



**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 #2

February 2020

**From the desk of Acting District Principal
Vivian Searwar.....**

Ey Swayel, Pepiyel tel skwix. Ey tel sqwalewel kw'es Stó:lō Temexw.

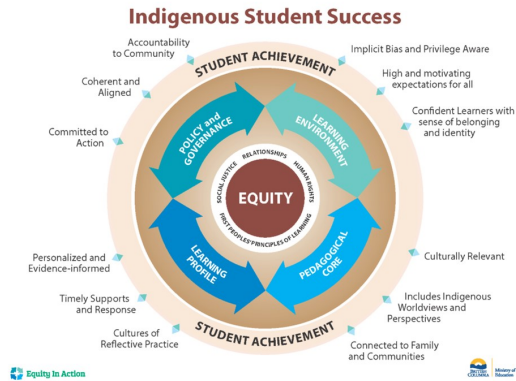
Hello all. My name is Vivian Searwar, Acting District Principal of Indigenous Education for SD75, Mission Public Schools. I am happy to be here on Stó:lō Territory, this land rich with mountains, cedar trees, rivers, rain and most recently, snow, and lots of it!



We would like to extend a warm welcome to learning partners new to Siwal Si'wes. Indigenous Liaison Workers, Alexis Christie and Katie Cochrane who will be joining us until the end of June 2020.

We would also like to extend a Happy Relaxing Retirement to a long-standing, beloved Siwal Si'wes Family member, Marne Ferris. Marne has worked with the Siwal Si'wes family for several years with students from Kindergarten all the way to Grade 12. She has touched the lives of thousands of children, youth and families and has always been (and will continue to be) a strong, necessary advocate for Indigenous students. Although Marne claims that she has retired, we look forward to working with her in 2020 as she has promised us that she will visit us often and participate in upcoming Cultural Days at the elementary schools. Kwas'hoy Marne, for the love, care and concern you shared with students, families and SD75 staff throughout the years!

This year, SD75 has embarked upon the Equity Scan, a Ministry initiative, where members of the SD75 learning community, including Elders, Representatives from Kwantlen, Leq'á:mel, Matsqui and Sq'ewlets, Indigenous Liaison Workers, Trustees, Senior Management, Administrators and Teachers will meet to dialogue about education for Indigenous learners and focus on strategic ways to create conditions for success.



SIWAL SI'WES STAFF

ACTING DISTRICT PRINCIPAL

Vivian Searwar

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Marcy Buell

LIAISON WORKERS

Tiffany Bishop:	E. S. Richards Elementary, Riverside & Summit 10—12
Judy Cathers:	École Christine Morrison Elementary & Indigenous Culture
Alexis Christie:	Deroche Elementary
Deanna Dettieh:	École Mission Central Elementary
Katie Cochran :	École Heritage Park Middle School
Jacob Firlotte:	École Heritage Park Middle School
Holly Gallant:	Windebank Elementary
Chris Gawthorn:	West Heights Elementary & Indigenous Culture
Donna Giroux (Malila):	École Christine Morrison Elementary, Halq'eméylem Language & Culture
Leslie Jensen:	Fraserview Learning Centre
Joe Kelly:	E. S. Richards Elementary & Hatzic Elementary
Peter Lindley (Pipte):	Halq'eméylem Language & Culture
Marla Mulholland:	Hillside Elementary, Silverdale Elementary, Stave Falls Elementary & Summit K—9
Rhea Paul:	École Mission Senior Secondary School
Susan O'Soup:	Cherry Hill Elementary & Indigenous Culture
Sukhi Pangli:	École Mission Senior Secondary School
Rachel Schooner:	Hatzic Middle School
Jennifer Sherif:	Albert McMahon Elementary & Dewdney Elementary
Jennifer Snow:	Hatzic Middle School
Robby Williams:	École Mission Senior Secondary School

INDIGENOUS MENTOR TEACHER:

Peggy Janicki

INDIGENOUS STUDENT SUCCESS COACHES:

Katy Brookes
Donald Cosens

PROGRAM AREA LEADERS:

Jodie Amaya—HPMS
Lyn O'Grady—HMS
Jody Shaw—MSS



2019—2020 School Year

Year of Humility

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)

As I walk the hallways to get to my classes at each school, I take time to appreciate the student's artwork as well as read their articles or look at their projects which are on display. This information provides me opportunity to include Halq'eméylem words and phrases which will complement what the students are already learning in their classrooms. Sometimes, this means I'll wind up teaching something totally different than what I was prepared for but by receiving positive responses from students this encourages me to continue being spontaneous and flexible.

