



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



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

Newsletter #3

April 2021

From the desk of District Principal, Vivian Searwar

Ey Swayel, Pepiyel tel skwix. Ey tel sqwalewel kw'es Stó:lō Temexw. I am happy to be here on Stó:lō territory, this land rich with mountains, cedar trees, rivers and rain.

I am always amazed by the beauty of this land. Last Friday, April 9, 2021, I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to attend a Cedar Pull Ceremony with Stave Falls Elementary and Kwantlen Knowledge Keepers and Elders.

When I arrived, Kwantlen Knowledge Keeper, Walter Knott, walked through the forest searching for a suitable cedar tree. Once he found a suitable tree, Kwantlen Elders and Knowledge Keepers and the Staff and Students of Stave Falls Elementary gathered to hear opening words from Lekeyten and singing and drumming led by Dennis Antone, accompanied by Lekeyten, Cheryl Gabriel, Walter, Hazel Gludo, and Kassandra Antone. Lekeyten shared a message of stewardship and sustainability of the land, and that we each have a role to play, and although we may think that our small part is insignificant, it matters. He shared a message of respect for the land and the rich resources the land offers. We then moved to the tree and Walter and Hazel led the ceremony by giving thanks to the tree. Lekeyten led the sacred smudge. Tobacco offerings were made to the tree, and students and staff were invited to help prepare the tree for the cedar pull, and to help pull the cedar from the tree.



I left this morning, my soul full of gratitude, that I, as a guest on these lands, have the privilege to love them and enjoy them. Kwas'hoiy to the Stó:lō people.

Mekw tel sq'eq'o
Kahkinohw-nihtah-kohmah-kahnuk
All My Relations,

Vivian Searwar



SIWAL SI'WES STAFF

DISTRICT PRINCIPAL

Vivian Searwar

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Marcy Buell

INDIGENOUS LIAISON WORKERS

Tiffany Bishop:	Summit 4—12
Judy Cathers:	École Christine Morrison Elementary & Indigenous Culture
Alexis Christie:	Deroche Elementary & Band Outreach @ Leq'á:mel Sq'éwlets
Katie Cochrane:	École Heritage Park Middle School
Deanna Dettieh:	École Mission Central Elementary & E. S. Richards Elementary
Jacob Firlotte:	Hatzic Elementary, Hillside & Boy's Club
Holly Gallant:	Windebank Elementary
Chris Gawthorn:	West Heights Elementary, Summit K—3 & Indigenous Culture
Ariel Gienger:	École Mission Senior Secondary School
Donna Giroux (Malila):	École Christine Morrison Elementary, Halq'eméylem Language & Culture
Leslie Jensen:	Fraserview Learning Centre
Marla Mulholland:	Dewdney, Silverdale Elementary, & Stave Falls Elementary
Rhea Paul:	École Mission Central Elementary
Susan O'Soup:	Albert McMahon, Cherry Hill Elementary & Indigenous Culture
Sukhi Pangli:	École Heritage Park Middle School
Brenda Pierre:	Halq'eméylem Language & Culture
Rachel Schooner:	Hatzic Middle School
Jennifer Sherif:	École Mission Senior Secondary School
Jennifer Snow:	Hatzic Middle School
Jasmin Wells:	École Mission Senior Secondary School
TBA:	Riverside College

INDIGENOUS MENTOR TEACHER:

Peggy Janicki

SIWAL SI'WES TEACHER/LIBRARIAN:

Jennifer Lane

BAND OUTREACH TEACHER:

Glenda Scrimshaw

INDIGENOUS STUDENT SUCCESS COACHES:

Katy Brookes

Donald Cosens

PROGRAM AREA LEADERS:

Jodie Amaya—HPMS

Lyn O'Grady—HMS

Jody Shaw—MSS



2020—2021 School Year

Year of Honesty

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

Katy Brookes & Don Cosens—Indigenous Success Coaches

Ey Swayel Siwal Si'wes Families,

It is hard to believe that we are in the home stretch of this school year! We know that each and every family has met huge challenges this year in coping with COVID, and we want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and recognize the hard work you are doing in helping your children through this difficult time. We also want to express our gratitude for the teams of liaison workers, counselors, administrators, teachers and support staff that we work with. Together, we have supported each other and your children to find some normalcy and success in this very abnormal year. We are hopeful that next year we can resume all the cultural learning and leadership opportunities and field trips we have missed so much this year.

