

Aboriginal Programs Newsletter



Fort Rupert Elementary

Fort Rupert Elementary School staff has incorporated many resources into their daily teaching. Students learned about the Residential Schools, and they participated in events held on the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Classes use online resources such as: First Voices, U'mista Potlatch / Virtual Museum Tours, and 'Meet a local legend' videos. An intermediate class is using the Science First Peoples Resources, specifically the 'The Bears and Body Systems' Unit. Those students have been listening to Kwakiutl Legends and practicing Northwest Coast Native Form line drawing for art. One of our primary classes receives points through Class Dojo for speaking Kwak'wala. We will continue to use all the valuable resources through the year.

Malkwala — remember

Hayulis tlañs malkwalał — we will always remember

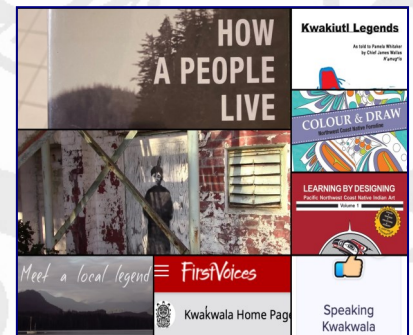
Cheslakees Elementary

The school year has started with everyone learning to greet each other and introduce themselves in Kwak'wala. In the classrooms you can hear teachers and students using the words: kas'id, pipaspa'yu, and ti-baya. As the weather and season has been changing students have been learning weather words such as yola. This month in preparation of National Indigenous Veterans' Day and Remembrance Day the students have been learning about peace, and symbols. Mrs. Wadhams brought in her regalia to teach the students about her family crest, the Thunderbird, on her apron and blanket.

Alert Bay Elementary



Retired NHL player, Jordin Tootoo, came to Alert Bay on October 27 as part of this year's We Care Fair, an event put on by the Nawalakw Health Society, Kwakiutl District Council Health and the First Nations Health Authority. Jordon spoke at the Lawrence Ambers Recreation Centre addressing mental health and suicide. Our students were at the ferry to welcome Jordon to our community. Thank you Robin Quirk for capturing these images and allowing us to share them.



I would like to recognize the Elders and Knowledge Keepers and peoples from Kwakwaka'wakw Nations, who share these traditional territories with us so we can live, learn, work, and play side-by-side. I also want to acknowledge our people who have come before, our ancestors who have guided us and taught us how to live on these lands in a good way.



Sea View Elementary

It has been an exciting term here at Sea View! It is an honor to witness the development and growth of our students. As a school community we are working hard to ensure all students experience a sense of belonging and respect, Maya'xala, through the recognition and honoring of their culture, history, and values. Mr. Tanner's class practices saying hello in different languages throughout the week during morning meetings, always starting with Gilakas'la. Below is a photo of Mr. Tanner and a few of his students in the forest beside our school. We often take learning outside and are becoming more familiar with identifying the many species of trees and plants we are surrounded by! Mrs. Summer's class is diving into their autumn/winter habitat/carnivore science units and will get to experience hands on learning by examining horns, antlers, teeth, and taxidermy. Ms. Karch's grades 3 & 4 class produced some beautiful leaf art using only materials found in the forest. Ms. Robertson has been working on community-based learning with all divisions. Our teachers support the First People's Principles of Learning by ensuring all learning ultimately supports the well-being of self, family, community, land, spirits, and ancestors. We look forward to the coming months of learning and witnessing the changing of seasons. Gilakas'la!



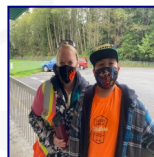
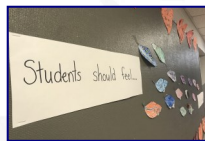
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Eagle View Elementary

Together, in the spirit of hope and reconciliation Eagleview came together to honour and acknowledge former residential school students whose families and communities have been impacted by governmental policies and actions.

We wore orange shirts to acknowledge that Every Child Matters and to honour the lived reality of Phyllis Webstad. A variety of resources were used in classrooms settings; such as story books, circle of caring, when we ere were Alone—lessons on residential school. Art work was created by the students which shared their words on how school should be. The words were written on feathers and displayed on a hallway bulletin board. The staff were given the opportunity to order Every Child Matters face coverings and the t-shirt, hoodie, which featured the winning art of our young artist, Lucy H, who was the winner from the contest offered at the end of last year.