We've learned that the Stó:lō New Year begins in October. That traditionally, our lives were based on the seasons. Our Halq'eméylem names for the months indicate what is happening in nature and we can still benefit by understanding that knowledge. Children, regardless of age love animals and nature in general. Their personal affection is expressed through the way they care for and talk about their pets or by their knowledge of or interest in learning about animal behavior. On many occasions, the students, classroom teachers and I find ourselves discussing, questioning, researching, and debating our limited knowledge while filling our individual curiosities. We have so much fun singing, drumming and dancing while learning Halq'eméylem names, colours and habits of local forest animals. Which ones migrate, hibernate or maintain living habits unchanged by the seasons? How do they adapt to assure survival during the winter months? Which plants, fish and animals become nourishment for us? How are they gathered, fished and hunted? How are they prepared and preserved for winter use?

Many of the student's families still plant large vegetable gardens and they proudly share how they help plant, weed, water, harvest and preserve the crops. Others have someone who's a fisherman or hunter who are teaching them how to become one as well. Having these conversations while including Halq'eméylem words and phrases keeps learning fun and interesting for us all. So, we'll continue learning from each other as we follow the Stó:lō Seasonal Activities Chart.

Respectfully submitted

Pipte (Peter Lindley)

Halq'eméylem — Malila (Donna Giroux)

Ey swayel mekw wat. Good Day Everybody.

For November we learned the Stó:lō Month which was Xets'o:westel meaning: "Time to put away Canoe Paddles for Winter".

For Aboriginal Veterans Day in the first week of November, the students at Christine Morrison learned about the Cree Code Talkers. The activity they did for this lesson was a beaded bracelet with different colors and lengths of beads to represent Morse Code, for the word Humility. The students really enjoyed the activity.

To finish the words taught, included Winter, cold and what were some of the changes in Nature that told us seasons were changing. Also we touched on 'Long ago', what were the Stó:lō winter activities, homes they lived in i.e. Long house, Pit house for the real cold weather.



At Deroche Elementary, I was the Liaison for 3 weeks in December. I helped with the classes, met with students and decorated an ornament for their Christmas trees. We all enjoyed this activity.

In January, Peloqes (Torch Season), we started off by reviewing colours, weather, seasons, numbers and of course animals including unicorn and dragon.

Many of these activities have been done but review is good and I am always thinking of new ways to challenge and also keep their attention to want to learn Halq'eméylem.

Albert McMahan Elementary—Jennifer Sherif—Indigenous Liaison Worker

Albert McMahan has had a lot going on!

We were very fortunate to have Indigenous Liaison Worker, Chris Gawthorn join us in Mrs. Tiwana's class for a session on Metis spoons that was lots of fun! Chris also visited to present on Metis Tuppies, which students also enjoyed very much. Thanks Chris!

Two of our great leaders, Jonas and Rylie – both in grade 6 - joined us for Winter Heat at the Friendship Centre. This day of community give back is always a great day, and these students helped to make it even better! Many of our grade 5 and 6 students were interested in going and names were drawn. Jonas and Rylie joined two of our young Aboriginal leaders from Dewdney, and together, these wonderful students spent the day sorting food and packing hampers for local Elders, as well as serving lunch to community members. They worked very hard and we appreciate all they did to help make the day as special and fun as it was! Thanks guys!

In the spirit of gift-giving, many classes took part in making mini button blanket ornaments to give to someone special. With this came teachings around the button blanket and the Potlach.

According to my teachings, winter is the time for animal storytelling, so we have been working on that in various classes. Several classes' teachers have signed up for me to come into their classrooms in February to share love/Eagle teachings, as well. We will be working on ways to honour others through teachings around love, and students will have the opportunity to reflect on how they can honour themselves, as well, by looking at what it is they love about themselves.