As we move towards the end of the school year, we are busy ensuring that our grade 6, 9 and 12 students have a successful transition to the next chapter of their education. April and May are full of meetings with each elementary and middle school so that we can talk about each and every Indigenous student that will be moving up in 2021, learning about their strengths, interests and challenges. This way, we are able to highlight students that may need extra help settling into their new school, learning how to organize themselves, and making friends. We are hearing from parents and principals that there is a lot more anxiety in students who are leaving their school this year. Even our Grade 7's and 9's will need a little extra help transitioning to a "normal" school structure. We encourage you to reach out to us if you feel your child will need some support, or just have questions you need answered.

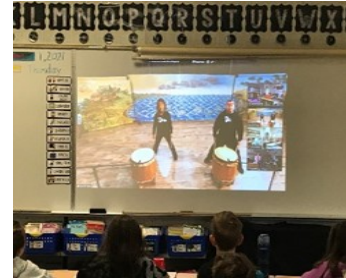
We remain hopeful that next year we will have a more normal year, and be able to offer students all the extra-curricular activities that make school fun and give them a chance to show us all their skills and passions. Please try not to worry if your child has "fallen behind" due to missed classes this year—our team is here to do everything we can to help them stay on track, and our teaching staff is well aware that students will have had gaps in their learning this year. Just like we made it through this year, we will make it through whatever next year brings as we work to repair the damage that COVID did.



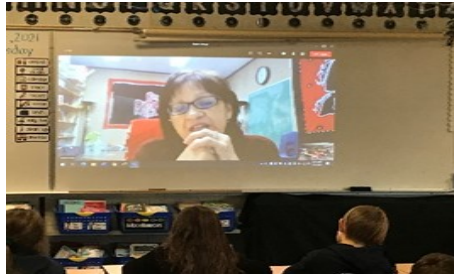
Albert McMahon Elementary—Susan O’Soup—Indigenous Liaison Worker

Happy Spring!

Hello, my name is Susan O’Soup and I had the pleasure of filling in at Albert McMahon Elementary for the past two weeks. This school has a nice energy about it, and it was nice to connect with Mr. Sliziak, again. Last week we had the pleasure of having the Interactive Virtual Taiko Drum Workshop at Albert McMahon. Taiko is a Japanese word that means “big drum.” Taiko drums could be played together in an ensemble, came to be popular after the Second World War when it became an activity to help many people regain a sense of pride in Japanese heritage and culture. Students were happy to interactive virtually and drum on items brought from home.



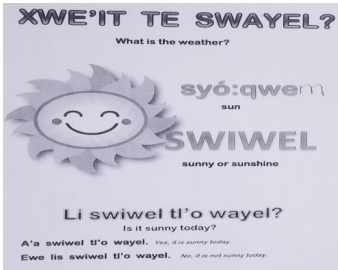
In the past few months, I did virtual cultural teachings on Spirit Rocks at Albert McMahon. Here is a sample of the some of the Spirit Rocks the students made in class. Some students made loom bracelets with me for the first time and enjoyed working with the beading loom. Stay tuned, we have an upcoming grade six fieldtrip planned for May 2021.



Donna Giroux (Malila) École Christine Morrison & Halq’eméylem, the traditional language of the Stó:lō

I have been teaching Halq’eméylem to classes that have signed up at École Christine Morrison Elementary School. The focus of teaching has been on Spring. Spring is called temqw’iles = time for things to come up. Temqw’iles sounds like tem-kwee-less. We are now in little frog season called Welekes(time for little frogs). Frogs begin to croak about this time. Pipeho:m sounds like peep-a-hom. The weather is also done at the beginning of class depending on what the day looks like. Soon we will be able to go outside and have Halq’eméylem in the outside classroom or go for a nature walk and look for stinging nettles (th’exth’ex).

Le Hoy, Kwetslole Siyaye
Malila



BAND OUTREACH SCHOOLS

Band Outreach; Leq'á:mel & Sq'éwlets



Band Outreach students are both learning about telling their stories through pictures, using pictographs as a guide. Telling our stories are important, they are sacred and heal our spirits. Students were instructed to think either about their past and tell their life story, or they were to think about the future and illustrate their life ahead. The power behind storytelling is sacred to Indigenous peoples worldwide, as we all have a story. We don't know where we are going unless we know where we came from. The beauty behind their stories is that they are not in word form, but through pictures they find significant to their stories.

The students also listened to James Leon who shared an oral story about, "How the coyote got his curved paw." The moral behind the story is of importance, the students enjoyed listening intently and were all very respectful during his presentation.



