



**SIWAL SI'WES  
(our forefather's teachings)  
ABORIGINAL DEPARTMENT  
Mission Public Schools**



To work collaboratively with all schools to ensure that Aboriginal Students are successful in Mission Public Schools. While promoting and respecting the traditional territory of the Stó:lo People, we help to foster an awareness and respect of all Aboriginal peoples for all students and staff in Mission Public Schools

**Newsletter #3**

**April 2019**

**From the desk of District Principal  
Joseph Heslip.....**

Ey swayel tel siya ye,

As the season of Temkwik-wexel takes hold, we notice the longer days and warmer weather. The world is spinning so fast at the moment that if we don't stop to look around, this year will be all but behind us.

We have so much to be grateful for as we reflect upon the accomplishments of this "Year of Respect" in our District. It has been heartwarming and gratifying to personally witness such amazing work in our district from our students and staff, highlighting this teaching. Whether this is displayed in large District or school initiatives, or in everyday individual acts of kindness, RESPECT has been embodied throughout the district.

Please join us at our monthly Siwal Si'wes Advisory Council meetings which are the second Tuesday of the month at 11:30am. We work together to steer the direction of our Aboriginal education program for Mission Public Schools under the direction of our Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement.

Kw'as Ho:y

Joe



**From the desk of District Vice-Principal  
Vivian Searwar.....**

Sunny days, soft rain and the croaking of frogs!  
Spring has arrived!

On April 8, our staff participated in our annual Staff Conference. We had the privilege of meeting and hearing Indigenous author and speaker, Monique Gray Smith. Monique has written books for children, youth and adults, and is the host of a podcast called Love is Medicine. She shared words of wisdom, strength and resiliency through stories and teachings. Her powerful and inspirational message transformed our thoughts, our lives and our perspective on the world. Staff also participated in an honouring ceremony for a colleague and participated in a variety of workshops which they will now be able to share with our students and families.

We are looking forward to seeing you at our Recognition Dinners. This year we are inviting you to complete an online survey, which will be available at the dinner. We value your feedback, as it helps us better support your children through their educational journey and will guide us as we prepare for the next steps of our Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement.

Happy Spring!



Ps. If you would like to also receive this newsletter by email please forward your email address to our secretary Mrs. Buell at [marcy.buell@mpsd.ca](mailto:marcy.buell@mpsd.ca) or see our website @: <http://aboriginal.mpsd.ca>

## SIWAL SI'WES STAFF

### DISTRICT PRINCIPAL

Joseph Heslip

### DISTRICT VICE-PRINCIPAL

Vivian Searwar

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Marcy Buell

### LIAISON WORKERS

Judy Cathers:	École Christine Morrison & Aboriginal Culture
Deanna Dettieh:	École Mission Central
Marne Ferris:	Heritage Park Middle
Holly Gallant:	Windebank
Chris Gawthorn:	Summit & West Heights
Donna Giroux (Malila):	École Christine Morrison, Aboriginal Language & Culture
Leslie Jensen:	Fraserview
Joe Kelly:	Hatzic Elementary & Silverdale
Peter Lindley (Pipte):	Aboriginal Language & Culture
Meg MacDonald:	Deroche
Brittany O'Rourke:	École Mission Secondary
Susan O'Soup:	Cherry Hill & Riverside
Sukhi Pangli:	École Mission Secondary
Rachel Schooner:	Hatzic Middle
Jennifer Sherif:	Albert McMahon & Dewdney
Jennifer Snow:	E. S. Richards & Hatzic Middle
Jasmin Wells:	Heritage Park Middle
Johnny Williams:	Hillside & Aboriginal Culture
Robby Williams:	École Mission Secondary



### SIWAL SI'WES TEACHER/LIBRARIAN:

Ann Titford

### INDIGENOUS MENTOR TEACHER:

Peggy Janicki

### ABORIGINAL MENTOR TEACHERS:

Joanne Davis	Deb Urano
Tianay de Andrade	Bradley Paul
Lorien Osborn	Jo-Ann Lindahl
Jennifer Tench	Jody Shaw
Ann Titford	Lori Caviggia

### PROGRAM AREA LEADERS:

Tracy Snipstead—HPMS  
Jody Shaw—MSS

### ABORIGINAL ALLY:

Shauna Nero



2018—2019 School Year

Year of Respect

### ENHANCEMENT AGREEMENT THEMES

**Theme 1: Honouring Culture and History:** Ensure ALL students are learning about and respecting Aboriginal peoples, culture and history