Our after school literacy program will be starting in February. This will be open to students in grades 3-6. Please refer to the school's web site for more information.



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

Happy New Year!

We had Judy Cathers come in and teach Cedar Twist Bracelets to Ms. O'Haro's /Ms. Denton's class. Jacob Firlotte was in Ms. Midzain's music class teaching drumming to many grades.

We have K registration all week. ((Jan. 16th, 2020).

Some things going on at Cherry Hill Elementary:

Art Club after school, Mondays.

Math Club on Tuesdays at Lunch.

Joyful Lit after school sessions, all grades Tuesday.

Coding Club After School on Wednesday.

Homework Club on Thursdays at lunch time.

Lego Club, after school on Thursdays.

Gr. 6 Floor Hockey team at Windebank on Thursday after school.

We have the BC Lions presentation on energy conservation on Monday, Jan. 27, 2020 at 10:25 am. This is optional presentation (K—6) if you're interested please see Mr. Sliziak. We are learning to do the Brick Stitch and making earrings in the Indigenous Room. This earring was made by Chloe Smith, one of the Leadership Students and Peer Tutor.



Peggy Janicki came into the grade 5/6 classes to teach the Blanket Exercise. This exercise was excellent, and it allows students to participate to under Indigenous Canadian History.



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

INDIGENOUS CULTURE



Christine Morrison Elementary has been very privileged to have many Indigenous culture presentations this year. Many students have also gone on field trips with an Indigenous focus. Mme Anna and Mme Wendy did an excellent teaching with their students about spindle whorls. As a follow-up we did a fun activity of decorating cookies!



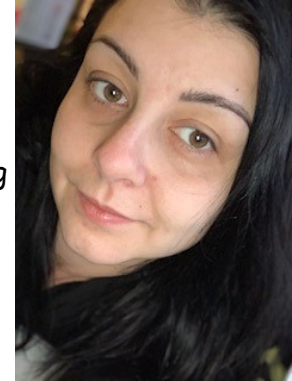
Deroche Elementary School—Alexis Christie—Indigenous Liaison Worker

Ey Swayel

My name is Alexis Christie and I am a new addition to the Siwal Si'wes team, assigned to Deroche Elementary.

I am excited to embark on this next part of my personal, professional and cultural journey. I look forward to continuing the work of Deroche's previous Indigenous liaison workers in supporting the families and wonderful children of our school, and as well to learning more deeply the knowledge each child's family have to share with me and others in our community.

Kischee tey mo' yawn aen li Michif wi'yawn
(Proud to be Métis)



As I drive out to Deroche each day I am continually amazed at the beauty of the mountains, forests, rivers and lakes of the Fraser Valley. With so many opportunities to swim each summer, I am glad to support our Deroche Bears Swimming Program pictured below. (Thankfully the Mission Leisure Center pool is heated as our young bears don't have much fur!). Looking to many other exciting experiences at Deroche!



Dewdney Elementary—Jennifer Sherif—Indigenous Liaison Worker

Osiyo ('Hello' in Tsalagi, my ancestral language).

We've been busy at Dewdney!

December was an especially busy month. We were fortunate to have two of our wonderful leaders, Kelli and Aaliyah, join us for Winter Heat at the Friendship Centre. This day of community give back is always a great day, and these students helped to make it even better! Interested students wrote mini essays on why they wanted to attend the event, and what they felt they could contribute to it. There were many well-written and thoughtful entries, and these two young ladies were chosen. They joined two of Siwal Si'wes' students from Albert McMahan, and together, these wonderful students spent the day packing hampers for local Elders, serving lunch to community members and proudly giving away the cards and gifts handmade by several Aboriginal students at each school. They worked very hard and we appreciate all they did to help make the day as special and fun as it was!

Our dedicated PAC at Dewdney works hard to help support our school in so many ways. This year, the PAC had a lot more families to support with Christmas food hampers than last year, and it was able to support several of our Aboriginal families. A special thanks to Danny Christie, a Metis student in grade 5, who helped pack hampers with the PAC and myself. You did a great job, Danny!