Miss. Glenda Scrimshaw
Band Outreach Teacher

Cherry Hill Elementary School—Susan O'Soup—Indigenous Liaison Worker

Happy Spring everyone! This time at Cherry Hill Elementary we are working on completing our grant proposal for the year and we only have a couple of more classes to complete. Pink shirt day was celebrated in February 2021.

Students having fun in the ISP room.



The Beading Club at Cherry Hill is still going strong, with the students enjoying the relaxation of beading. Cherry Hill had the interactive Virtual Taiko Drum Workshop this week. Taiko drumming culture comes from Japan, where it has been an important part of life for thousands of years. Taiko were used in village life and in times of war, then in temple life for ceremonies, rituals, celebrations, festivals, weddings, funerals, season changes and harvest time. Taiko has an appeal to people of all ages and all cultural backgrounds. Students brought items from home to drum with the Taiko workshop. Katlyn Huffer, our Librarian has new books that address relevant topics right now. Many of the books focus on the Core Competencies. Some books address grief/depression, feelings and emotions and some are just for fun. There is an upcoming fieldtrip being planned in May, for Grades 5/6 students to Xa:ytem, more information will be sent home once we have everything in place.



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

V'ni Dansi

Students were able to participate in a virtual session of Metis Jigging with V'ni Dansi. V'ni Dansi is a Vancouver-based traditional Métis and contemporary dance company dedicated to sharing the dances, stories and culture of the Métis. <https://www.vnidansi.ca/> Some classes enhanced the learning by incorporating Metis Dot Art. Metis artist Christi Belcourt has inspired many of our Metis projects. <http://christibelcourt.com>



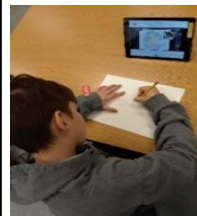
Starblankets



Divisions 9 and 10 are learning about and creating their own starblankets. Star quilts have a history that connects to the bison/buffalo. Rhombus pieces are used to create the beautiful eight-pointed star, also known as the Northern Star. When we see this star in the morning it reminds us that we are given another day to walk on this Earth in a good way.



Directed Drawing with Ovila Mailhot



Students continue to learn Coast Salish art from Ovila Mailhot. Ovila is a graphic artist, and originally comes from both Stó:lō and Nlaka'pamux Nation. He grew up on Seabird Island, located near Agassiz. Ovila's parents both share a creative streak and love for art. His father spent time with the mediums of painting and illustrating, while his mother focused on writing. His sister is a New York Times best selling author of "Heart Berries." Students have been very fortunate to learn from Ovi, and have been very appreciative of their virtual sessions with him. <https://www.salishsondesign.com/>



White Raven

We have been inspired by the book called "Mystical Beings of the Haida Gwaii." It was said that Raven was "born for the moon." We are reminded to make positive changes for the good of all.

Deroche Elementary School—Alexis Christie—Indigenous Liaison Worker

**Ey Swayel Everyone,
We have been busy at
Deroche and would like
to thank local carver
Peter Gong for creating
this wonderful carving for
our outdoor classroom. The
carving was created
to symbolize what is
happening in the stream
that flows through
Deroche's outdoor
classroom.**



**Friday April 9th was an
important day for
Deroche— The
Department of Fisheries & Oceans came, and we
released 40, 000 chum salmon fry into the stream.
We sadly were not able to have a large celebration
but did have two parents from
Leq'á:mel, Phil Sherwood & Jason
Thompson who blessed us with
drumming and community
leadership. We raise
our hands in
thanks to Phil, Jason
and the DFO for
making our salmon
release ceremony a
success.**



Dewdney Elementary —Marla Mulholland—Indigenous Liaison Worker

Our Enhancement & Equity Grant is still coming along. We are planning an interactive Zoom workshop for students with Ovila Mailhot and he will be creating an original Indigenous art logo for our school. We are looking forward to that! I also had the pleasure of visiting Peter Gong at his art studio for the Turtle art piece he made for our school. At Dewdney Elementary, since our winter newsletter, we have done many activities other activities too.

In February, we made beaded hearts with feathers and pony beads, and we read, “The Song Within My Heart”, by David Bouchard. As well, students were able to come to the Indigenous room to do activities like beading and reading. We have also started a healthy eating program with an I-SPARC grant. So far, we have tried a few healthy recipes. The students make it themselves and they seem to enjoy it. For some of them, it is the first time they have ever cut vegetables by themselves, so it is teaching them valuable skills that they can use in the future. I was also able to read to a class outside in the DEN which was so fun! We read the book, “We are Water Protectors” by Carole Lindstrom. I also got to share a presentation in Mrs. Lindahl’s class about this year’s sacred teaching of the Sabe (sasquatch). Additionally, we are also excited about future activities coming up.

