



**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 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 would like to take this opportunity to welcome new staff members to the Siwal Si'wes Family. Ariel Gienger has joined the Siwal Si'wes Family as an Indigenous Liaison Worker and currently supports students at MSS. We also welcome Brenda Pierre, who is currently working to support the Halq'emýlem Language Instruction program at the middle schools. We would also like to welcome back Malila. We missed you while you were away!



The Siwal Si'wes Family has been busy (that is an understatement!) preparing for Virtual Cultural Days, which is new territory for all of us. We have all had to keep flexibility and kindness at the forefront of our minds as we climb the steep learning curve together and we very much appreciate the patience and generosity from the staff and students of the host schools. At this time, I would like to publicly acknowledge the hard work from Marcy Buell, Siwal Si'wes Administrative Assistant and Deanna Dettieh, Liaison for Cultural Prep. These days could not have been possible without you! We are also grateful that Chief Johnny Williams has made himself available to open and close the days in a good way and to Chrystal Williams for providing the much-loved and delicious bannock! Finally, to the host liaisons and to the cultural presenters, a grand Kwas'hoy to you for jumping into the "virtual way of being", all for the benefit of SD75 students, so they can receive a "grain of sand" of Indigenous knowledge (in Chief Johnny's words).

Lastly, we are looking forward to wearing our Pink Shirts on February 24, 2021 to spread the word of love and kindness.



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 |
| Katie Cochrane: | École Heritage Park Middle School |
| Deanna Dettieh: | École Mission Central Elementary & Band Outreach @ Leq'á:mel |
| 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 |
| Joe Kelly: | E. S. Richards Elementary & Band Outreach @ Sq'ewlets |
| Marla Mulholland: | Dewdney, Silverdale Elementary, & Stave Falls Elementary |
| Rhea Paul: | École Mission Central Elementary |
| Susan O'Soup: | 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 |
| Robby Williams: | Albert McMahon & Riverside College |

INDIGENOUS MENTOR TEACHER:

Peggy Janicki

PROGRAM AREA LEADERS:

Jodie Amaya—HPMS

Lyn O'Grady—HMS

Jody Shaw—MSS

SIWAL SI'WES TEACHER/LIBRARIAN:

Jennifer Lane

BAND OUTREACH TEACHER:

Glenda Scrimshaw

INDIGENOUS STUDENT SUCCESS COACHES:

Katy Brookes

Donald Cosens



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

It has been a fast-paced and incredibly different school year so far. The halls are usually bursting with laughter and chatter, but this year feels quieter without all the lively students able to be together. It has been hard on our children to lose the opportunities for extra-curricular activities and socializing with friends that they have been used to. We are so impressed by their adaptability as we watch them diligently wear masks and follow safety protocols. We hear them talk a lot about the "numbers" and their stress about bringing the infection to someone else. It is comforting to know that the schools are doing everything they can to help keep all of us safe, and the students' care and consideration for their families and communities is a big part of that.

At MSS, online work has been a big adjustment. Finding students on the day that they are here and supporting their online work has been a challenge, and this is especially true for students transitioning from middle school. Most students have now found their groove and have adjusted to the new digital reality that many people collectively are faced with. However, if your child is struggling with their classes, we encourage you to reach out to our department as soon as possible so that we can help them stay on track.

At the middle schools, students face a different adjustment as they work on two classes at a time, and will stay with the same classmates for the entire school year. Many students tell us that they prefer this format--it is much easier to keep track of two classes instead of eight. Teachers are getting to know their students very well, and Gr. 7's are similarly making new friendships more quickly than in past years. However, it also means that missing just one day of school can equal almost a week's missed work! We truly appreciate you keeping your children home when they are sick, and we also want to support you to keep them on track when illness inevitably happens. Please reach out to us, as our team can help with bringing work to your home, connecting with teachers, and supporting your student to catch up after absences.

At a district level, we are humbled to be able to take part in the second year of our Equity Scan, looking at what we are already doing, and what we still need to do, to create a culture of equity in our schools. We are also excited that our department is hosting a series of anti-racism seminars and professional development opportunities that we are able to take part in.