Our noon hour group has been busy creating. Students were able to produce Christmas cards and gifts for their families, doing an amazing job! They no doubt brought smiles to their loved ones with these beautiful items. Our noon-hour club will now shift, somewhat; instead of having two days open to art-making a week, we will have one noon hour available for that, and the other, on Thursdays, will be dedicated to improving/enhancing literacy through the use of Indigenous storytelling, Indigenous-authored/themed books and more! Anyone is welcome to join.



Edwin S. Richards—Joe Kelly & Tiffany Bishop—Indigenous Liaison Workers

We hope that you all had a great Winter Break and Happy New Year!

With our school set of drums now complete we are looking forward to getting them into the hands of our students putting them to good use!



Here at ESR the students again will be showcasing the Spring Celebrations of Learning with a narrative written by our Grade 6 students honouring the Wolf as a part of the Seven Sacred Teachings.



Please Mark Your Calendars:

- February 12, 2020—Cultural Day @ West Heights**
- February 19, 2020—Cultural Day @ Windebank**
- February 26, 2020—Cultural Day @ Stave Falls**
- March 4, 2020—Cultural Day @ Albert McMahon**
- March 11, 2020—Cultural Day @ Deroche**
- March 14, 2020—March 29, 2020—Spring Break**



Fraserview Learning Centre—Leslie Jensen—Indigenous Liaison Worker

Ey Swayel mekw'wat (good day everyone),

In December, Grade 11 and 12 students, with teacher, James Martyn and myself went on a field trip to UBC. The students were given information about the application process, the different departments and the Kelowna Campus. We also visited the Museum of Anthropology and had a campus tour. Two Grade 12 students are interested in attending UBC, so we will be joining Mission Secondary School on Feb. 26th for the Aboriginal Experience UBC workshops.

Thank you goes out to the staff who worked hard to ensure that many students and their families had food hampers and gifts for Christmas which was greatly appreciated by them!



Student Aspirations

One Grade 12 student just started the SASET pre-cooking program at UFV Chilliwack which goes until March 27th. He is really enjoying the course so far and he will be learning about personal budgeting, handling of knives and food preparation. He is hoping to go the Culinary Arts Program at UFV Abbotsford this September. James Woyke, Mission Friendship Center, WorkBC Program was instrumental in supporting this student in attending this course.

I am hoping that some students will attend the Saset Spring Session at Mission Secondary School.

Another student is working hard to graduate a year ahead. From February to May she will be doing the Heavy Equipment Operator course through the Abbotsford School Career Programs.

The Fraserview staff are in the process of discussing scholarship applications for the students who are interested.

Well, that is all for now and hoping that everyone stays safe and warm!

Hatzic Elementary—Joe Kelly—Indigenous Liaison Worker

I hope that everyone had a great winter break and Happy New Year to all our Hatzic families. We are looking forward to the next few months where Hatzic will be participating in our annual Indigenous Run/Walk for Wellness. This year it will take place at Heritage Park where Judy Cathers will perform a honour song. After participating in the Run/Walk participants will enjoy bannock provided by Chrystal Williams. Every year this event has been a great success and we look forward to another great run!

Over the last few months I have been working with the grade 6 students making 2 sets of seven sacred teachings drums for Hatzic school. Each drum will have one of the seven sacred teachings painted on it by Peter Gong resident artist. We are having a ceremony to present the drums to each class and to speak about the symbolization and the meaning of each teaching. The drums will then be hung on the wall of the classroom in honour of the teaching it represents.



Resource Elders

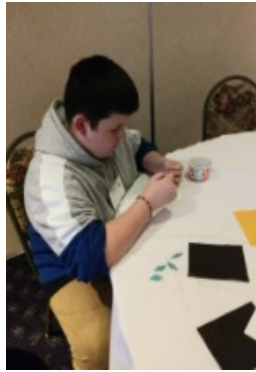
Agnes Giesbrecht and William and Priscilla Wells have volunteered their services as Resource Elders for parents who want support meeting with school personnel.

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

HATZIC MIDDLE SCHOOL
Rachel Schooner & Jennifer Snow—Indigenous Liaison Workers

Ey swayel mekw'wat and happy new year from Hatzic Middle School.