Our grade 5/6 class will be going to Xa:ytem for an interactive learning tour. We are very excited to be able to go and learn about local Indigenous history. Also, Mrs. Henshaw’s class will be doing archery with Chris Gawthorn in May. This will be a great learning activity for students who will learn how to use a bow and arrow! In Mrs. Lambert and Mrs. Dundass’ class, the students are doing an activity about cedar and we hope to have an Elder participate over Zoom to pass down knowledge of this sacred tree.



Edwin S. Richards—Deanna Dettieh—Indigenous Liaison Workers

Ey swayel (hello), spring is here, and warmer weather is upon us. We staff and students at ESR have been keeping safe during this challenging time of Covid to continue having our Indigenous learnings.



Got to meet these Gr. 5/6 students, while making bracelets. Making two each, the first has been gifted.



Cultural Day came to ESR in February. This year was very different than past years for Cultural Day. We would normally have all Siwal Si'wes presenters in-person but this year due to the pandemic, all presentations were done virtually. This was an interesting and new way of doing this for us all.

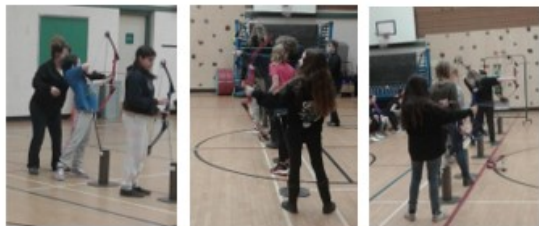


To right: 100 Day was in February, Silas making his 100 Day art project.



To left: Jai with her beautiful Dreamcatcher

To Right: Archery with Ms. Gawthorn and Gr. 5/6 students



Fraserview Learning Centre—Leslie Jensen—Indigenous Liaison Worker

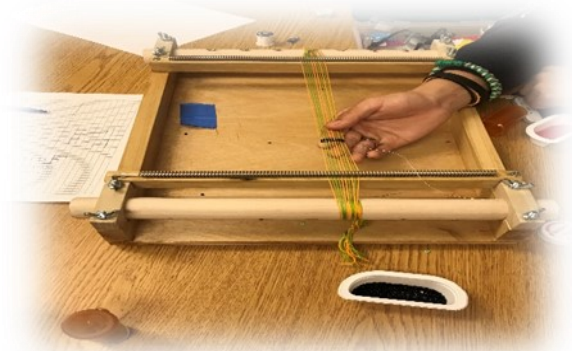
Ey Swayel, Everyone,

I hope that everyone is doing the best they can through these unprecedented times. One part of the Indigenous Enhanced Equity School Grant is encouraging students to prepare dishes for the school staff and students while adhering to COVID and food safe protocols. In the coming weeks, other students will be preparing dishes or meals.



Cheese dip and guacamole

I am thankful to Guzman Ramos Gutierrez, one of the Fraserview teachers, who over Spring Break, crafted a large beading loom for the students to use. Two of the students enjoyed trying out the loom and created bracelets.



Due to COVID, only four students (two at a time) will be doing carving with Peter Gong at his studio. The students will be creating a small paddle and painting a design on the paddle.

The students are looking forward to doing this.

With June just around the corner, Grade 12 students are working hard to graduate, and the staff are supporting them in their transition from high school to the next phase of their life.

Hatzic Elementary—Jacob Firlotte—Indigenous Liaison Worker


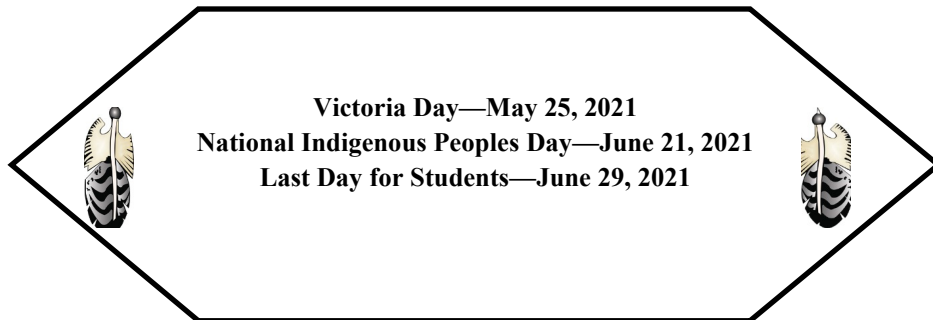
Ey Swayel,

The Huskies are having a good year as everyone is getting used to the sun light of spring again ! The intermediate grades had the chance to do archery and everyone had a great time ! We are excited to have Chris Gawthorn come do archery again before summer break. Students throughout the school are slowly learning about colonial legislations against First Nations people so that we have the knowledge to correct wrongdoings and heal to move forward. The grade six students will have the opportunity to visit Xa:ytem, a historical site for the Stó:lō people. I am grateful for this upcoming trip!