**Theme 2: Positive Learning Experiences:** Create high levels of student engagement and success so students are connected and supported in their learning

**Theme 3: Meaningful contributions:** Create empowering opportunities for students to grow as individuals and prosper as a part of a community

**Theme 4: Looking to the Future:** Ensure all students are preparing for change and making successful transitions

## HALQ'EMÉYLEM—Pipte (Peter Lindley)

With Spring Break over and Easter just around the corner, we can safely say we are on the home stretch for yet another school year. For me, the remaining few months always seem to become somewhat of a blur.

**TEMQW'ÍLES** – (*tim-qwee-lus*), is the Halq'eméylem term for “Spring”. The literal translation is, time for things to come up or time for things to begin.

**WELEK'ES** – (*will-u-kus*) is one of our words used for the month of March, which means little frog season because the **welek'** little tree frog begins to croak about this time. March is also called, **QWELOYTHI:LEM** – (*quill-eye-thee-lum*) which means making music, referencing birds.

April is called **TEMKWIKWEXEL** – (*tim-qwee-qwu-hill*) meaning, time for baby sockeye salmon. Some call the month of April, **Lhemt'óles**, which means “spring showers in the eyes”.

Themes for Halq'eméylem have centered around the dramatic changes and bounty Mother Nature provides and/or is preparing to provide us. The plants for food. The arrival of all the fur, feathered and finned baby animals. Conversations also include family gardening and domestic animals bearing their young.

With the animals receiving so much positive attention requests for more directed drawings sessions are flooding in. I will certainly be keeping a portfolio of these for future reference.

### Halq'eméylem — Malila (Donna Giroux)

These last couple of months have been crazy as far as weather is concerned. We have had the coldest February that broke records and the driest March that also broke records at least since records have been kept, 1937. the students have been working with the words describing weather.

Xeytl' cold	Swiwel sunny
Shxwe'athetel cloudy	lhemexw raining
Maqe snow on the ground	yiyeq snowing

winter clothing and season change, winter to spring.

Temxeytl, winter the cold time

Temqwiles, spring, time for things to come up ie. Flowers, leaves

The different moons are also mentioned because March is Welekes, ‘Little Frog Moon’ but I asked the kids if they thought any frogs were out in the cold weather so we discussed the Stó:lo calendar and decided that would be flexible as the weather.

Story-telling is used in class and any animals, seasons and things of nature in the story are said in Halq'eméylem. Now that Spring is here we are studying the words for all the things that happen, one of which is Salmon, so I have read the book ‘The Gift of Salmon’.

On April 8, we went to a Siyaya Yoyes Pro D day. Where I went to a workshop on medicines and teas which made me think about the food that is available now out in nature. Briars and stinging nettles, anyone?



Nature walk with Kindergarten from Windebank Elementary



## **Albert McMahon Elementary—Jennifer Sherif—Aboriginal Liaison Worker**

With different projects on the go at Albert McMahon, it has been a great past few months!

We have been fortunate to have been invited by Peter Gong, local carver/artist, to visit his carving studio to view the carvings he is working on for McMahon. With this year's district-wide theme of Respect, Mr. Gong has taken the Buffalo logo he designed for the district and has put it into a beautiful carving. He has also started Eagle, working on a relief carving that will accompany the Buffalo, as we build the school's collection of the Seven Sacred Teachings in carvings. Small groups of students involved in the Aboriginal Education program at McMahon have been visiting the studio, and will continue to do so until the work is finished. The visits include shared teachings of the Coast Salish people (Mr. Gong is from Squamish Nation), a 'show and tell' of the master artist's tools and many of the various works he has created with them. We raise our hands in thanks to Mr. Gong for having us visit! K'was Hoy!

The Healthy Eating Program at the school continues to be very successful, with students both learning how to prepare healthy snacks and meals and/or taking advantage of the fresh fruit and produce provided for them during breaks/work time in the Aboriginal room at the school.

During the last Scholastic Book Fair, the school's principal, Mrs. Grewal, purchased many wonderful new titles for both the library and Aboriginal room at the school. K'was hoy, k'was hoy, k'was hoy, Mrs. Grewal! The books are being put to good use! Please continue to encourage your child (ren) to sign out library books/materials that are produced by Aboriginal authors/illustrators. Doing so provides wonderful learning opportunities, and continues to elevate the level of pride students feel when they see themselves and their cultures represented in these works.