We are actively campaigning students to apply for the Siwal Si'wes Scholarships and Bursaries. Please reach out to one of us or a Liaison for more information on how to apply. We would like to see the student essays completed and checked over by us ASAP. They should also be asking for reference letters at this time too.

We are making every effort to stay connected with our families and provide opportunities for students to feel successful and engaged in school as we navigate this challenging year.

As always, you can contact us anytime to discuss concerns you have about your child in school. Whether they be academic, social, or emotional concerns, we are here to help during this very challenging year. But above all we hope that you stay safe, calm, and together as you get through this tough time.

Albert McMahon Elementary—Robby Williams—Indigenous Liaison Worker

Ey Swayel and I hope you have had a wonderful winter break. I like to start by welcoming Mr. Sliziak and Mrs. Montgomery to our Albert McMahon Family, as well as saying farewell to Mrs. Grewal and Mrs. Anderson as they depart from Albert McMahon. This year has been full of adventure and is coming along to some very exciting times in our Indigenous department.

We have had the pleasure over December to make Metis Mitts with your primary students, which gave us the opportunities to teach on the Metis Culture. We also had the opportunity to start some friendship groups and continue our lessons within the classroom through storytelling and cultural activities.

Some of these activities are leading to our school-based activities where our leadership students will be able to help us with our Sasquatch posters as well as fixing up our project of heart. We are really looking forward to having more presenters come into our classrooms virtually or in person to help us learn about things such as weaving and button blankets.

In closing it has been a pleasure working with your Indigenous students on what our Identity is as Indigenous people and what we can teach the whole student body about our ways of being. I cannot wait to see how our school-based projects turn out and all the learning that is to come for your students.

Sincerely,
Robby Williams



BAND OUTREACH SCHOOLS

-----**Band Outreach: Leq'á:mel First Nation**-----**Deanna Dettieh: Indigenous Liaison Worker**-----

Looking back on 2020, our world as a Nation changed drastically – the way we work – the way we live and the way we see the future. It certainly has been interesting as we adapt to this new way of life. The health and safety of our staff and students continues to be of the utmost importance as we move forward as a people. It is wonderful to see what can be achieved when we work together as a community. Our Band Outreach students at Leq'á:mel First Nation have been busy with their lessons and discovering new interests. Ms. Glenda our Indigenous teacher has taken the students out walking the area.

Kaden has done amazing work making a set of Slahal sticks for when Ms. Jennifer and Mrs. Rachel came out to Leq'á:mel to show the students how to play Slahal.

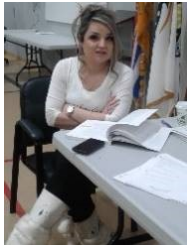


These students had the wonderful opportunity to take part in a presentation of local species that are becoming extinct. Such as the Western Painted Turtle and the Oregon Forest snail, this is only two.



To the left: Ms. Glenda starting the day with a round circle.

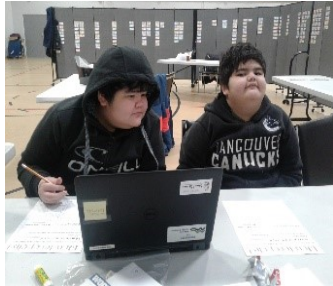
To the right: Ms. Glenda giving lessons and Kaden ready to respond to what they are to do



To the right: a hidden talent we truly enjoyed seeing. This is not the only one made by this young lady.



To the right: Billy and Luc working on an assignment together.



Everyone enjoyed a game of UNO right after teaching Ms. Glenda how to play. We had the wonderful opportunity to make these beautiful Inukshuks that Ms. Glenda showed us how to put together.



Sq'ewlets Band Outreach Program

Alexis Christie—Indigenous Liaison & Glenda Scrimshaw—Band Outreach Teacher

At Sq'ewlets, we have been taking advantage of the beautiful land that we have been able to access during these unprecedented times. We go on long walks exploring the land while engaging with our students. Our students know and love their land. The land brings out something incredible from within each student in a different way.



We start our morning with a traditional teaching and journaling. The students have also started their own vision board projects and we look forward in completing them.