Have a happy April/Temkwikwexel (time for baby sockeye salmon)
Jacob



Please Mark Your Calendars:



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.

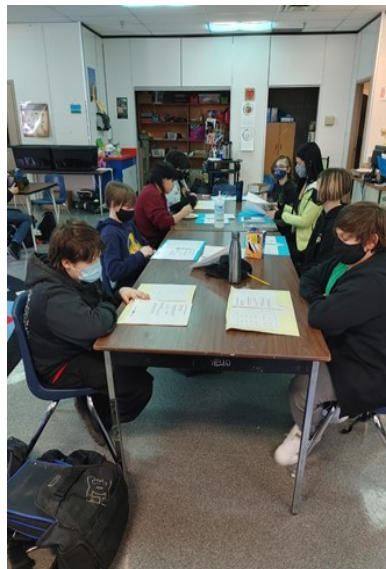
For further information please contact our office.
604-826-3103

HATZIC MIDDLE SCHOOL
Rachel Schooner & Jennifer Snow—Indigenous Liaison Workers
Katy Brookes—Indigenous Success Coach

Ey swayel from the Hatzic Middle School team. We have been busy here at Hatzic Middle, through these challenging times we are still focusing on the many events and projects that we normally would. We have our drum group monthly and are fortunate to have dedicated student community members that share their songs with us and help us practice. We are also doing continuous work on the Sa:sq'ets cedar panel art project. Our Wolf Den is in full swing and utilized by many students throughout the day, especially during lunch hour. We would like to acknowledge the amazing grants from Mission Community Foundation, The Rock Family Food Fund and the McPherson Family Community Fund that generously enable us to feed any students in the school that are hungry.



Visiting the Band Outreach schools and staying connected is important this year too. During our visits we get to enjoy the beautiful sights and sounds of the nature in the community with the students. Our “back packs of love” for priority and underserved youth were fully stocked and dropped off to My House in Mission, we are so pleased to have these out and in the hands of those who need them.



This month we are working on practicing for the annual Halq'emeylem translation contest, which is virtual this year. The photo to the left shows our HMS team during a weekly practice. Stay tuned for the results in the next newsletter!

**Heritage Park Middle School—Katie Cochrane & Sukhi Pangli—Indigenous Liaisons
Katy Brookes—Indigenous Success Coach**

Happy Spring Everyone!

We hope everyone had a wonderful spring break and Easter long weekend!

February and March were busy at Ecole Heritage Park Middle School. We are so excited to be able to finally put our visions forward with planned projects for our students.

Lisa Shephard was invited into our classrooms virtually to work with the students on “The Breath Project”.

This project was based on the healing process of mask making. The act of creating the mask allowed students to unpack their feelings stemming from the pandemic. This enables them to work through blockages and get on with their lives. Lisa and Nathali felt that it was only natural that the healing could occur in education to help students and teachers work through their emotions and blockages through these unprecedented times.

The Breath Project touches on multiple curriculum such as Indigenous Studies, Wellness, Art, Social Studies, and History.

Students were able to upload their masks virtually to the Isolation Museum with an artist statement explaining the meaning of their mask. You can find the masks at: <https://isolationmuseum.com/mr-martens-class>

Lisa Shephard: A metis beading artist - (Co-creator: “Breath: A collection of traditionally crafted masks demonstrating resiliency through 21st century pandemic”

Nathali Bertin: A multidisciplinary Visual Artist (Co-creator: “Breath: A collection of traditionally crafted masks demonstrating resiliency through 21st century pandemic”



We also had an opportunity to work with Brenda Pierre’s Halq’emylem Classroom to share stories and teachings of Medicine pouches and Dream Catchers. The students really enjoyed learning about the different textiles that can be used and how Medicine Pouches and Dream Catchers are used in ceremonies and daily lives still today. This hands on cultural activity was an excellent way to introduce our heritage and get the students involved.