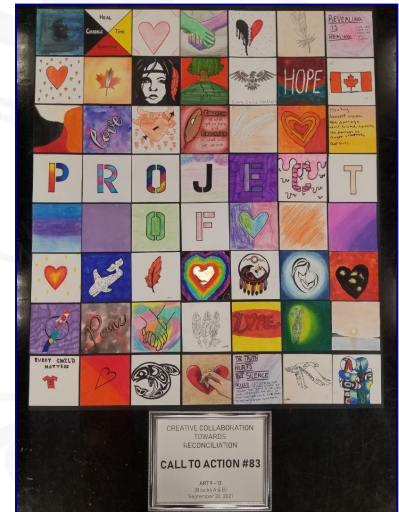


Eagle View supported the 5 day national event with continued conversations around TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION. Important conversations including the truths of the Indigenous treaties, First Nation, Métis and Inuit land claims, and the residential school's system. Staff and students participated in the shared videos offered, which was created by Indigenous storytellers. These videos showed traditional ceremonies and artistic performances, alongside conversations with Elders and knowledge keepers, Survivors, and children of Survivors of residential schools.

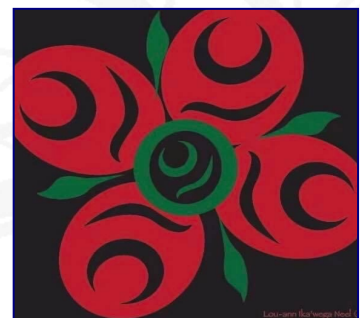


Port Hardy Secondary

CALL TO ACTION # 83 *We call upon the Canada Council for the Arts to establish, as a funding priority, a strategy for Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists to undertake collaborative projects and produce works that contribute to the reconciliation process.*



Port Hardy Secondary School's A block and B block Art 9-12 classes created a collaborative art installation titled "Project of Heart." Through personal introspection and artistic expression students conveyed the shared history of Canada and their hopes for a future of togetherness. Displayed prominently in our school's foyer, this project marks the first formally recognized National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.



AJ Elliott Elementary

Truth and Reconciliation Week

Primary students participated in a sharing circle each day this week based on the stories we used to learn about and discuss Truth and Reconciliation. The students were very thoughtful about what they shared, and the questions they asked. Through these stories, students had an opportunity to imagine the impact it would have had to be separated from their family and community to attend residential school. Intermediate students held many open discussions of Truth and Reconciliation and relationships. K-7 students wore something orange for "Orange Shirt Day" to help honour and support all of the Residential School Survivors, their families and communities. "Orange Hearts" have come to symbolize the loss of children. To show our solidarity with the Indigenous families who are suffering students cut out orange hearts to place in our windows. The primary students also made orange heart sun catchers and the intermediate students painted an orange heart on their glass candle jars. All students joined in to make a solidarity tree with their painted handprints.



North Island Secondary

Nine North Island Secondary students attended the workshop Safe Talk held in Alert Bay Community Hall on Oct 21st. Our students were excited to learn about how to help a friend or classmate if they were in the situation where a friend was feeling down or thinking of suicide. This workshop helped them feel more confident and gave them some tools to talk to troubled friends.

The feedback I got was "I'm glad we got to attend this workshop and willing to do more training" students feel there is way too much sadness in the world and don't want their friends stuck or feeling suicide is the only option. Thanks to the facilitator for the great information and certificate.



Eke Me-Xi Learning Centre

Every Wednesday Eke Me-Xi exposes our cohort to a North Island destination where we teach and learn the history of the area. Acknowledgment of a Nations territory and explore a myriad of outdoor activities. In our third year of the pandemic we do our best to keep our students engaged and immersed in language and culture. Below students are practicing alaxwa in preparation when we are allowed to gather once again. Eke Me-Xi is entering its 19th year of operation as a linear school with immersive alternative choices that engage our students with unique experiences, cheers for a successful 2021/22 year.



Sunset Elementary

The Truth and Reconciliation Tree is in the front entrance of the school. It was created in honour of the first National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. Ms. Sneazwell asked all students and staff for messages and words to be included on the falling leaves of the tree. There are messages of hope, kindness, and respect written in both Kwak'wala and English. Messages also include the number 215 and Every Child Matters. The tree is a steppingstone into powerful conversations and teachings.