We are continuing to build a collection of Aboriginal objects, art, etc. to display, as we will be transforming the school's trophy case into an Aboriginal showcase that will stay up in the school for the foreseeable future. The goal is to have the showcase complete for National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

Happy Spring everyone!



**Cherry Hill Elementary School—Susan O'Soup—Aboriginal Liaison Worker**

Ms. Abbot and I are slowly going to each classroom to work on the paintings with the students for our upcoming Art Show, May 23, 2019 @ 9:00 am at Cherry Hill Elementary. In April we had Michael Bortolotto, a guest speaker on bullying/inclusion/being yourself. Up coming events at Cherry Hill: Cops for Cancer on April 24, 2019. Mothers' Day Tea on May 10 for KF. Carnival on May 14, 4-7 pm. Welcome to KF, May 27 @1:00 pm. The Seven Sacred Teaching on foot prints is being led by Ms. Leibel & Ms. Hodson.

Our library was remodeled, thank you Janet. June 7, 2019 is the Young Entrepreneur Fair @ 12:30 pm. April 18, 2019, we had a local artist from Chilliwack called Maxwell Newhouse who is a Children Story Writer. He did group reading on Emily Carr.



**École Christine Morrison Elementary** – Malila (Donna Giroux) Aboriginal Liaison & Halq'eméylem teacher and Judy Cathers, Aboriginal Liaison & Cultural Presenter)

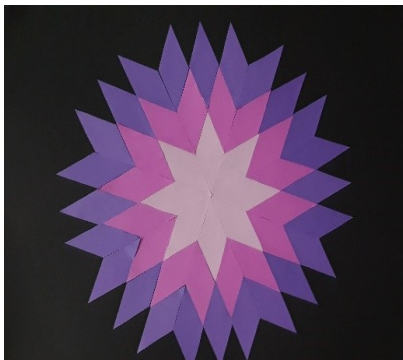
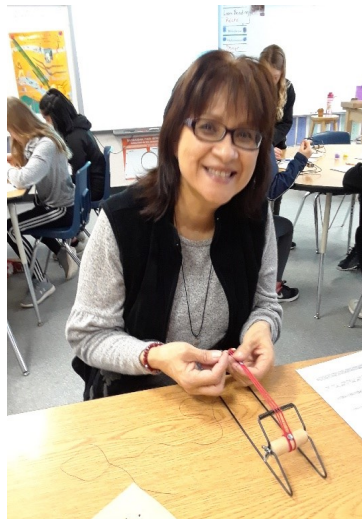
## ABORIGINAL CULTURE



Christine Morrison Elementary has been very privileged to have many Indigenous cultural presentations taught by First Nations, Metis and Inuit.

Johnny is often requested for storytelling, slahal, and drumming/singing. Students and teachers enjoy learning about Stó:lo art, history and culture from Johnny. Several classes have made their own slahal kits to practice with and are hoping to have a slahal tournament on Indigenous day.

Below are some of the activities students have been able to participate in these last few months: Inuit art/history/culture with Lynn Heyes; loom beading with Susan O'Soup; Lacrosse for our Indigenous students taught by Indigenous Sport; Powwow regalia teaching with elder Florence Thomas; and Math & Starblankets with Valerie Tosoff.



## Deroche Elementary School—Meg MacDonald—Aboriginal Liaison Worker

Ey Sweyal All!

Principal Mike Abercrombie shared the following regarding Deroche's "Sea You Later Chum" event on April 12, 2019... "Our students, parents and guests participated in our "Sea You Later Chum" Salmon Release and "Forest & Stream" learning site dedication. It was an amazing day, with the weather giving us rain all week to swell our creek, then beautiful sunshine on Friday while we released our 40,000 chum. Warm sunshine was also perfect for our creek side ceremony before the release which honoured our Aboriginal heritage, community contributors and our graduating grade 6's. Our staff, PAC leadership and parent volunteers did a tremendous job preparing our site and the delicious lunch. I think your children were treated to a world class experience and I couldn't be more proud of our school. A special thank you to Inch Creek Hatchery for making this day possible." ~ **Mike Abercrombie**

