre Spencer has returned to tell his stories to a class. For the near future I have talked to role models about coming and doing a presentation for some other classes. I'm looking forward to it!



Book Fair—student helper

Klecko Klecko (thank you)

Derrick Titian, AESW

## WISHART ELEMENTARY

This is my first year at Wishart Elementary School. I have enjoyed working at this school. I love getting to know the students and teachers here. As per usual, everyone is very friendly, supportive and helpful.

I feel so good when I see a student's face light up when they have learned something they have been struggling with, for instance, a kindergarten student who didn't know how to print her name. Her concerned teacher asked if I could help her learn how to print her name, then one day she printed her name on her

own, her teacher showed me and we were so happy for her. Little things like this make my job so worthwhile and rewarding. The student was beaming with pride after I complimented her on the good job she'd done with her name. I have 15 students I work with and enjoy working with each and every one of them.

I have brought in First Nation role models six times in three of the classes, the students and teachers are amazed at the oral story telling about our traditional history, culture, hunting, fishing, harvesting and native plants in the territory, how we lived then, how we live now and how much we have changed and how much the territory has changed. I love working in this elementary school and look forward to having a great year here at Wishart Elementary.

HIS'KWE (Thank you)

IY EN SCAC'EL (Have a good day!)

Nadine Charles - AESW

## HEAL TIP—Island Health

Here are some healthy school lunch ideas:

- A whole grain tortilla wrap with cheese, roasted turkey and baby spinach with a side of canned peaches, yogurt.
- Cheese filled pasta with tomato sauce with a side of pepper strips and hummus dip.
- Wholegrain crackers and cheese slices with a side of carrot sticks and sugar snap peas, a yogurt and fruit parfait.
- Chicken salad sandwich on wholegrain bread, with a side of green salad, and raisins.

Tuna and vegetable pasta salad, strawberries, chocolate pudding.

## Family Fall Gathering Acknowledgments

Thank-you list:

- Scia'new Nation
- Chief Russ Chipps
- Dennis Charles and family
- Scia'new Nation cooks
- Hank Chipps cedar boughs
- T'Sou-ke Nation Cooks for the fish
- Michelle Thut, Band Manager T'Sou-ke Nation
- Pacheedaht Nation for attending
- Elders in attendance
- Witnesses : Burt Charles, Dave Betts, Tara Munro, Jack Planes
- Thrifty apples
- Village Foods apples
- Committee: Sharlene Chaves, Murielle Lagace, Sharon Bond,

- Michelle Thut, Earleen Covey
- Youth servers for elders dinner
- Speakers Rick Peters
- OCM- Scott Sam
- Yellow Wolf Singers- John Sampson and singers
- Tzinquaw Dancers- Ray Peters and dancers
- SD 62 Facilities
- SD 62 Trustees
- SD 62 Senior Staff
- SD 62 PVP,
- Teachers, CUPE for attending

- All the families attending our events yearly
- All the role model volunteers attending the event!
- West Coast Promotional Products Blankets
- And Aboriginal Education Staff for all the hard work at the event!

We hope we didn't miss anyone in our thank-you note.



# Elementary School News

## HAPPY VALLEY

What a start to the new school year with the annual Fall Family Gathering. It was held at Scia'new First Nation Longhouse. This celebration was in honor of our community Aboriginal Role Models that help bring Aboriginal Ways of Knowing into our schools. The Tzinquaw Dancers and Yellow Wolf did wonderful performances! Many thanks for the wonderful dinner that was prepared and served by members of the Scia'new community.

Happy Valley has started off the year at full speed. They have had performances by the ballet "The Kings New Clothes" and the opera performed "Barber of Barkerville". For Halloween the WHOLE school was in costume! They had a costume parade and lots of fun activities in each class. What great costumes! We would like to extend a big Hych'ka to Shirley Alphonse for introducing a Territory Acknowledgement and Traditional Welcome at the Remembrance Day Ceremony.

The students and staff did an amazing job fundraising for the annual Terry Fox Run. They raised \$5,335.00 for cancer research. Great job Happy Valley!

November 18<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> Paul Hann is in the school doing music workshops with the students. The songs that they are learning will be performed at the annual Christmas Concert. They had a wonderful concert last year. I can't wait to see this year's concert!

A big welcome to all the new students and their families. It has been wonderful connecting with all the students new and old. I really enjoy going into the classrooms and working with the students. It is a wonderful feeling

when you are working with a student on something they are having trouble with and all of a sudden a big smile comes across their face. The pride that they feel when they succeed is an amazing feeling. We have already had lots of Role Models from the community into the school. They help to bring Aboriginal Ways of Knowing to all the students in the classroom. Many thanks to Travis Henry, Jeff Welch, Earl Claxton Jr., John Bradley Williams and Fern Perkins.

I would like to thank all the staff and students for always making me feel so welcome.

Rosalind Wilkinson, AESW

## HANS HELGESEN ELEM.

Hello everybody! My name is Kenneth Kissinger and I am the AESW at Hans Helgesen. I have been working with the staff and students for just over a month now and I am really enjoying my time here so far. I look forward to going to work each day and seeing all of the staff and students at the school. I have been working hard to forge relationships with the staff and students at Hans Helgesen and am very excited to be working with you all. There have been many highlights since I first started at the school, the students and staff have made me feel very welcomed and a part of the school and the community. The kids really make my day, and just by working with them and seeing them it brightens my day. The sense of community is strong at Hans Helgesen and it is so refreshing to be able to work in such a supportive and inclusive environment. I hope you all have a good winter season and enjoy the brisk chilly weather as much as possible!