We are really enjoying this unique opportunity and are thankful for being welcomed into Sq'ewlets First Nation.

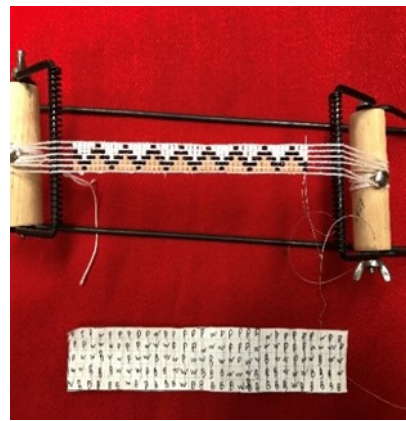
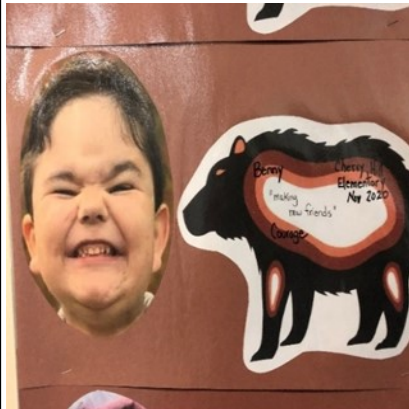
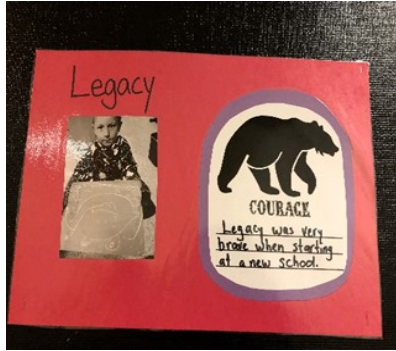
We raise our hands in thanks to the community and families.



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

I hope everyone had a nice winter break and we are all back at school looking forward to new and exciting things. I would like to welcome Ms. Hardeep Grewal, our new Administrator for Cherry Hill Elementary. It was sad to see Mr. Shane Sliziak leave our school, but I know he will be successful at Albert McMahon Elementary. Chris Gawthorn visited our school to teach students Archery, which the students loved!

Here are some beading samples that were done on the loom. The student is new to our Beading Club at our school. The sample of the beaded netted necklace is by one of the top beaders in our group. We meet almost every day at recess and noon hour.



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

ROC YOUR MOCS



- Roc Your Mocs is celebrated annually on November 15, a movement started by Jessica Atsyé, a Laguna Pueblo.
- Handmade moccasins have special significance for Indigenous people and are not always worn in public, but to special gatherings.
- Jessica wanted to honour moccasins and the culture they represent and so started a day where everyone is encouraged to wear their moccasins.
- As part of this celebration, Christine Morrison students were invited to enter a contest to win moccasins. This year we were able to draw names for four students and two staff.

DIRECTED DRAWING WITH OVILA MAILHOT



- Div. 9 and Div. 1 students were able to participate in a virtual directed drawing session with graphic artist Ovila Mailhot. Ovi is from Seabird Island band.
- His designs reflect Coast Salish art, and his art work encompasses traditional and current pop culture.
- Students appreciated being able to talk and interact virtually with Ovi. He did an excellent teaching.
- <https://www.salishsondesign.com/projects>

SALISH WEAVING



Division 9 was fortunate to participate in a workshop on Coast Salish weaving traditions that included a hands-on component. The workshop was led by Indigenous Mentor Teacher Peggy Janicki who shared her knowledge and led students in creating drawstring bags using traditional weaving techniques.

INDIGENOUS CULTURAL DAY – *Thank you to all of the presenters for an amazing day!!*



Deroche Elementary School—Alexis Christie—Indigenous Liaison Worker



Hot Lunches

At Deroche we have continued our Indigenous “no-fee” school wide hot lunch program. Students have helped prepare meals for the school. We have been learning about food safety and small adjustments we can make to make our food healthier.