Sunset Elementary also went on a school-wide walk out to the Rotary Trail to place decorated orange rocks in honour of Residential School survivors. Students and staff were accompanied by traditional singers, as well as community members. The trail is now lined with over 200 rocks as a symbol that we will not forget.



North Island Secondary Alumni

National Indigenous Veterans Day started in Winnipeg in 1994 to honour all First Nations, Métis and Inuit soldiers who served in war for Canada. Prior to 1994 Indigenous soldiers were not permitted to participate in Remembrance Day ceremonies as a group or to lay wreaths. Indigenous veterans were only allowed to attend as an individual. 1994 was the first year that an Indigenous soldier placed a wreath at the Cenotaph in Ottawa. It wasn't until 1995 that Indigenous soldiers were allowed to march as a group or lay a wreath at the Cenotaph in Vancouver. The National Aboriginal Veterans Monument was unveiled in Ottawa in 2001.


Sgt. W.A. McDougall, CD

Bill started his Military Career in the fall of 1988 at the Canadian Forces Recruit School in Cornwallis, Nova Scotia. Upon completion of his Basic Training and Basic Engineer qualifications in Chilliwack, B.C.

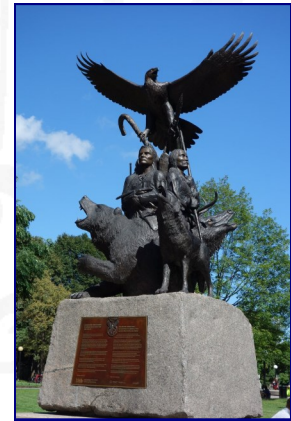
Deployed on:

- Op Record, the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission
- Op Deliverance in Somalia as part of the Canadian Airborne Regiment Contingent in 1992-93
- Bosnia as part of the Canadian Contingent Implementation Force in 1995-96.
- Op Assistance, the flood relief in Winnipeg and Op Recuperation, the ice storm relief in Ontario and Quebec
- In 1998, he returned to Bosnia as part of the Stabilization Force (SFOR).
- 2001 he returned to Bosnia again with 3 RCR Battle Group for Roto 8, as part of SFOR.

Currently, Sgt McDougall lives in Medicine Hat, Alberta with his wife, Shannon and daughter Emily.



Bosnia, 1996



Aboriginal Programs Monthly Prize Draws

Aboriginal Programs will begin monthly draws for:



1. Students and staff who are practicing Maya'xala, Huthilalas, Salt'idas, Daŋa xa ik noke' and Nanwakola
2. Anyone in your building you catch using our Kwak'wala language

The winners for the September/October draws were:

- Bowen Hodgson, Nykolai Koskela — Cheslakees Elementary
 Star Dawson, Ayla McDonald — AJ Elliott Elementary
 Morgan Benere — Eagle View Elementary
 Melissa Tonkin — North Island Secondary

Kwak'wala Corner

- mánuux — drummer
 tsitsukwala'yu — bells
 Amudzam — decorations
 t̓axú — scarf
 Amlam — toy
 'Wadala — cold weather

 DOGWOOD DIPLOMA GRADUATION CHECK LIST  www.sd85.bc.ca	Grade 10 ● English or English First Peoples 10 ● Mathematics 10 ● Science 10 ● Social Studies 10 ● Career Life Education ● Physical and Health Education 10	Grade 11 ● English or English First Peoples 11 ● Mathematics 11 or 12 ● Science 11 or 12 ● Social Studies 11 or 12	Grade 12 ● English or English First Peoples 12 ● Career Life Connections ● 3 Grade 12 Electives	
	● Arts Education or Applied Design, Skills and Technology 10, 11 or 12			● 4 Additional Grade 10, 11 or 12 Electives
	Provincial Graduation Assessments ● Graduation Numeracy Assessment 10 ● Graduation Literacy Assessment 10 ● Graduation Literacy Assessment 12			

The B.C. Certificate of Graduation, or Dogwood Diploma, is awarded to students who successfully complete the provincial graduation requirements. To graduate, students require at least 80 credits total, 52 core credits and 28 elective credits and required. Each selection counts as 4 credits. ©2020

Gilakas'la

For more information about our Aboriginal Programs with SD85, please visit our website:

<http://www.sd85.bc.ca/wordpress/programs-ab-ed/>

We can also be contacted by phoning 250-949-6618 ext. 2233 for Irene Isaac, District Principal of Aboriginal Programs or ext. 2228 for the Secretary of Aboriginal Programs.