Thank You

Kenneth Kissinger, AESW

## LAKEWOOD, MILLSTREAM, CRYSTAL VIEW, WILLWAY, AND COLWOOD ELEMETARY

It is nice to be back at my schools seeing many familiar staff, students and parents. It is a busy time. I have had a really good start up at the schools. I am busy working in the classrooms helping students with class work or introducing Aboriginal art/culture. Lots of fun!

I've had Charlene George at Lakewood Elementary in Mr. Feensfra's Grade 5/6 class. The students really enjoyed making the paper long houses. They learned so much.

I did mini button blankets in Mrs. McCullough's Kindergarten class.

Charlene George went to Millstream Elementary in Ms. Van Dyk's class. The students liked the story and art work to do with Raven and Sun.

Charlene George also went to Crystal View School in Mrs. McArthur's Grade 5/6 class making paper long houses.

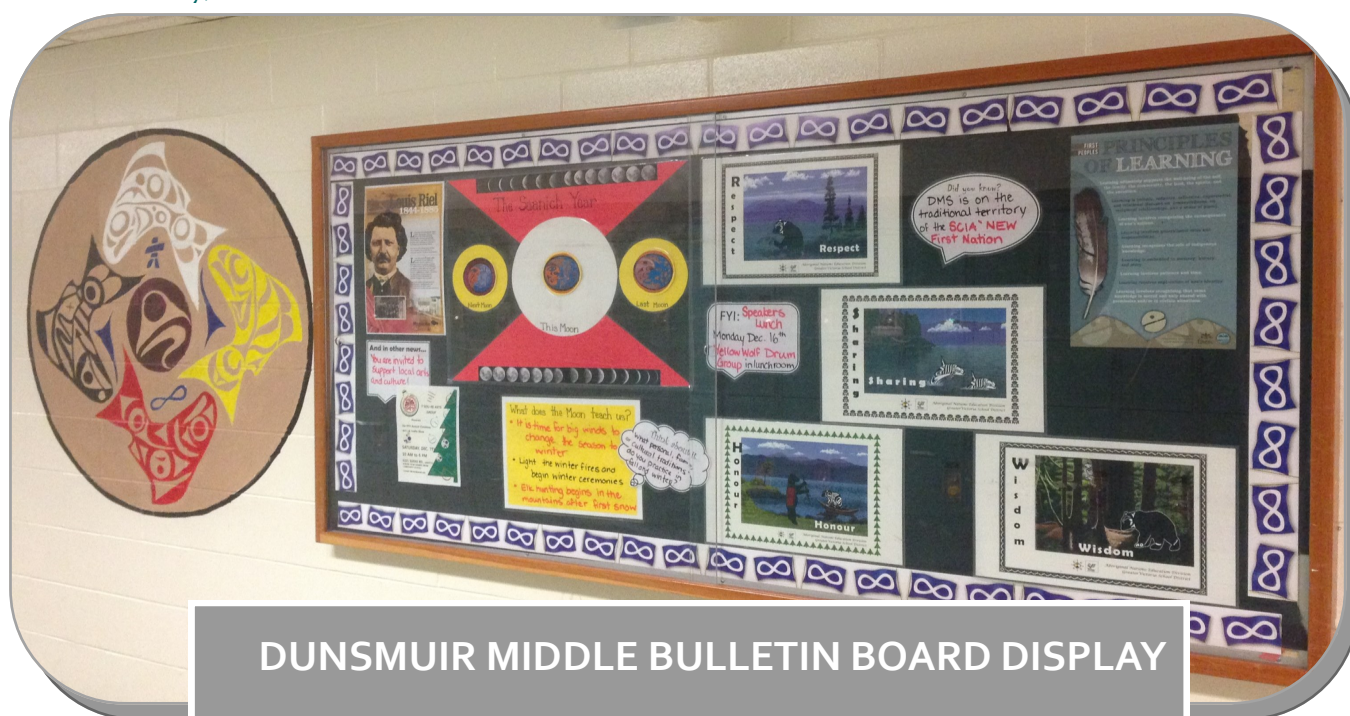
I have had really good feedback with the Aboriginal bulletin board.

Mr. Walter's Grade 4 class at Willway Elementary enjoyed the Box of Treasure program with Leslie McGarry. I received nothing but great comments!!

Mr. Dodd's Grade 5/6 class is learning some Halq'emeylem language and some art with me.

In Mr. Bendall's Grade 5/6 class at Colwood Elementary they are learning some Halq'emeylem language and in Aboriginal Art we made a cool paper snow globe and Fall picture.

Continued on next page...



## DUNSMUIR MIDDLE BULLETIN BOARD DISPLAY

like to take a minute to thank

CONTINUED...

I was so honored to be involved in the Fall Gathering, honoring the Role Models at Scia'new Nation Long House. There was a special feeling just being there!

The comments I have received from guests were awesome. It was a great experience.