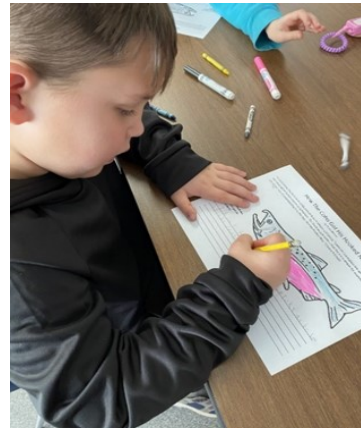


For example, adding in fresh produce into canned soups and pasta.

Thank You Salmon for Returning

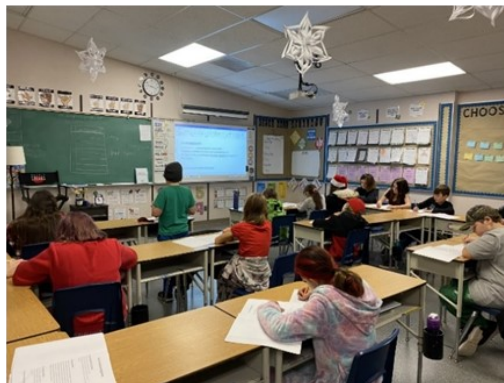
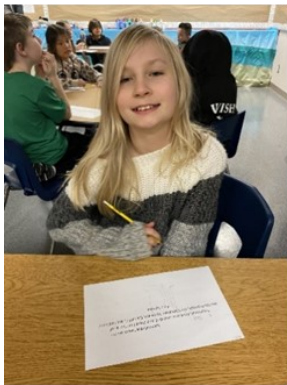


We welcomed spawning salmon into our stream. We spent as many beautiful afternoons exploring the outdoor classroom as possible and watched the end stage of the salmon cycle take place in our active salmon stream.



Land Acknowledgments

Acknowledging the land honors Indigenous peoples and kinship to their lands. I have been teaching and sharing with all students what a land acknowledgment is and why we do land acknowledgments. We have been writing out our own examples to put on display at Deroche.



Dewdney Elementary —Marla Mulholland—Indigenous Liaison Worker

Our Enhancement Grant project is currently being completed by Peter Gong. He has already completed one of the two pieces of art which will soon be on display at the school! The second piece that he is currently working on is this years Sacred teaching of the Sasquatch. We are looking forward to getting both works. The turtle piece in the picture below is complete and will be displayed soon. Kw'as Ho:y Peter!

At Dewdney, we have been busy incorporating Indigenous culture into the curriculum and doing fun activities. The younger students loved making crafts in the Indigenous room to take home to show to their parents. Some of the crafts we made were decorative Christmas ornaments to take home and hang on the Christmas tree. We also enjoyed learning about Jordan's Principal when we watched, "Spirit Bear and Children Make History" by Spotted Fawn Productions. This movie discusses important matters to First Nations children.

Some other important things we discussed were outlined in the book, "Say Something" by Peter Reynolds. On Black Shirt Day we explored the idea of speaking out about what you feel is right, even though it can sometimes be difficult. We also did a fun activity to go along with the book. See pictures below of these activities. I am looking forward to the fun we will be having in the second half of the school year!



Edwin S. Richards—Joe Kelly/Deanna Dettieh—Indigenous Liaison Workers

Ey Swayel everyone, my name is Deanna Dettieh. I'm an Indigenous Liaison Worker and Cultural Prep with Siwal Si'wes. I will be temporarily filling in for Mr. Joe Kelly here at ESR. We send Mr. Kelly a speedy recovery, and hope that he is back soon.

ESR's Cultural day is happening the morning of February 3, 2021. This year's Cultural day will be different with all presentations being done virtually. Virtual video chats, virtual meetings, virtual presentations, is becoming a normal thing to us all due to COVID-19. To operate all this new technology is all a learning process for us all. I got the pleasure to meet these young ladies that helped other students make bracelets for our presenters that did an amazing presentation.



Brenda Pierre—Halq'eméylem Language & Culture

Ey Swayel, Good Day! Keneesh Tel Skwix, Brenda is my name. Teli tsel Kwa Sts'ailes. I come from Sts'ailes community and I was raised on the reserve as they call it, until I left at the age of 17 years.