We are thrilled that our "Sea You Later Chum" event was featured in the April 18<sup>th</sup> edition Mission Record. I encourage all to read the article available at: <https://www.missioncityrecord.com/community/deroche-elementary-students-release-40000-salmon-fry/>

"Sea You Later Chum" – Salmon Release - Highlights Pictures 2019



The following are ongoing activities that are taking place at Deroche Elementary:

- Peggy Janicki has been coming twice a month on Friday afternoons to do weaving with the children
- Pipte comes every Friday for Halq'eméylem lessons
- Culture Club meets once a week with Ann for drumming
- Girls Group & Leadership Group continues to run weekly

We are also very excited to have our new Aboriginal Liaison Worker Meg MacDonald!!! She's a gem and we feel very lucky to have her here! ~ **Debbie MacLean & Mike Abercrombie**

Ey Swayel! My name is Meg MacDonald and I am excited to be part of the Siwal Si'wes team as the Aboriginal Liaison Worker at Deroche Elementary. Prior to the Mission Public School District, I worked for 10 years in the Programs Department of a federal institution facilitating both Aboriginal & mainstream cognitive behavioural therapy groups to female offenders, as the Manager of Programs. Additionally, I worked for a non-profit organization for 6 years in the role of a support worker in the areas of family outreach and addictions and as a manager overseeing the Community Living programs. I am eager to learn as much as I can in the remainder of this school year from the staff, students, families and community members connected to Deroche Elementary!



**Dewdney Elementary—Jennifer Sherif—Aboriginal Liaison Worker**

Winter Break for many, is now a distant memory. But...it seems not so long ago, when I think of the Dewdney Tipi. With the Winter Break and the weather it brought, the beloved structure came down with the wind. We had many hands helping to put it back up and it is standing tall, with the beautiful landscape behind it, once again. K' was hoy to the parent volunteers, community helpers, Tipi Tony (as we affectionately call him) from Mukwa Teepees and everyone else who helped out!

The noon-hour Beading Club has been going very well! Older students are learning how to do more traditional beading and putting their sewing skills to use. The littler ones have been busy preparing Easter decorations and other creations with pony beads, learning about traditional and contemporary uses for the beads.



Talented local artist Peter Gong will soon begin work on the creation of two welcome figures for the school. The columns outside of the kindergarten room will be transformed using colours in mind to meld nicely with the CORE (outdoor focus) program at the school. Mr. Gong extends the invitation to visit his carving studio to the students and family members of our students. Please contact me if you would like more information.

Wishing you all the joys that spring brings!



**Edwin S. Richards—Jennifer Snow—Aboriginal Liaison Worker**

Ey swayel mekw'wat (good day everyone),

The year is flying by for us at E. S. Richards Elementary and we have plenty of exciting events and activities to report. We hosted a cultural day at our school in which each class got to participate in stations that had many fun cultural and educational activities. Each class participated in two sessions such as Metis mitts, warrior shields, tipi making, bead and leather bracelets, bentwood boxes and many more. We had bannock for a snack and some ceremony protocol in an assembly in which students displayed their utmost respect.



Fortunately, we have local artist Peter Gong as a great educational and cultural resource. Two classes participated in a field trip to visit Mr. Gong's art studio/shop. He explained the meanings behind some of the animals he uses in his work and detailed many stories that had the student captivated. He also explained how bentwood boxes are made and students got a lesson in carving.



Into the next few months we will be learning about the indigenous game of Slahal. There are many teachings behind the game and students will get to make their own set for their classrooms. Some students will also be taking a trip to Belcarra Park and will be learning about ocean life and the many things that impact ocean and wildlife health. Many exciting things to come!

**Please Mark Your Calendars:**

**May 22, 2019—Student Recognition Dinner @ HMS  
May 29, 2019—Student Recognition Dinner @ HPMS**

**Dinner @ 4:30 p.m. for both schools**



## **Fraserview Learning Centre—Leslie Jensen—Aboriginal Liaison Worker**

Since January, there has been a few new Indigenous students to Fraserview whom have transitioned well into the school and they are enjoying being here. The staff and I are working hard to support and encourage the students who are close to graduating this year. We have collected grad dresses, pants, shirts and shoes for the students.

The staff and students continue to enjoy playing Slahal with Johnny Williams.



Fraserview students helped to set up, manage some of the tables and participate in the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Walkathon that is sponsored by the Senior's Lifetime Learning Centre.