Sharlene Chaves,  
Aboriginal Education Support Worker

### JOHN STUBBS

WOW!! It is hard to believe it is newsletter time. John Stubbs has so many activities going on all the time. From their sports teams, leadership program, Jagzone to pizza & cookie sales. The staff and students are also holding a Coat Drive, Holiday Hampers and Philippines Disaster Relief, in the form of a coin drive. They also have a "Christmas Shoebox" fund raiser

where students can bring in small items such as school supplies, small toys and gifts that are able to fit into a shoebox. These boxes are then shipped off to children in need.

In honor of Remembrance Day, Bruce Williams from CTV Vancouver Island News came into the school and did a story on Commander John Stubbs. He also interviewed some of the students! It was then aired on CTV during "I Love This Island". The students have a deep understanding of his service and were quite proud to be attending a school that is dedicated to such a brave and courageous man. In honor of the men and women that have served and are now serving our country, the school held a Traditional Remembrance Day Assembly.

I am so happy to be back at such an amazing school. The school is always a buzz of activity from the elementary classes, to middle school and French Immersion. I have been welcomed into every class I have gone into. I would

Mr.Manhas, Mr.Frizzell, Mrs.Gerrits and all the staff for embracing Aboriginal Culture in their school, which in turn allows all the students to experience Aboriginal Ways of Knowing. We have started off the new year with many community members coming into the school to share their knowledge. Many thanks to Jeff Welch for bringing drums into many classrooms and letting all the students experience drumming. A big thank you to Earl Claxton Jr. and John Bradley Williams for bringing so much knowledge and oral stories into many of our classrooms. I would also like to thank Fern Perkins from the Métis Enhancement Program for her presentation in a grade 4 class. We look forward to having these community Role Models back into our school and also inviting many more. I can't wait to see what the new year brings!

Rosalind Wilkinson,  
Aboriginal Education Support Worker

# Middle School News

## DUNSMUIR MIDDLE

This year at Dunsmuir we have had some big changes already! Derrick Titian is back in the school as the Aboriginal Education Support Worker (AESW) and there is a new-to-Dunsmuir Aboriginal Literacy and English Skills Development (ESD) teacher, Erin Wood. Both Derrick and Erin are looking forward to a wonderful new year ahead.

The face of our programming at Dunsmuir has also changed greatly this year. In addition to exclusively providing in-class student supports, our All Nations Room has been permanently closed to further promote inclusion of our programs with the rest of the school. Our school-wide focus is now on the Saanich Year, and tradition and knowledge to be gained from each moon. A bulletin board display, traditional food offerings, and a monthly speaker's luncheon featuring communi-

ty Role Models all enhance this focus.

Our students have had a lot to say since September and many have made new discoveries as they try new things and reach beyond their comfort zones. At our first traditional food serving, students were able to sample tea, fish soup, and bannock. The bannock (as always) was a hit, as was the fish soup once people tried it, and the tea was "SO GOOD!" according to most students who tasted it.

Students have been participating in school spirit days, checking out a student-led haunted house, going whale watching with the Marine Biology class, and working hard to succeed in school through conducting themselves honestly, respectfully, and kindly. Accolades were given to students who participated in last year's READ Society film project and a plaque has been put on display to recognize the 2013 Youth FX Cowichan Aboriginal Film

*Festival's Best Documentary "Capturing Stories" by Dunsmuir Middle School.*

We are so proud of our students' successes both at and outside of school, and are looking forward to sharing these successes at our Celebrating Student Success evening in February. We are also excited to host more Role Models in our school as we continue to explore the Saanich Year and all we can learn from traditional knowledge, customs, and wisdom.

Derrick Titian, AESW

Erin Wood, Teacher

## Dunsmuir Photo Gallery



Oral Storytelling Speakers Series, Dunsmuir



Hallowe'en, Dunsmuir

# Middle School News

## JOURNEY

Once again Journey is off to a roaring start. It is with great honor that we share the traditional territory of the T'Sou-ke Nation and neighboring Pacheedaht Nation and Scia'new Nation. Hych'ka for allowing us to learn work and play here. We would like to introduce ourselves. In the All Nations Room here at Journey Middle School Ms. Christianson is off on maternity leave and Mr. Pearce is here this year to take her place. John has been a teacher on call here at Journey and many other schools within the district. My name is Michelle Nahanee-Wolf and I am the Aboriginal Education Support Worker. This year we have 99 Aboriginal students here at Journey Middle School, which is the largest number of Aboriginal, Métis and Inuit students at our school.

Not only do we have John Pearce as the new Aboriginal literacy support

teacher we have all new Administration. I would like to introduce Ms. Szadowski our Principal and Mr. Beddard our Vice principal. It is with pleasure that I give a big welcome to both of them!

What an exciting time we had when world renowned author Eric Wilson came here in October. The grade six's and seven's thoroughly enjoyed every minute. Thank you, Ms. Fader for arranging the visit with Eric. Another exciting guest was Lalita Morrison from the University of Victoria. Lalita runs the mentorship program and gave a mini seminar on what classes and programs are available at the university. She informed the students of the summer camp that is available for one week at UVic. This gives the children a chance to sleep in a dorm and get a feel for what life is like at the university. They will be hosted by the LE, NONET mentor students.