I lived with my sister for about five years while working a few jobs in Indigenous Organization. I am so proud to have been given the opportunity to work with the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, where I became proud of the struggles of the people with whom I worked.

I returned to my community, met a man from Katzie and was married in 1981. We have five wonderful sons who are all working in rewarding careers. I believe as parents we have believed in our children and want them to be happy in what they do. They range from ages from 30 to 44 years. I also have four grandchildren and very excited to finally have two granddaughters.

I have worked while attending school in the evening to obtain my Halq'eméylem Teaching Certification. I wanted to learn the language to follow the work of the speakers on the floor of the longhouse and to follow my grandfather's legacy that he has left to the people. I have recently completed and graduated in November 2020 with my Social Services Diploma.

I am grateful to be working in Mission School District as an Indigenous Liaison Worker. I would like to thank all the people who have been so kind and resourceful to me as I fit into this role. I am so proud to share my knowledge that can be something that students embrace. With a good heart and mind, I have prayed for guidance from the ancestors and I look forward to this work.



Fraserview Learning Centre—Leslie Jensen—Indigenous Liaison Worker

Ey Swayel,

Since the last newsletter, a number of the students learned how to weave using a two-strand twill weave. Thank you, Peggy for your teaching, stories and songs. The students really enjoyed doing the weaving and creating a pouch to hold their cell phones or to use as they wish.



One student is working on weaving a matt for her cat.

The students are working hard at their schoolwork and I am picking up and dropping off schoolwork for the students who are working from home. Due to extra donations we were able to deliver large hampers with food, laundry and cleaning supplies to about 15 families.



I want to thank all the students, staff and the community of Fraserview that are working hard to keep our school safe during these times with Covid.

There are four types of bullying:

- social - spreading rumors, embarrassing someone
- cyber - posting or sending mean texts, videos, or pictures
- verbal - teasing, name calling and threatening someone.
- physical - pushing, kicking, pinching, shoving.

Why do people bully?

- Some kids and adults become bullies because they think that picking on others will make them feel better.
- Some bullies don't have good role models at home to teach them how to behave.

People who are bullied:

- they become scared.
- Some become bullies themselves.
- they become shy.
- they become insecure.
- Some become angry and mean.

If you or someone you know is being bullied:

- Use your W.I.T.S.
- Tell your parents.
- Keep a journal to share your feelings.
- Call on anti-bullying hotline

W.I.T.S.

- W - Walk away
- I - Ignore
- T - Talk it out
- S - Seek help

Youth Against Violence Line
1-800-630-4264

Hatzic Elementary—Jacob Firlotte—Indigenous Liaison Worker

Ey Swayel,

After a well-rested winter break students have come back to school charged up and ready to learn! The garden beds outside the school are steadily becoming tilled for spring gardening with the help of our students; we're excited to get growing this spring!

The Hatzic Huskies have also been learning about the drainage of Sema:th Xo:tsa, otherwise called Sumas Lake in English. Did you know that the Sumas Flats were once a lake? It spanned from the south side of Abbotsford, past Yarrow, and to the Vedder Canal! It was an integral part of the Sumas people's way of life, but European colonizers did not like this and how it impacted their ability to farm in the area. European settlers bought giant pumps to drain the lake into the nearby Stó:lō, or Fraser River. This happened about a hundred years ago and dramatically damaged the Sumas people's way of life while also resulting in the extinction of various forms of wildlife such as the Sema:th Sockeye. So, if you go to Cultus Lake in this summer you'll be able to recognize where a giant lake used to be!