One of our students Koda was eager to learn something new this year and asked if she could make a talking stick. Katie shared a teaching and explained the history of talking sticks. Koda picked out the natural textiles she wanted to use. She designed and planned what you see pictured here.

Pictured here –
Koda Clarkson



Hillside Elementary—Jacob Firlotte —Indigenous Liaison Worker

Ey Swayel Hillside,

It's been exciting to watch the intermediate grades gradually master the craft of archery ! We give thanks to Chris Gawthorn coming to our school to teach us archery; we'll see her again before the end of the school year. I am also proud of the classes who are learning about colonial legislations against First Nations people so we can heal and move forward. It has also been wonderful to see classes learn and engage with the Anishinaabe Seven Grandfather Teachings that help guide us to be happy and healthy humans.

Have a great April/ Temkwikwexel (time for baby sockeye salmon)

Jacob



Siyamo:lh Sq'ep

Ey Swayel,

I am so grateful to work with these young leaders. They are learning exponentially ! We've started to plant some theqats/trees are spring is starting to kick in. It has been enjoyable to see the young men learn about the Seven Grandfather Teachings of the Anishinaabe people as well as the history and conduct of the Stó:lō people of this telmexw/land. I am thankful for the insight of these young minds; it is inspiring.

Have a great April/ Temkwikwexel (time for baby sockeye salmon)



To:lmels ye Kilaksten/ Knowledge of Peggy Janicki

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

Éy Swáyél Everyone!

Time really does fly! I have been busy teaching, creating, planning, and sharing!

I was able to teach in many classes. I had much fun teaching “Medicine Pouches” for Siwal Si'wes' Cultural Days. It was a great opportunity to share my Mother's artistry in moosehide tanning and beadwork. Also, I have been teaching Salish Weaving in Core 11 Math at MSS, Christine Morrison Elementary (CME), and Albert McMahan Elementary (AME). The Kindergarten Salish Weaving was tons of fun. As an introductory lesson I shared a video and we tried an A-B-A and B-A-B pattern using paper.

I was super happy to share at MSS May-in-Lieu Pro-D's. It was a great opportunity to take time with Indigenous Research and Worldviews with high school Teachers.

Some of the meeting, planning and sharing has been with “The Reading Challenge” with Jenn Lane, a High School English Resource with Scott Lowrie, Lori Caviggia, Shawna Cariou, & Jenn Lane, the Siyá:ye Yóyes Regional Committee, the Stó:lō Sitel group, the Project of Heart (POH) Canoe Teacher Inquiry Project with Chilliwack Teachers Association (CTA), the Salish Weave art-based Project with Sheila Karrow hosted by Vivian Searwar, and the Equity Scan with many SD75 stakeholders.

Lastly, I wanted to share two things, first, is an ongoing resource and second, is a new website.

First, I continue to create and share my “Indigenous Mentor Teacher” WEBSITE! If folks go onto the “Learn 75” page they can search for my website in “My Groups”. I add information to it as I go, so, it is changes often, FYI! Also, if you are in Learn 75 you can use this link: <https://portal.mpsd.ca/group/exwv7dh/Pages/default.aspx#/=>

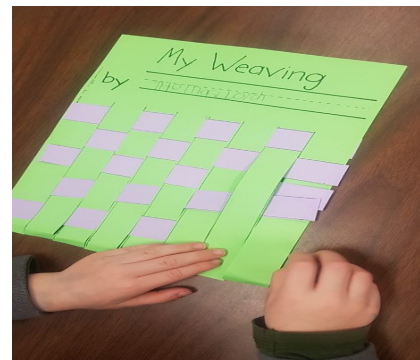
Second, I was super happy to attend the National Centre for Collaboration Indigenous Education (NCCIE) information day. I remember a few years ago at the University of British Columbia (UBC) First Nations House of Learning (FNHL) they had held one of their first meetings in BC. So, it is so great to see this website grow. I wish to share a lesson titled “Halq'eméylem Introduction” as an example. It is found here: <https://www.nccie.ca/lessonplan/halqemeylem-introduction/>,

Talk Soon,

Peggy Janicki

Indigenous Mentor Teacher

M.Ed – UBC Indigenous Knowledges/Indigenous Pedagogies



École Mission Central Elementary—Rhea Paul & Deanna Dettieh—Indigenous Liaison Workers

Happy Spring Everyone!

Spring is a beautiful time of year to enjoy. We hope students and their families enjoyed Spring Break and Easter Weekend!