We began the fall, with a visit from Pakki Chipps, an Elder from the Scia'new Nation who provided valuable information about traditional uses of plants during her nature walks and presentations. She has had the opportunity to visit individual classes. Her visits created a buzz around Journey with many teachers asking for her to come to their classrooms. With our new approach of supporting students in their classroom we have had the chance to assist and witness the amount of First Nations culture being introduced and encouraged by the teachers.

During the past several weeks, we have been leading an Aboriginal art exploratory that involve drawing basic ovoid's and u shapes that progressed into drawing animals on a canvas. We are very impressed with the dedication and patience of our students, who are painting orcas on canvas. Continued ...



UVIC- presentation



UVIC—Lalita Morrison

# Middle School News

## JOURNEY continued

The classes also had the opportunity to walk down to the creek and see the salmon spawning. They observed several salmon in varying states of decomposition. Many had been eaten by local wildlife which gave the opportunity to discuss the circle of life and how nature affects us and those around us. We had the chance to talk about how the First Nations, Métis and Inuit lived and thrived on their traditional lands as well.

Recently, a guest educator, Charlene George, from T'Sou-ke Nation has been coming to the school to help students create shawls, vests, scarves, and cedar head bands. She will also be assisting us with making holiday bags for gift giving. In addition to the paintings, I'm sure they'll make great gifts!

To start the holiday break we will welcome Elder Shirley Alphonse with tea and cookies in the All Nations Room.

So far this year our All Nations Room has reached out to all the students at Journey Middle School. We wish everybody a happy and safe holiday season. Hych'ka



Charlene George— Oral Storytelling at Spencer

Michelle Wolf, AESW  
John Pearce, Teacher

## SPENCER MIDDLE

This school term 2013/14 I started two different schools, Spencer Middle School being one of them. When I first found out I was changing from elementary school to middle school I was somewhat concerned. But in no time I realized I really had nothing to worry about. Spencer staff and students are all very friendly. I even have a little inside joke with the VP of Spencer who was assigned to me in the beginning of the school year to help me integrate into Spencer. He made himself available if I should have any questions or concerns. It was very nice to feel welcomed from day one. I have enjoyed and look forward to each day at Spencer School. Mr. Carr and I share about 72 students through the ABED and ESD programs from several different classes. I enjoy getting to know the students and assisting them in their learning. Some face challenges but they keep doing their best, others

need a little nudge to get them to complete their assignments, some just whiz right through with very little assistance. I appreciate the teachers, EA's, counselors, all staff who are always so willing to do whatever they can for the students who need support. Mr. Carr and I also share the All Nations room. All students are welcome to come in for break. Lunch is available for students who don't have one and it is also a quiet place to study. In this same room there have been several cultural events that have taken place within the last three months through Mr. Carr's exploratory class with my assistance whenever I'm needed. Through this class, students have learned so much about First Nations way of living. I thoroughly enjoy being at Spencer School. I love how everyone is so open, friendly and supportive in learning about First Nations. I no longer have any concerns and feel confident that this will be a good year at Spencer Middle School. HIS'KWE (Thank you) IY EN SCAC'EL (Have a good day!)

Nadine Charles - AESW



Nadine Charles, AESW with International Students

## Family Fall Gathering September 2013

Scia'new Nation hosts SD 62 event!



Elders  
Shirley Alphonse  
Burt Charles  
Lavina Charles



Honouring Role Models



Yellow Wolf  
Singers



Scia'new Chefs



Witness Sharing



Scott Sam



Tzinquaw  
Dancers



## Middle School News– con't

### SPENCER MIDDLE

Spencer Middle School – Winter Newsletter Submission

As the school year began in the CENQOLEW moon, during the arrival of the dog salmon, Nadine and I had to adapt quickly in familiarizing ourselves with a new space at Spencer Middle School. With the All Nations Room changing locations, lots of organization and cleansing transpired. After cleansing the room, we hosted the first of many speakers luncheons with traditional fruit and tea. Following the lunch bell, staff and students united in the All Nations Room to see Alpha Solong, indigenous to Vanuatu, who spoke about his not-for-profit organization Wan Smolbag, the importance of hip hop and the work they do with youth. A very empowering presentation enjoyed by all. Hych'ka Alpha for your time, energy, and dance moves! In First Nations Exploratory, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students became acquainted with new ways of teaching and learning through the powerful sharing circle.

Though at times, challenging, students grew with insight and inquiry as they became engaged in Aboriginal ways of knowing by investigating the 13 Moons of the WSANEC, practicing SENCOTEN words, baking bannock (fry bread), and viewing the world through a different lens.

Frost began to appear on the grass as we transitioned into the next moon, PEKELANEW, the moon that turns the leaves white. To begin their learning on First Nations history, my Socials 9 class partook in an opening circle and smudge led by Elder Shirley Alphonse. The experiential learning that occurred was valuable and eye-opening to many students. Aboriginal ways of knowing became weaved into the yearbook class as the design team decided on an Coast Salish theme this year, highlighting Spencer's connection to the land through Coast Salish art. Hych'ka Siem to Charlene George for her creations and guidance to the yearbook staff. The First Nations Exploratory invited international students attending Pearson College from Central, South America, the Middle East, and Africa who shared presentations about their country and its indigenous peoples. The exploratory concluded

with a culminating art and research project where students created a cedar frame painted in Coast Salish art form with a description and photo of their Aboriginal Hero. Some of these heroes included: Jordin Tootoo, Tom Longboat, Evan Beach, Maria Tallchief, Jessie Oonark, John Herrington, Tom Jackson, and Paul Okalik.