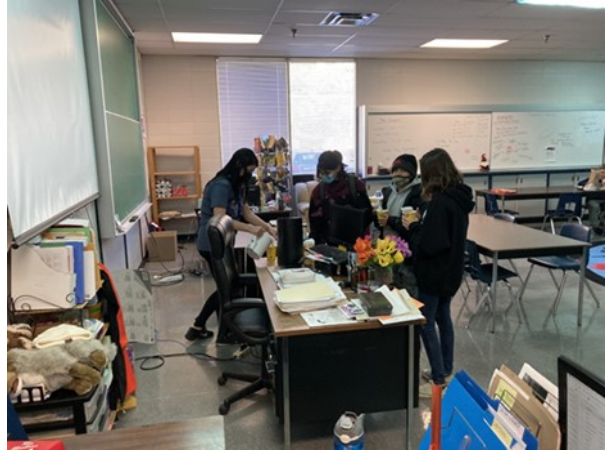
Resource Elders

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

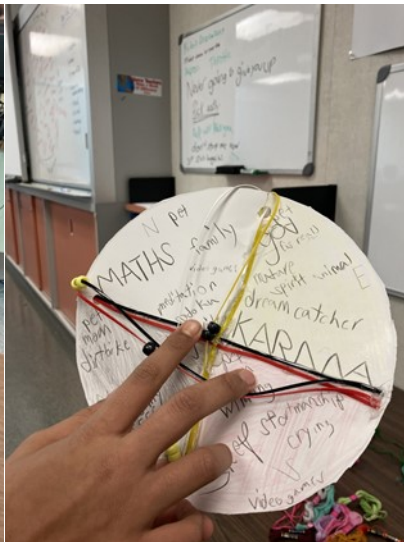
HATZIC MIDDLE SCHOOL
Rachel Schooner & Jennifer Snow—Indigenous Liaison Workers
Katy Brookes—Indigenous Success Coach

Hey Swayel and Happy New Year from all of us at Hatzic Middle School. Something new we are involved in this year, is the Ballantyne Project, #WeSeeYou campaign. We have been receiving thoughtful donations of the activity variety, such as, family games, art supplies and toys that we have sent out to remote First Nations communities. These parcels will bring much needed joy and connectedness as due to the world-wide pandemic, as remote communities are experiencing deeper feelings of isolation than usual.



Above left: Students packing parcels for the Ballantyne project. Above right: Wolf Den at lunch

Our Wolf Den continues to be a safe and welcoming space for students. We have adapted to the changes the pandemic has brought us and we continue to provide students with hot lunches and activities in the Wolf Den. Below shows off some beautiful loom beading and medicine wheel projects that have been ongoing.



Our HMS team stays closely connected to the Band Outreach schools and we are looking forward to upcoming visits. More work will also be put into our Sasq'ets cedar panel art project and we are excited to show off the finished product soon!

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

Ey Swayel students and families at Heritage Park Middle School!

We hope you had a restful Christmas Break and a very Happy New Year!

This winter at Ecole Heritage Middle School we were fortunate enough to receive many donations from partners in the community. These donations included Christmas Hampers, gift cards, bean bag chairs and much more. We wanted to thank everyone who got together to make this possible for our students and families. We were able to support upwards of 30 families this year.

We received a generous grant from Mission Community Foundation to help all students with food support throughout the year.

We have also been working closely with Snack Pack run by President Bal Grewal. Snack pack has been providing our school with food items to help with students that may need a drink or snack. We also provide these snacks to our lunch time monitors in case students are feeling hungry during lunch break.

Soon we will be working closely with Lisa Shephard and collaborating with our Art teacher Shawn Martens for our Indigenous Enhancement and Equity Grant. The cultural project we have planned is going to be called the “The Breath Project”.

This quad we have been partnering with our teachers to help with one on one support for students. We have opened our space (The Ravens Perch) to students who may need a break, a quiet place to work, a snack, or a check in with their Indigenous Liaison worker.



Photographed here – Indigenous Liaison (Sukhi Pangli) working on a math assignment with students in the Ravens Perch.



Donations received from Save on Foods for the Christmas Hampers.

Hillside Elementary—Jacob Firlotte —Indigenous Liaison Worker

Ey Swayel,

After a nice winter break, Hillside students have got to practice some archery with the other help of Indigenous Liaison, Chris Gawthorn ! Huychqa/Thank you Chris !