To finish off 2019 in a good way we held a chili with bannock lunch for our students. It is wonderful to see all the smiling faces of students sharing a meal happily with friendships blossoming and laughter filling the room. Here at Hatzic we also have a hype-a-thon to send the students into winter break with a bang. Students and staff participate in various activities, cheer each other on, win prizes and have a blast. Again this year, we participated in the winter heat at the Mission friendship center. Students helped prepare food and work together to serve the community. Annually, students attend the leadership conference at Newlands. They learned new skills, connected with other school communities and gained valuable teachings from elders and staff.



Drum group is in full swing into the new year. We practice on Thursday's and are preparing for two upcoming events we are excited to host at our school. The Butterflies in Spirit group will be coming to do a performance/teaching and a march to honour the MMIWG of Canada will be to follow.



Our Indigenous center continues to be a happening place at lunch time. Our students come in and start impromptu games of Slahal, work on beading, drawing or play cards and other games. We are so fortunate to have such a strong sense of community here. Local artist Peter Gong is working with us again on a large cedar panel art project that features a wolf and the sacred teaching of the year, humility. The artwork is looking fantastic and almost complete.

Heritage Park Middle School—Jacob Firlotte & Katie Cochrane—Indigenous Liaisons

Winter heat

On December 5th students from Heritage Park Middle, Hatzic Middle, and Mission Secondary School hosted a Christmas Lunch and giveaway at the Mission Friendship Centre in downtown Mission. The event was a great success! The students had a chance to crafts for giveaways for the community as well as make great meal for them too! Not only that, but the students were able to gather resources to make food hampers for the communities elders to given away at Christmas time!



Metis History

At the end of November Heritage Park Middle School was lucky enough to host renowned Metis Artist Lisa Shepard and violinist Keith! Lisa Shepard taught the entire student body about the Metis and how they came to be. Weaving in stories about the newly emerged ethnic group, the significance of their sashes and how to jig with the help of Keith the violinist!



Katie Cochrane is our new Indigenous Liaison worker for Heritage Park Middle School.



I was born and raised in Mission and attended Hatzic from Kindergarten to Grade 12. I am married to my high school best friend and we have three daughters who all attended school here in Mission. I enjoy teaching and sharing ideas when it comes to baking and crafting as it's my favorite hobby. I started my career in 2007 working downtown Vancouver and moved my work to Mission after my first daughter was born in 2009. I worked locally sharing my time between outreach, 1st and 2nd stage housing. I am looking forward to working and meeting with the students for the remainder of the school year and many more people in our community. When you see me around make sure to say hello.

Hillside Traditional Academy—Marla Mulholland—Indigenous Liaison Worker

Ey Swayel! Hillside Traditional Academy would like to thank Siwal Si'wes for their continued support. Several classes this year have enjoyed cultural presentations including the button blanket and understanding the Tipi. In addition, many classrooms have benefitted from Pipe sharing the Halq'eméylem language with our students. We look forward to several additional cultural presentations that have already been booked.

Thank you to Susan O'Soup, Chris Gawthorn, Judy Cathers, Marla Mulholland, and Pipe Lindley for sharing and enriching our school.



Camielle Laslo—Halq'eméylem Teacher @ HMS

Ey swáyèl,



Sts'owuselwet tel skwix. Teli tsel kw'a Leq'á:mel. Ey tel sqwalewel kwels kwetslole! Good day, my traditional name is Sts'owuselwet and English name is Camielle Laslo. I am from Leq'á:mel First Nation. I am happy to see you all! It's great to be back with Mission Public Schools as a Halq'eméylem Teacher. This year I am teaching at Heritage Park Middle School and Hatzic Middle School. The grade sevens and eights are learning some basic Halq'eméylem greetings, action words, food/feast words, seasonal activities, with weather and numbers. Plus, I've included some storytelling with some cultural teachings and local stories with some history of our Stó:lō people. I am happy to be sharing and teaching about our First Peoples from this area, our Elders tell us that our people have been here since time immemorial. For example, I share the sxwōxwiyám of "Xá:ytem" which is located in Hatzic, xéxa:ls the transformers, transformed and punished three sí:yá:m for not

adopting new ways to preserve and protect Stó:lō traditions and knowledge by creating our written language. This is one of the many stories that I share with "ye stá:xwelh" our students! Eycha te swayel! Have a nice day!