As the weather grew colder into WESELANEW, moon of the shaker leaves, more students joined the All Nations room at lunch for traditional tea and snacks. Appreciatively, many kind students look forward to their time of peace and rest with Nadine's soft, caring presence during their break. Classrooms became busy with role-models this moon, with Earl Claxton Jr. and John-Bradley Williams sharing their WSANEC culture and stories to Grade 7 classes. Hudson Webster presented with his daughter, Holly, on the history of the Nuuchah-nulth culture, enjoyed by my Socials 9 class. Hudson performed a special drumming song while students enjoyed tasting bannock (fry bread). After all students had presented their First Peoples inquiry project, they were gifted with a special treat: a taste of 18-foot hung cold-smoked Goldstream Chum salmon from Earl Claxton Jr. Jr.



Spencer Middle School—Métis Nation of Greater Victoria



Romy Pritchard, MNGV

## Middle and Secondary News

### SPENCER continued...

during a special closing ceremony hosted by Elder Shirley Alphonse and Principal Terry Honer. Hych'ka Siem to Earl for providing our class with a tasty, traditional and sustainable treat from our local river. In English Language Arts classes, Charlene George gave presentations illustrating an Aboriginal perspective on mythology, engaging students in a unique, experiential storytelling activity.

The new moon, SJELCASEN, putting your brush away, began with a special presentation by Romy Pritchard of the Métis Nation of Greater Victoria. Romy set up a booth featuring modern uses of traditional plants. Staff and students enjoyed learning from Romy's expertise and passion about the different jams, teas, creams, and oils that were harvested from the lands we walk on.

Through adaptation, patience, and hard-work, my while at Spencer Middle School could not have been more enjoyed or appreciated. This is in big part to the supportive school staff, district staff, kind students, and

my working partner, Nadine Charles, for creating such a welcoming, productive and belonging space. I look forward to seeing you every day,



SPENCER, First Nations Exploratory student Dylan O with his beautiful WSANEC Moon Poster

as I am very grateful for all that you do and teach me.

*Jon Carr, Warm Regards - Hych'ka - HÍSWKE - Kleco Kleco - Gilakas'la - Marsee*

### BELMONT SECONDARY

Please let me take a few minutes to wish you a Happy Holiday Season and a New Year full of happiness, laughter and love.

In September we started a new way for Aboriginal students to proclaim their Aboriginal heritage and be able to take advantage of all the "perks" that come with being Aboriginal in the school. We received all the forms - with a little soft nudging - now we can say we are 111 strong of which we have:

- 1 Inuit Male
- 45 Métis
  - 26 Male
  - 19 Female
- 37 Non-Status
  - 21 Male
  - 16 Female
- 7 Status - in community
  - 4 Male
  - 3 Female
- 21 Status - living out of their communities
  - 16 Male
  - 5 Female

Norma-Jean, Colby Heddon and

Continued on next page...



SPENCER, MNGV SPEAKERS LUNCHEON

## Secondary News

continued

Robert Malcolm were the headliners of the clip on CTV last night. They mentioned that the Sooke School District Aboriginal student graduation rate is on the rise from the upper 40% level to 60% level. Ren Louie, Alyssa Collins, Kennedy MacLean, Michael Campbell and Kitana Thomas were shown doing their work at various tables in the room also. We are proud to be part of the Sooke School District and the Grad rate reflects the hard work of our teachers and Aboriginal Support/ESD Workers from K – 12 - without this team effort some of our students would have given up starting in Kindergarten. Here is the link to the clip on CTV. <http://vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=1050334>

Our mentors, Nickolas and Colby, are doing a terrific job helping those students struggling with math both here and at Spencer Middle School. They have taken their jobs seriously and the students enjoy being helped by their peers. Excellent job you two!

Lalita Morrison, Wednesday, November 14th presented in our room at lunch. Interested in attending UVIC or the UVIC summer camp? This is a great opportunity to ask questions and

find out what UVIC offers for students of Aboriginal descent.

Pakki Chipps came to Mrs. Ruff's class to take the students out on a nature hike to get acquainted with our indigenous plant life. She explained how to recognize them and talked about their traditional uses.

Richard Van Camp (Aboriginal Author of "The Lesser Blessed" "Godless But Loyal To Heaven" and "The Moon Of Letting Go and other stories" to name a few) is coming to Belmont again the beginning of the new year.

Shirley Lang from Kitchens of Distinction will be coming in to share her journey to success story with the Business 10 class.

We have a trip to the Royal BC Museum trip planned with the sensational Leslie McGarry as our tour guide. Leslie fascinates groups of students as she shares both personal family history and tons of other historical information.

I can just imagine you thinking "Wow, I wish they had those great opportunities when I was in school!" Your friendly district Aboriginal Education Department is busy working to try to bring in role models

for different classes. The absolutely awesome teachers here at Belmont are always on board to provide the best role models to help support the different information from the text books. Providing an actual person to stand in front of the class and tell their own story is so much more powerful and help the students understand what the words in the book are trying to convey.