Ms. Tianay and her students from Windebank Elementary School joined in the Walkathon.

Congratulations to Johnny Williams on being elected the new Chief for his band!

Hatzic Elementary—Joe Kelly—Aboriginal Liaison Worker

Everything at Hatzic Elementary is going great.

I am proud to be part of the team at Hatzic. As an Aboriginal Liaison Worker, I work alongside many others to engage and educate students about Aboriginal culture and knowledge.

On April 17th and 25th we had Metis presenter, Lisa Shepherd in to teach Metis Jigging to all our students and it was a great experience for all.

Also coming up on May 31st, we will be doing the Aboriginal run/walk for water. Students and staff will be doing a 5K walk around the community and then coming back to school to enjoy Bannock.



**Resource Elders**

Agnes Giesbrecht and William and Priscilla Wells have volunteered their services as Resource Elders for parents who want support meeting with school personnel.

For further information please contact our office.  
604-826-3103

**HATZIC MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**Rachel Schooner & Jennifer Snow—Aboriginal Liaison Workers**

Ey swayel mekw'wat, good day everyone!

We are coming into the home stretch of the 2018/2019 school year. Our ongoing art project of the bison signifying the teaching of respect is nearing completion. Only a few brush strokes left. Students have enjoyed learning about formline art and it has inspired students to start their own individual projects. We have also continued with our drum group and are becoming very strong performing the Women's Warrior song. It sure draws a crowd with all the powerful drummers and singers!



To reinforce the work we are doing, to recognize and bring awareness to the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls of Canada, we had the group Butterflies In Spirit, come to our school to perform. The group spoke to students and stressed the severity and significance of this issue and shared a powerful song and dance performance. Unfortunately, due to inclement weather we were unable to participate in the march in Vancouver that recognized the MMIWG.



We are very excited about our next upcoming event, the Halq'eméylem Bowl. We will be hosting the translation contest here at Hatzic this year on April 25<sup>th</sup>. There will be staff and students participating in teams and hopefully pull in a win like last year!

## Heritage Park Middle School—Marne Ferris & Jasmin Wells—Aboriginal Liaisons

Temkwikwexel, time for baby Sockeye Salmon.

Hope everyone had a fun and safe spring break. It is interesting being at E.H.P.M.S as we have so many dance recitals and plays happening up here. You may be walking from one class to another and see Alice from Alice in wonderland walk by you and then there could be a group of ballerinas that are practicing and doing jumps in the hallways. This is just another reason that we are lucky to be here.

We have been working very diligently here in the Aboriginal room on our large Enhancement Grant Art Piece. We are calling it the “ Sense of Belonging River”. Every student and staff member has had the opportunity to create a piece of art on a flat piece of glass, something that is meaningful to them. This was then put into our river that is part of a large mosaic. We have 3 major artists working on this piece. Peter Gong our Mission wood carver and Marina Papais and her husband Daniel Collett of Ashcroft are the glass artists. This piece will have been installed soon so we hope you will come and see it.



## Hillside Elementary—Johnny Williams—Aboriginal Liaison Worker

Hillside Traditional Academy will be holding their “First Salmon Ceremony”.

This is on Monday, May 13/19 starting at 11:00 a.m.

### **To:lmels ye Kilaksten**

to:lmels means “wisdom or knowledge” as shared by Pipte.

Éy Swayel Everyone !

I have been busy co-teaching, creating, co-planning/organizing, sharing and celebrating!

I had fun at UBC’s Indian Residential School History & Dialogue Centre (IRSHDC) event. The day was dedicated to “Data Governance + Digital Sovereignty” with many stakeholders across the province and across industries.

More fun was had with the SOGI 123 Salish Weaving. I was able to present at UBC/SFU GRAD Symposium and at BCTF AGM AEA event. Both were well received and well attended. When one presents you wonder if anyone will attend? I was very happy when the BCTF Executive attended making the space over capacity.

As part of the Siya:ye Yoyes committee and presenter we are busy preparing for the Adult PROD. The group has been able to confirm author Monique Gray Smith, the book “You Hold Me Up” and “Tilly: A Story of Hope and Resilience”. Also, we shall be honouring Una Ann Moyer for all the work she has done. She is retiring this year from Langley School District.