Sts'owuselwet



To:lmels ye Kilaksten/ Knowledge of Peggy Janicki

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

Éy Swayel Everyone!

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

November has been filled with the Aboriginal Youth Leadership Conference, Teaching and Toronto’s Indispire AWARDS!

I was VERY honoured to receive an “Innovative Educator” award in Toronto Nov 21, 2019 in Toronto. Indispire, as part of the award-winning, flew me to Toronto to present many awards. I do not think I am able to express my gratitude or awe about this whole process: from the first phone call, the travel planning, attending the conference, and receiving the award. One of many memories is I was super happy to find out that I did not have to share any words. That was great news, because I was very speechless.

Upon return it was wonderful to be in various classrooms Teaching the Nklakapmux Blanket Lesson, 60’s Scoop, weaving, Indigenous governance, slahal & math, and telling the Haley’s Comet story.

I have taught +/- or co-planned Pro-D’s:

- I was happy to co-Teach the Blanket Lesson at the BC Trustees Conference

BCTF +/- or MTU

-I taught at Surrey Secondary School and Chilliwack Secondary School

Big news continues for Teachers as I have continued to create and share my “Indigenous Mentor Teacher” website! If folks go onto the “Learn 75” page they can search for my website very much like Vivian Searwar has the “SWSW Family” website.

I continue to add information to my website, so, it is changing often, FYI!

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.

Indigenous Success Coach—Katy Brookes

Hi Swayel, my name is Katy Brookes and I am honored and humbled to be the new Indigenous Success Coach for middle school students in Mission. I work at Ecole Heritage Park Middle School, Hatzic Middle school, and Summit Learning centre supporting Indigenous students in grades 7-9. I am a counsellor, a teacher, and a mother with many years of experience working with youth and community organizations and a passion for Indigenous education and social justice.



As a success coach, my job is to identify students who are struggling to succeed in middle school and work with them and their families to understand and remove barriers. I build relationships with students and find ways to help them feel engaged and supported in school. Each student's needs are unique, and my work may include helping students with practical matters like organizing their work or tutoring, or even getting to school, but also working with our amazing Indigenous Liaison Workers to ensure that our students and school staff have access to cultural teachings and experiences and understand the history of local Indigenous communities. Parents are invited to connect with me to discuss their child's experiences and needs at their middle school. I look forward to building relationships with your children, their families, and their communities and working with you to help our students move towards their goals and dreams.

You can reach me at katy.brookes@mpsd.ca, or call/text my work cell phone: 604-226-4919.

Indigenous Success Coach—Donald Cosens

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. My name is Don Cosens and I am the Grade 10 - 12 Indigenous Student Success Coach for Mission Public Schools. I support students at Riverside College, Fraserview Learning Centre, Summit Learning Centre and Mission Senior Secondary. My role as a Success Coach is a new position that the district created to support Indigenous youth through academic challenges in an effort to improve academic success, leading to graduation.

I am passionate about helping students to graduate and to find their career path. I have a background in Career Education and Counselling and love helping students find options for future employment in the workforce or begin their post-secondary journey whether it be in the trades, at college or university.

I am a Mission resident and am both happy and proud to serve the youth in our growing community. Please feel free to contact me if you wish to speak about the specific needs of your child.

donald.cosens@mpsd.ca

Work Cell: 604-226-0919



École Mission Central Elementary—Deanna Dettieh—Indigenous Liaison Worker

Ey swayel Mek w wat; Hello Everyone welcome back and Happy 2019! The weather has been very cold our second week back to school, with hopes of everyone staying warm. It has been enjoyable seeing everyone well rested and ready for the New Year. In November Mission Central had their Ready, Set, Learn. There was quit a crowd of parents and children that had so much fun rolling around on the blue mats, with the awesome enjoyment of being mad scientist and making colorful beaded bracelets. Our Siwal Si'wes table got lots of visitors.