The past couple of months have flown by. January 15th was significant because many students and staff wore black shirts in support of Black Shirt Day, Martin Luther King Junior's Birthday. Many hope this day becomes the official day to show support against racism.

As part of the Cultural Days experience offered throughout the Mission School District, EMCE had the honour of hosting Cultural day on February 17th. There were a variety of virtual Indigenous presentations provided for each class in the school, such as Directed Drawing by Peter Gong, the Medicine Wheel, Button Blankets, Beaded Keychains & Bracelets, and Bentwood Boxes, to name a few. Here are some of the Button Blankets that students made.



On Wednesday, February 24th, many students and staff showed support for Pink Shirt Day by wearing pink shirts for anti-bullying day. It is important to provide awareness for the one in five kids who are affected by bullying. It was great to so many students participating!



We also continue to celebrate Commitment to Kindness until mid-April. Students who are seen doing an act of kindness are chosen to have their name and division written on a sun on a bulletin board in the hallway for the whole school to see.

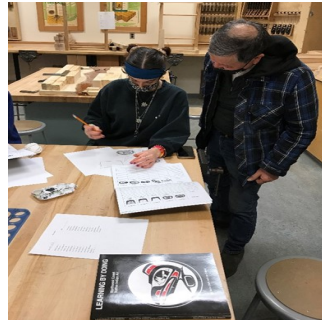
As we continue with the school year during this pandemic, please wash your hands and practice social distancing to help keep everyone safer!

**MSS—Jennifer Sherif , Jasmin Wells & Ariel Gienger—Indigenous Liaison Workers
& Don Cosens—Indigenous Student Success Coach**

Jasmin

Ey swayell!

It's already April!? Our students here at MSS have been working hard on our table journey project with Indigenous artist Peter Gong. Most students participating have picked out their chosen animal and are ready to put them on the tables and preparing to paint! Looking forward to seeing how this school legacy piece turns out!



Ariel Gienger

Wow! What a CRAZY month with Spring break and the Easter long weekend. Finally, we are all OFFICIALLY back into routine. The students have been working around the clock getting caught up on all assignments before term ends.

I would like to share a quote that really spoke to me in these crazy times.

"Our Creator put us here on earth. He gave us different languages to use. He put us here to love and respect each other." - JOHN MOSQUITO, NEKANEET FIRST NATION

Jennifer Sherif

It has certainly been a very busy past few months!

Spring is now here (finally!) and as the season brings with it a sense of renewal and invigoration, I have been looking closely at goal setting with students. I think that now more than ever, it is important for us to take time with the youth whom we serve to help them set goals and provide to them the service they deserve. Teens, especially, are faced with academic, social and health challenges with COVID, and keeping them hopeful about not only the long term, but short-term, will make a difference in having them face these unprecedented times with resilience. Keeping in mind the whole person by focusing on the mental, emotional, social and spiritual aspects of ourselves is so important right now. I have been encouraging students to start with making attainable, short-term goals for themselves, based on their talents and gifts, that will nourish these parts of themselves. Students can be supported at home by talking about plans and how they imagine setting out to achieve them. By writing them down, they can then look back and see their successes and learn a great deal. We have so many amazing students here at MSS, and it has been such a wonderful thing to see more of their talents and gifts as time goes on.

Silverdale—Marla Mulholland—Indigenous Liaison Worker

We are still hoping to start our outdoor learning structure medicine wheel project soon for our Enhancement and Equity Grant. Hopefully, we will have the concrete poured before the end of Spring. In the meantime, we are planning a salmon release ceremony for the intermediate grades as they are learning about the salmon life cycle. We are looking forward to this outdoor learning activity. At Silverdale, we had a great time for cultural days back in March. I also went into classrooms to present on this years' Sacred Teaching of the Sasq'ets in Mrs. McGowan's and Mrs. Schallauf's class. I have also enjoyed working with students on Indigenous activities. For example, we made beautiful beaded hearts in Ms. Taylor and Ms. Grewal's class and read stories. Wow! Only three more months until summer I hope everyone is taking care and enjoying the milder temperatures!



Stave Falls—Marla Mulholland—Indigenous Liaison Worker

At Stave Falls Elementary we are continuing the good work with our Enhancement and Equity grant. We have had elders Hazel Knott and Walter Gludo join Mrs. Angotti's class on a Zoom session to teach the students about the two different types of cedar: red and yellow. We are turning some of the outer bark into a dye, and learning how to peel the outer bark, from the inner bark. The school also went with Kwantlen Elders on a live cedar pull. This was a great learning experience and an opportunity for the students, in an outdoor learning environment. Here we learned about the importance of the environment and leaned into the earth together.