I was happy to finish and continuing to use a worksheet about the 5 R’s of Indigenous Research in hopes, as a research ethics tool, to guide how projects need to consider 5 things: Respect, Reciprocity, Relevance, Responsibility, and self-location. The latest mini poster I have co-created is the “Good Heart and Good Mind”. Johnny Williams was the artist for the image.

Shout out to MSS folks for a cool day at UBC for students! Also, within the SWSW Department we had lots of learning and fun on our Cultural Days at Cherry Hill, E.S. Richards, and Hillside.

As a BCTF Facilitator I taught over 100 pre-service Teachers from UFVS. I was super happy to spend the day Teaching at SD75 PRO-D Day. I am currently still writing curriculum and new workshops for BCTF. I am excited for September!

Peggy Janicki  
Indigenous Mentor Teacher  
M.Ed – UBC Indigenous Knowledges/  
Indigenous Pedagogies

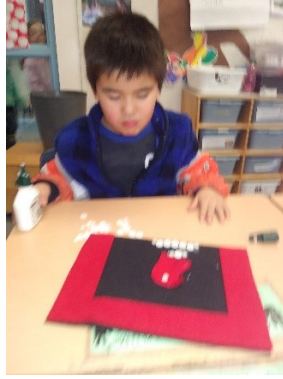
I acknowledge that I work and learn on the Traditional, Ancestral, Unceded, and shared territories of Matheqwi, Sq’ewlets, Qwó:ltl’el, and Leq’á:mel First Nations



## École Mission Central Elementary—Deanna Dettieh—Aboriginal Liaison Worker

Spring is here and with that comes beautiful weather.

Could you believe it's April and moving quicker than we would like, we have only 10 weeks left of school. Here at Mission Central Elementary we have been learning and making beautiful artwork. Ms. Karpowicz's students enjoyed learning about and designing their own Button Blanket



Ms. Karpowicz's student's designing Button Blankets

Mission Central had their Carnival that turned out to be a huge success. As well we had our Jump Rope for Heart.



Sean proudly showing off his Warrior Shield made during Mission Central's Cultural Days



Miles & Harry making a keychain during recess/ lunch



Students carefully chopping, peeling and dicing various fruits to make a big bowl of fruit salad. YUM!

Mission Central had Cops for Cancer stop on by for an assembly.

A few students from Gr. 5/6 came to make Thank you Cards.

Ms. Grenier's class got to make Thank you Cards for our Aboriginal Cultural Day presenters

## Mission Senior Secondary—Robby Williams, Sukhi Pangli & Brittany O'Rourke Aboriginal Liaison Workers

Reframing Relations January 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> students who participated worked together on a collaborative, arts-based “Statement of Understanding” to discover awareness of our history with Canada, Indigenous issues today and what reconciliation means to them as Indigenous youth.

On February 20<sup>th</sup> Peggy and Robby had the opportunity to bring 16 students to UBC. At UBC our students were able to do a tour of the campus as well as their Long House and Aboriginal House of Learning. Students were guided by fellow UBC Aboriginal students who showed them around their program choice of interest. They also got to explore what resources and services they have to offer at UBC for Aboriginal students. Each of the students on the trip have a desire to get a post-secondary education and this gave them a real good view of what it is like.

Jody Shaw has been teaching drumming to a group of students they have been practicing in the Aboriginal room, it is so wonderful to hear their voices.



### Events

Grade 12 drum making with Johnny Williams

Aboriginal Recognition Dinner and Grad 12 graduation Ceremony- MSS-April 24<sup>th</sup>



## ARTIST IN RESIDENCE COMING TO MSS!!

### Peter Gong First Nations Artist

Peter will teach how to transfer “Raven Brings the Light” design onto a panel.

Students will get to paint the design. Peter will be in for 6 sessions

to work with the students. Painting will be available for students to work on during the days Peter is not here to complete the project.

Dates:

April 29 and 30

May 6,7,8,21

Time: LUNCH (11:30-12:10) Where: Aboriginal Room 120B



Riverside College—Susan O'Soup—Aboriginal Liaison Worker

April 10, 2019 was Riverside College's Open House.