Before the Christmas holidays everyone has been very busy getting many things done in such a short time. The students in Mme. Anais, Mme. Destouches and Mrs. Karpowicz's class got to make small mittens. They all enjoyed putting their mittens together. Mme. Diane's class got to make a Bead and Leather bracelet.



Mme. Diane's class got to made decorative Christmas ornaments they all enjoyed making for the holidays.



A few Gr. 5/6 girls got to make a beaded Christmas ornament: Aiyanna, Brooke, Mataya and Maya



All students in Mme. Damboise's class got to make bannock with the enjoyment of smoked salmon, that Carter's mom brought. Thank you for the yummy Salmon. K'was Hoy

**Mission Senior Secondary—Robby Williams, Sukhi Pangli & Rhea Paul
Indigenous Liaison Workers & Don Cosens—Indigenous Student Success Coach**

We have had a busy and exciting year at Mission Secondary! Our students have been active in our community and have managed to attend many field trips. Every Fall, we participate in the Leadership Conference at Newland Golf and Country Club. This year was a special year because some of our students were chosen to lead the honor ceremony for, Joe Heslip, our past District Principal of Indigenous Education. In addition, our students were able to serve our community at the Winter Heat Celebration held at the Friendship Centre. Here, we were able to work intergenerationally and have our secondary, middle and elementary school students prepare and serve bannock tacos to members of Mission's Indigenous Community.

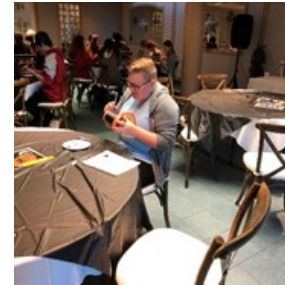
Furthermore, we are proud of the work by our students in the creation of a large Buffalo that will soon be hanging in the district office. We started to create our Buffalo earlier this year with the help of the Elders, elementary and middle school students. It was created with the intention of it being a tactile art display that was inspired to showcase work done from many grade levels. As part of the MSS PE department's dance unit, they brought in Chief John Williams who instructed all PE the classes for the day. He began by teaching the students about Indigenous dance and its importance to our culture; he then had several MSS students showcase their ceremonial and pow wow dancing skills before Chief Johnny led the students through the welcome dance and its importance to the River People.

As our first semester comes to a close, our students are looking forward to both a new semester and new opportunities. We will be attending the University of British Columbia, where our students will be able to explore the UBC campus and Longhouse and see what UBC has to offer them academically. We will also be heading to UFV Chilliwack and Abbotsford campuses with a focus on both trades and academic offerings. We hope that this will allow our students to understand what is offered and to feel more comfortable with opportunities at the post-secondary level.

After spring break, our Grade 12s will be making hand drums and deepening their understanding or their culture in a tangible way. This is an annual tradition and a rite of passage for our senior students. We are excited for the opportunities that our students are receiving, and we look forward to the semester ahead. If you have any questions about these opportunities or any to come, please feel free to contact us here at the Indigenous Education Department.

We hope that the New Year has been good to you so far.

All my relations.



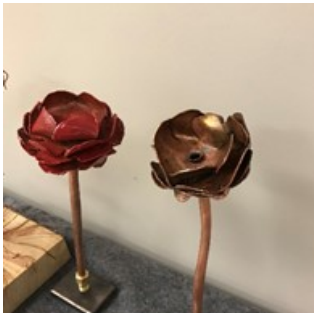
Riverside College—Tiffany Bishop—Indigenous Liaison Worker

I hope you all had a fabulous Winter Break and Happy New Year! Over the past couple of months many of our students have been out on Practicum/Work experience where they are getting a chance to put into place what they have learned so far in their programs. The students come back to the classroom eager to learn more and re-charged to continue their hard work!

This month we have Peggy Janicki coming to visit us to work with our Hairstyling and Esthetic students on a weaving project. And just a reminder that our salon, Studio 75, here at Riverside is open and taking appointments on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1pm-5:30pm call 604-814-0446 ext. 2326 to 604-814-0446 ext. 2326 make an appointment.