We have also embedded Indigenous learning in the class with many other activities. Ms. Pruum and Ms. Angotti made button blankets in their classes and taught about their significance. Moreover, Chris Gawthorn came and taught archery. We also made dream catchers and taught about their meaning in the intermediate classes. Ms. Pruum's class also learned their names in Halq'emeylem and made word animal totems. We have had a great few months at Stave Falls and can't believe there is only three more months until summer!

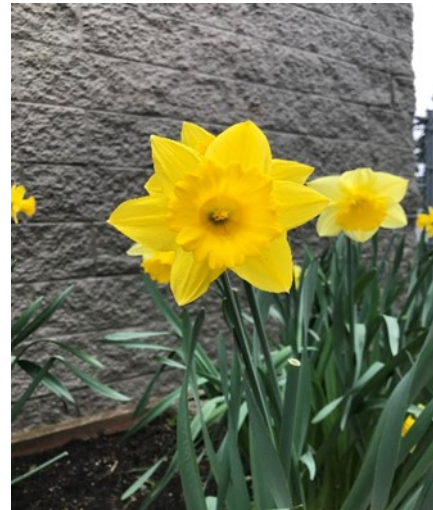


Hey Swayel families and Happy Spring! As the tulips, daffodils and cherry blossoms are waking from their winter slumber, the birds chirping their morning songs we hope that everyone is feeling the energy from the sun to persevere through the next couple of months as we approach the end of the school year.

As the weather has shifted into Spring remember to get your outdoor on! Enhance your learning by embracing the outdoors when completing your assignments. Take a



walk, document what you see and be creative on how to incorporate these findings into your learning.



We are eagerly awaiting the arrival of our signage for Summit which will be completed mid-May. Stay tuned for updates and pictures!

Grade 7-9 students please check your emails as you were invited to attend Ms. Katy Brookes Summit Hour via Teams

As a reminder, please let Summit know, before June 30, 2021 if you are planning to return to your community school or if you will be staying with Summit for the 2021-2022 school year. Refer to email sent to parents on March 10th from Superintendent Angus Wilson as to more details.

At our 10-12 campus we are now offering tutorials on Wednesday afternoons from 1:00-2:30pm in the MSS cafeteria. Entrance from the outside doors facing 7th Avenue. If you need help finding the cafeteria please go to Portable #7 and we will walk you over.

We are hosting Chris Gawthorn on April 14th and April 21st who will be guiding our student through Archery from 1-2:30pm

Spring is a time of change and growth.....EMBRACE IT!

West Heights Elementary– Chris Gawthorn and Mr. Cinch—Indigenous Liaison Worker

We have been so busy like little bees, Mason bees to be exact. Four classes have explored having Mason Bees. Our bee houses are now outside getting ready to hatch and be super pollinators. The bees will also help with our outdoor class space and Harvest Garden. The Garden has been coming along, the boulders are in place, and the planting has begun. Classes are working on the design for plants that need the most shade, science in motion.



Super Kids BUSY LIKE BEES. Working hard to make West Heights Community School a “plant-happy” community.

**Windebank—Holly Gallant—Indigenous Liaison Worker
Indigenous School Based Administrator: Dr. L. Clarke**

Peter Gong is working hard on Windebank's installment of the Seven Sacred Teachings art project. Below we can see Sasq'ets, the Sasquatch, which represents Honesty, the Eagle, which represents Love and the Wolf which represents Humility. Peter is making two more for us this year, which only leave two left for next year.

Our plan is to install them in the gym once we have all seven teachings.



We continue to instill the Seven Sacred Teachings at Windebank as a virtues program. Spring is bringing us some wonderful in class projects. Pictures will be in our next newsletter.



Love Eagle
Respect Bison
Courage Bear
Honesty Sasq'ets
Humility Wolf
Wisdom Beaver
Truth Turtle



SD75 Siwal Si'wes Indigenous Advisory Council

- Would you like to share your voice about Indigenous Education in Mission Public Schools?
- Would you like to connect and collaborate with the Indigenous school community about programs?
- Would you like to participate in the creation of the Indigenous Enhancement Agreement?

Come and join us!

Our meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Please let us know if you wish to attend in person as we have a room limit. Otherwise, if you give me your email, you can join us on ZOOM

Contact & RSVP: Marcy Buell at marcy.buell@mpsd.ca
Or call, 604 826 3103



NEED TO REACH US?

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