"Cops for Cancer" touches the hearts of many and at Belmont all of the big hearts of the staff put on a "Cyclethon". One of our little ladies, Colby, was moved by the "Cops for Cancer" cause, so-much-so, that she, individually, raised over 300.00 and won an award for the most money raised by an individual. Way to go Colby.

Two of our students art work was highlighted at the Prince Edward Legion on Station Street for Remembrance Day. Way to go Symone and Leona!!!!

Enjoy the pictures everyone.

Lynn Ferguson, AESW, and

Norma-Jean May, Core Teacher



UVIC Speakers Luncheon– Lalita Morrison



Belmont, Cops for Cancer, Group Picture

# Secondary School News

## PACIFIC & MTC

Greetings from Pacific Secondary, Metchosin Technical Centre and Pacific Ed. West. First off, we would like to re-introduce ourselves: Laurie Gibson is the Aboriginal Education Support Worker and this is her fifth year at Pacific and MTC. Gillian LeRose is the Aboriginal Literacy/ESD Teacher and is excited to be back for her second year in this position. We have had a great start to the year and students have been busy with a lot of exciting activities within the schools and out in the community. Here is a snapshot:

### Pacific Secondary

Pacific students have been busy with their academics this term. We are happy to announce a high number of grads this year and we are supporting them in their graduation preparation. To help with post-graduation planning, we welcomed Lalita Morrison to our school this month to give a presentation about the University of Victoria. Students asked great questions and learned a lot about UVIC. They won some great door prizes too! We are excited to also host Trevor Day from Camosun College later this month and in the spring we will be taking students for tours of these post-secondary schools.

The Grad Cohort class is full of energy and creativity and will be starting some amazing projects this term. For the first time at Pacific, students will get the opportunity to collaborate in carving a totem pole. When finished the totem will be displayed at Pacific! Chief Russ Chipps will be helping us with this process as well as be joining us to carve paddles.

We have introduced “Tea Tuesdays” at Pacific this year. We are serving traditional tea to students and staff as a way to bring everyone together and connect while enjoying some delicious hot tea!

Finally, in addition to all the great things going on inside our school, we are proud to mention the work our students are doing in the community. Last month the grade 12 class, in collaboration with the City of Langford went to Langford Lake to plant native plants around the new boat launch.

Also, our grade 12 class is participating in Project Respect: a program aimed to help youth learn about and create a culture based on respect and anti-violence.

### Metchosin Technical Centre

MTC students have been so active in their classes and the community already this year. We have a grade 12 class for the first time this year that are busy getting ready for a January graduation, but not too busy to do some amazing art. Our role model Murray Campbell came in to do carving with the class. They loved it and did a fabulous job. Grade nine students will have a chance to make drums this year with Wade Charlie and we hope to do a new art project with the 10s and 11s.

Other activities taking place include: students are continuing to write wonderful letters to the editor in the community paper, The Metchosin Muse; last month our science 9 class hatched 8 beautiful chicks; students are enjoying traditional tea on Mondays; and art students submitted and had 7 pieces of art accepted into a local art show at the Metchosin Art Gallery.

We are excited to welcome some terrific Role Models into MTC throughout this school year. We thank these Role Models in advance for taking time out of their day to come share their history, knowledge and experiences with our students.

### Pacific Ed. West

Pacific Ed. West is very excited to be in a new building this year. They are now located in the CASA building in Sooke. Students and staff are really

enjoying the new space! All of our students have been working hard on their academics this term. In the New Year we plan to have some Role Models come in to do some traditional cooking, and an art project!

We would like to thank all of the wonderful teachers, support staff and administration for all of your help and dedication in supporting our students on their path to success! Wishing everyone a happy and safe holiday season and all the best in 2014!

Laurie Gibson, AESW, and  
Gillian LeRose, Teacher



MTC Grade Twelve Carving



Scia'new Nation—Chief and Mentor Russ Chipps

# Secondary School News

## WESTSHORE CENTRE FOR LEARNING AND TRAINING

Hello from WestShore Goldstream Campus!

First off, we would like to thank the Coast Salish people for allowing us to live, work, and play on what were once their traditional territories. Secondly we would like to introduce ourselves. Dennis Warbrick is the Aboriginal Education Support Worker. Dennis comes to WestShore after seven years at Spencer Middle School. Dennis's ancestry is Shuswap and his band is located near Invermere B.C. Gillian LeRose is the Aboriginal Literacy/ESD teacher who also works in this role at other schools within the Sooke school district. Gillian comes to Victoria from Nelson B.C. and has European ancestry. We are so excited to be the Aboriginal Education team assigned to WestShore this year.

We have had a busy start up at WestShore as we have been bouncing around from class to class getting to know all of our students and staff. We thank everyone for the warm welcome we have received this year.

We have an eventful year lined up including art projects for the cohort classes and some great Role Models that will be visiting our grade 9 and 10 humanities classes. In December the grade 10s will have the opportunity to participate in First Peoples Box of Treasures Cultural Awareness Program through the Victoria Native Friendship Centre. This program consist of 3 sessions: Introduction to First Nations, Royal BC Museum visit and the third session is a cultural activity in the classroom. Students and staff are looking forward to this! Students have also been making traditional tea and the foods class will be doing some traditional cooking this semester such as learning how to make bannock.