Hairstyling students giving our Car-pentry crew some new do's



Copper Roses, Plumbing



Woodworking, Carpentry

Silverdale and Summit K—9—Marla Mulholland—Indigenous Liaison Worker

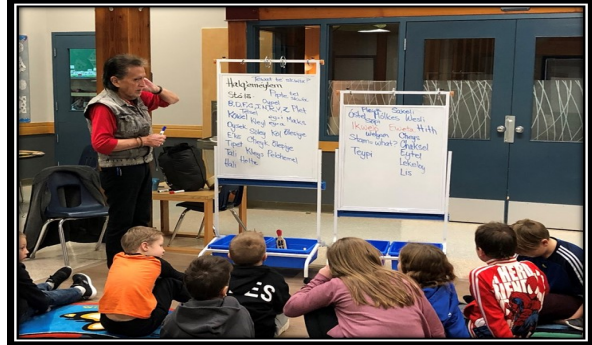
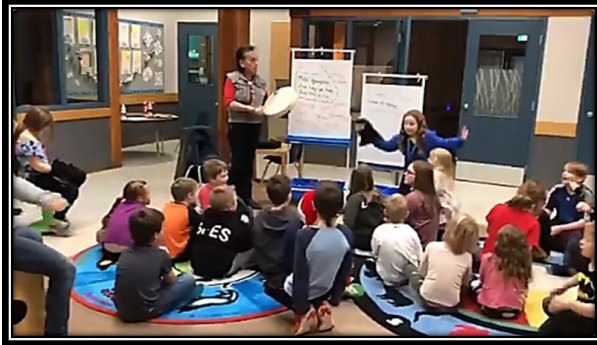
Drum Making with Darren Charlie

We enjoyed threading classroom drums with Mr. Charlie and learning how each person who helps make the drum contributes their thoughts. Then we tried keeping a beat together with 35 + students. Drums were made with both Silverdale and Summit K—9 students.



Stave Falls—Marla Mulholland—Indigenous Liaison Worker

Thank you to Pipte for coming to Stave Falls!
He taught our students to fly and write their names in Halq'eméylem!



Summit Learning—Tiffany Bishop 10–12—Indigenous Liaison Worker

Happy New Year Everyone! We are having a great start to the new year even with the snow closures and all! There are two exciting courses that are now available through Summit. We are now offering Fashion Industry 12 which students can achieve elective credits and Philosophy 12 where students can receive Social Studies credits.

Scholarship and Bursary application deadlines are fast approaching so if you are needing support or would like to find out some more information please come and see me in Portable 7 at MSS.

At the end of January our Thursday tutorial will host a Terra cotta Metis painting session where students will paint terra cotta pots using a stylus pen to replicate Metis beading.



Just a reminder that Summit 10-12 tutorials are held in Portable 7 on the MSS campus on Monday from 10-11am and 2-3pm and then again on Thursday from 2-3pm. I can be reached through my email tiffany.bishop@mpsd.ca Monday-Friday during school hours.

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

The year has been rolling along well. Students, staff and the community have been working very hard on fundraising for the inclusive playground. The Waterson family donated to support this addition to our school community.

The Sense of Belonging Mosaic, has begun with the glass work in full swing. Frosty pine cones for Xmas tree decorations and beaded bracelets for giveaways. We had applied for the ISPARC grant to work on a running and health eating program within the school we received \$1,000.00 towards this.

We will be looking forward to our Cultural day on the 12th of February and Archery on the 4th.

Enjoy the snow and be safe.



Windebank—Holly Gallant—Indigenous Liaison Worker

I just wanted to send Our Deepest Condolences to our dear Elder, Florence Louie's Family, from our Windebank Family. Her passing will leave an emptiness in many peoples hearts. She will be greatly missed.

Coming up:

Windebank's **Aboriginal Cultural Day** is coming up soon! February 19, 2020 I am very excited. We will post many pictures in our next newsletter.

We are happy to say that Mr. Peter Gong will be joining us for the month of April to work on a new and exciting Wolf project. You can visit with Peter and watch as the project progresses every Wednesday from 9:30 to 11:30 in the front foyer.

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:ltl'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>