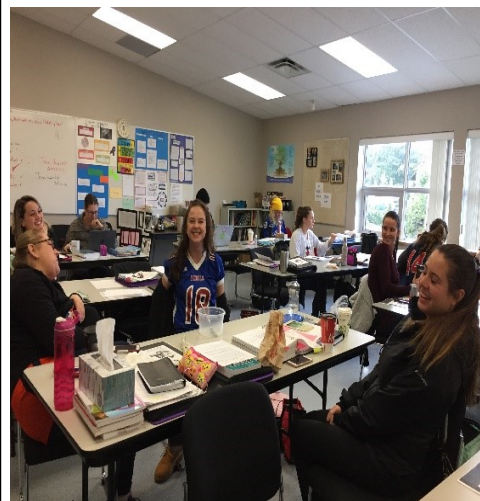
The Cook's Program ran the Holt Coffee shop and provided free food and drinks. Students from other schools were bussed in for tours of the College.



April 16, 17 & 18 Drum making at MSS for grade 12 students graduating. Held in Aboriginal Room at MSS from 8:30 am – 3:00 pm.

April 24, 2019 is our Student Recognition Awards at MSS, starting at 4:30 pm. Our graduates will be honored and there is free babysitting.

YCC-Riverside Chefs Table Series tickets are on sale for \$15.00 ~ 3 course dinners on April 24, 25 & 29 @ HPMS. Call Riverside 604-814-0446 for more information



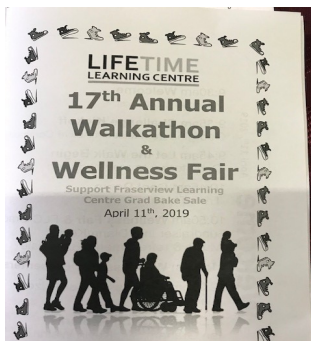
**Silverdale—Joe Kelly—Aboriginal Liaison Worker**

It has been another amazing few months at Silverdale! Staff and students have united together, forging a wonderful, supportive community here. We have had some amazing events at Silverdale recently. For example, we had a cultural day, which was a great success. Lisa Shepherd demonstrated rainbow beadwork, and students learned about Metis art and culture, as well as Metis dance. All of the events were a great success and amazing to be a part of! Happy spring!



**Summit Learning—Chris Gawthorn—Aboriginal Liaison Worker**

Welcome back I hope everyone had a wonderful break! Art smarts is super busy with lots of fun events coming up, check it out. May 10 will be our Cultural Day at Summit we will be having a number of stations to go to and experience different teachings. We will be starting at 10 ish and Bannock Tacos will be served for lunch. Many of you had a great time with Life Time Learners, FLC, and West Heights at the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk-a-thon and Wellness Fair.



## West Heights Elementary– Chris Gawthorn—Aboriginal Liaison Worker

Welcome back from a sunny Spring Break.

We are very busy at this time of year as the push to June and year end is on. Mrs. D's class, has done an amazing job on the "Wall Of Cinch". Students' writings about Cinch and how important he is to them. He even got a "you did it" for empathy. These writings have also been submitted for "The Canoe".



Our grant this year was built around the display case being revamped with the 7 Sacred Teachings, adding a carving by Peter Gong. Students will also be doing canvases for each teaching that will go in the case. We will be having a ceremony in the spring to honor the changes and add the mask. Date to come soon.



## **Windebank—Holly Gallant—Aboriginal Liaison Worker**

I apologize that I have missed so much time this season due to health challenges. I am well on the mend!

Our **Aboriginal Student Recognition Dinner** is:  
Wednesday, May 29, at Heritage Park at 4:00 pm

I would like to thank **Donna Simon** for facilitating the Seven Sacred Teachings Workshops to our grade six students. The workshops were not only based on traditional values, they were also interactive and promoted self exploration.

We are honouring **Peter Gong** as he is revealing the plaques he made for us of the Seven Sacred Teachings and a Welcome sign. Please join us at our assembly on Monday June 10. I love these plaques as they are tri-lingual; English, Halq'eméylem and French. I hope to see many parents there.

*Mitakuye Oyasin,*

*Holly Gallant*

*I acknowledge that I work and learn on the Traditional, Ancestral, Unceded, and Shared territories of the Stó:lō people, the Matheqwi, Sq'ewlets, Qwó:tl'el, and Leq'á:mel First Nations.*



### **NEED TO REACH US?**

**Please call:**

**Phone: 604-826-3103**

**Fax: 604-820-2850**

***marcy.buell@mpsd.ca***

**Website— *http://aboriginal.mpsd.ca***