Lastly, we will be starting a Speaker Series at WestShore in the New Year featuring various authors, writers and artists. Please keep an eye open for information and dates for these upcoming events!



Tea Makers: E.E (Shuswap) and K.W. (Métis) , WestShore Goldstream Campus

We would like to thank everyone for their hard work and support this term! We look forward to all the great things to come in the New Year.

Gillian LeRose, Teacher(Author)  
Dennis Warbrick, AESW (Editor)

## WESTSHORE FIRST NATION GRAD PROGRAM

The beginning of the school year has been very busy already. Our students have been working hard and plowing forth on their roads to graduation.

Loni Skelton, Kathleen King-Hunt, Michelle Wolf and I traveled to Cowichan in October to take part in a "Living off the Land" conference. We met so many wonderful people, and learned some great things about traditional life styles still alive today. We brought some of the traditional knowledge home with us to share with our students in class. It was a nice pathway to having Pakki Chipps in to teach the traditional plants and their uses. Our year of presenters started off with "Pakki Chipps" and "Alex Nelson". Pakki spoke

about the traditional plants of the territory and their medicinal or food uses. We will have her back in January to take the students on a nature walk. Alex made a wonderful presentation on Residential School to both Loni and Andrews's class. The presentation opened their eyes to how basic rights like: breakfast, love, a roof over our heads, family, were all taken away some in deeper ways from many of our people. We have a Box of Treasures Session with Leslie McGarry coming up soon. I think I learn something new every time Leslie presents to us, and takes us through the Museum.

Grandma Lee's language teachings have been going very well; many of our kids are remembering the words and their meanings. The teachings have helped me to understand many of the traditional introductions and follow along with prayers made by elders. Thank you Grandma Lee.

It was so much fun to see our kids dress up and take part in our annual Halloween Party at the Station Road Legion. We played games, ate a lot of candy, took part in a costume contest had so much fun. There is a link on Youtube to see all the kids that took part from both of the Westshore locations. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RSaWq6eEqr0>



## Secondary School News



### WESTSHORE FIRST NATION GRAD PROGRAM

This Remembrance day, we revised our PowerPoint on First Nation war heroes that were made by last year's students and we had a few new entries. We had so many great stories, and so much information on our First Nation heroes it makes me wish we could put it in the newsletter!

In art class, we've been working on several different projects from painting, drawing, felting, to lino printing, online sculpting and moccasin making. All of them are amazing, so fantastic to see how talented our students are and the things they can do.

I'm so looking forward to the rest of the school year and seeing what our kids will amaze me with next.

ÍY SCÍÁCEL (Good Day)

From Westshore  
Sherri Rose, AESW, and  
Loni Skelton, Teacher



Pakki Chipps

### WESTSHORE PACHEEDAHT YELLOW HOUSE PROGRAM

The WestShore Centre for Learning and Training Port Renfrew Pacheedaht Adult Program is a successful, thriving project based learning environment that is transforming how the community views education and themselves within it. Grades 8-12, every subject area, is worked on in a small communi-



Studying at the Yellow House

ty classroom in the Pacheedaht community. We meet three times a week in the Yellow House. We begin with snacks and coffee and move into our different subject areas as the students become ready to engage. Relevancy in education is absolutely critical in this educational setting. It is of utmost importance that everything we do relates directly to their life experience. I look closely at what students are interested in, things they have done in the past, and what they are currently doing in community. I then marry that with the PLOs and set the students up for success. Along with the classroom work, I am also involved in other ways within the Pacheedaht com-



Alex Nelson at First Nation Grad Program

munity. This further develops positive relationships and encourages the community to view school as a safe, approachable place to be.

Lisa Spalding, Westshore Teacher



Westshore Pacheedaht Yellow House



## Secondary School News



### **Edward Milne Community School**

It is hard to believe that we are already approaching December. Edward Milne Community School continues to be a hub of activities. The school currently has 144 Aboriginal students who are all working towards success. This year at EMCS we welcomed a new Vice-Principal; John Lyall. Mr. Lyall has spear headed an Inquiry group here, and our school is asking the question: How do Aboriginal role models enrich and enhance student learning across curriculum here at



Artist Kevin Cranmer

EMCS? So far we have had Kevin Cranmer demonstrate the carving and understanding of totem poles in Art 9.

Planning classes have also had the opportunity to hear Steven Sxwithul'twx tell his personal story



and job opportunities through Vancouver Island Health Authority. We

look forward to having many more role models come in and enhance learning within the school.

Edward Milne Community School has had two young ladies "Sophie Adams" grade 11 and "Lyra Hindrich" grade 12 nominated for amazing kids through Save on Foods Vancouver Island's amazing kid awards. Nominations go to kids doing great things in school, sports or the arts. Kids that have overcome adversity, volunteers his or her time or has done something heroic. If you would like to see the highlights, go to CTV News and see these two girls with Hudson Mack awarding them \$1000 scholarships.

**GRAD REMINDER** - A reminder that Grade 12 students should be starting the scholarship and bursary application process. Students should visit the scholarship section of EMCS website for step-by-step instructions. <http://www.emcs.sd62.bc.ca/studentresources/scholarshipsbursariesstudentloans.aspx>

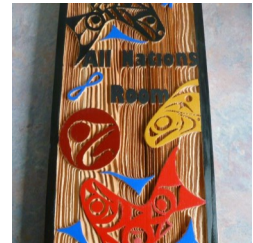
Please also come to the All Nations room for any other Aboriginal, Scholarship and bursary applications.



VIHA Presentation

Community! Come by Edward Milne Community School to look at our new sign outside of our room

"All Nations Room" done by Mr. Lyall, sanded and painted by the students.



Rande Cooke design

Trish McNabb, AESW

Billy Yovanovich, AESW

Kathy Sudlow, Teacher



## **Aboriginal Education Fundraiser**

### **SD62 ABORIGINAL GRADUATION CEREMONY**

# **SCRAP METAL DRIVE**

**When:**  
December 4th– 20th

**Where:**  
A bin will be located  
at  
WestShore Annex in  
Colwood

2137 Sooke Road

For more information

Please contact:

- Gillian LeRose  
geggleton@sd62.ca.ca
- Loni Skelton  
lskelton@sd62.bc.ca

- Please come out and drop off your used metal and help support our **Aboriginal Grads of 2014!**
- Funds raised will be used to hold a ceremony at Camosun College , recognizing the hard work and success of our students
- Example of items to be donated:
  - Washers      - Stoves
  - Dryers      - Hot water tanks

Please see: [www.malahatmetals.com](http://www.malahatmetals.com)

For a complete list of accepted items



## Fall/Winter Edition

3143 Jacklin Road  
Langford, B.C.  
V9B 5R1

Phone: 250 474-9879  
Fax: 250-474-9825  
E-mail:  
kkinghunt@sd62.bc.ca

## Submissions

If you would like to submit artwork or poems to the  
Aboriginal Education Newsletter please forward your  
submissions to [lmorison@sd62.bc.ca](mailto:lmorison@sd62.bc.ca)

Leslie Morison (Aboriginal Education Department Secretary)

*Thanks to the Aboriginal Education Staff for  
the newsletter submissions!*



**Cut the coupon below – return to your school office to  
send to Kathleen King-Hunt at the SBO.**



Yes, I have read this newsletter with my family!

Return this coupon to win family books from Aboriginal Education  
Department. One coupon per family is fine.

A book prize will be forwarded to your school.

Name(s):

School:

Grade:

Return this coupon to your school's office to be forwarded to the SD62  
School Board Office.

Attention: Kathleen King-Hunt, District Principal Aboriginal Education

## Schools

Visit the District Resource Centre for numerous Aboriginal titles to use for the classroom teaching.

### Newsletter April Coupon Winners!

- Eddie, Westshore Annex
- Harry, Westshore Annex
- Christine, Belmont
- Joelyn, EMCS
- Heidi, EMCS
- Collin, EMCS
- Jared, EMCS
- Josh, EMCS
- Taneeka, EMCS
- Alysha, EMCS
- Bradley, EMCS
- Carlson, EMCS
- Dallas, EMCS
- Raven, Saseenos
- Sarah, John Muir
- Mitchell, John Muir
- Jacob, Saseenos
- Marya, Saseenos
- Sonya, Saseenos
- Reyna, Saseenos
- Kaydence, Happy Valley

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### Strong Reader Tools

*When I look at the cover of my book, my brain searches for information about...*

1. What I know for sure...

2. What it reminds me of...

3. What I wonder...

4. What I can now predict the book is going to be about...

*As I'm reading my book...*

5. I can stop reading when my brain says, "Hey! That didn't make sense when"...

6. I can search my brain for information that isn't in the book, this will help me to understand the book better...

7. I can say what the most important pieces of information are...

8. I can make pictures in my brain or see a movie of the book in my brain...

*After I've finished reading my book...*

9. I can now say how my thinking has changed from my prediction and I can retell the book...



## Upcoming Events

### Recognition Ceremony

May 2013

Location: Camosun College,  
Lansdowne Campus

By Invitation Only



Our graduation ceremony will be a full house this year with so many Aboriginal graduates.

Hych' ka to our partner groups for donating to the event specifically Makola Housing.

Congrats to the committee for a top notch teamwork: Michelle Thut, Tara Munro, Laurie, Gillian, Trish, Kathy, Lynn, Norma-Jean, Sherri, Loni, Dennis, Lisa Spalding, and Shirley!

## Congrats!

Patti Christianson on birth of second son this fall!

ISTA YA CONENET 2013, T'Sou-ke Nation  
event held in November.

Earleen Covey on her new secretary job at  
David Cameron!

Loni Skelton for New York City artist digital  
gallery and Successby6 logo  
design competition winner!

## Welcome ...

Welcome John Pearce, Lisa Spalding,  
Charlene George, Weyla Chipps-Roy,  
Kenneth Kissinger, Billy Yovanovich  
and Leslie Morison to our  
department.

## Celebrating Student Success

Where? EMCS, Sooke

All invited!

Date: February 26, 2014

Time: 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Complementary meal, displays,  
youth leadership, youthful per-  
formances, grad fundraiser auc-  
tion...traditional teas.

## Events.....!

Scia'new Nation

Drum Group

10 week program

Coordinator: Isabelle Charles

Location and times to be an-  
nounced.

Métis Nation of Greater Victoria

Go to [www.mngv.ca](http://www.mngv.ca) for com-  
munity monthly potluck loca-  
tions and dates!

Join MNGV facebook too!