Classes have also had the chance to learn about the history of the Stó:lō people; regarding topics from the decimation of our people from smallpox and it's impact but as well as the ensuing policies created by the government that were put in place to subdue the Indigenous people. For example; For 87 years, between 1866 – 1953 Indigenous people were not allowed to own land in BC. Nor were they allowed to hire lawyers until 1951 to pursue land claims as well as not being able to vote provincially until 1949 and federally until 1960 (in order to vote you had to have land so denying Indigenous folk the right to own land they effectively denied them from voting in Canadian democracy.)

Students also got to lead discussions about some of the Anishinaabe Seven Grandfather Teachings; creating intricate mind maps!

Kudos to Hillside for their awesome brainstorming!



Siyamo:lh Sq'ep

Ey Swayel,

The Siyamo:lh (Young Leaders) have been learning in abundance ! We have been going of the Seven Grandfather Teachings of the Anishinaabe people; consisting of Respect, Humility, Bravery, Love, Honesty, Truth, and Wisdom. The Siyamo:lh's insight into these values has been deeply humbling and heartwarming. I am extremely proud to watch these young men mature. I can already tell they are going to imprint a positive impact on whichever communities they reside in for their lives! I appreciate these young men and the teachers who made this group possible.

Huychqa/Thank you !



To:lmels ye Kilaksten/ Knowledge of Peggy Janicki

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

Éy Swayel Everyone!

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



November, December, and January have gone in a flash. I am super excited to share the Salish Weave Art project when we are ready. We have had a few meetings around introduction to the project itself and further meetings around possible lessons that can be part of the project.

I was able to teach Salish Weaving at École Mission Central Elementary, Christine Morrison, and Fraserview. It is always fun teaching math with Salish Weaving. One of my recent challenges is to bring it to a K-1 class, which I have never done before so stay tuned on that development.

Also, it was quite wonderful to continue our newsletter writing across to the new Newsletter. One contribution I was able to share was my illustrations. I am a very visual learner and tend to make notes in the drawn form, so, adding that into the newsletter was super fun.

The Project of Heart (POH) Canoe in Chilliwack Teachers Association’s Teacher Inquiry Project was recently highlighted and published in BCTF’s Teacher Magazine, on page 14/15. Website link is here <https://bctf.ca/TeacherMagazineJanuary2021.aspx>. They have tied their learning to “The Secret Pocket” story my Mother, Mary O’Connal, shared about her experience at Lejac Indian Residential School.

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 changes often, FYI! Also, if you are in Learn 75 you can use this link: [https://portal.mpsd.ca/group/exwv7dh/Pages/default.aspx#/="](https://portal.mpsd.ca/group/exwv7dh/Pages/default.aspx#/=)

Lastly, it has and is my passion to work with the SWSW Library collection. So, in hopes to keep the collection up to date, Jen Lane, SWSW’s Teacher/Librarian, and I have been meeting regularly to discuss authentic books and resources. It is always challenging to find authentic Indigenous texts and resources. So, to bring those discussions and evaluations to SWSW Library has been super amazing and educational.

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:lt’el, and Leq’á:mel First Nations.

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

Ey Swayel,

Happy New Year to the students and families at École Mission Central Elementary. The students have settled in at school and have been working hard on projects in their classrooms.



Virtual Cultural Days began on January 20th and the students are enjoying online learning through a variety of Cultural Presentations including Button Blankets, Beaded Leather bracelets, the Medicine Wheel, Bentwood Boxes, Teepees, Metis Mitts, Medicine Pouches and Warrior Shields.

Here is an example of what one Grade 1/2 class made during one of the Button Blanket Presentations. They did an amazing job!!



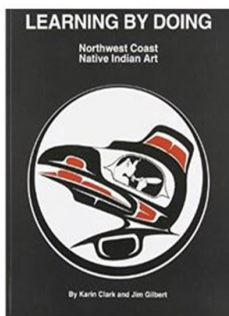
An important upcoming date for our Siwal Si'wes Indigenous Department is to support Pink Shirt Day, an anti-bullying day that takes place on February 24th. Pink Shirt day was started by Nova Scotians David Shepherd, Travis Price and their teenage friends, who organized a high-school protest to wear pink in sympathy with a Grade 9 boy who was being bullied for wearing a pink T-Shirt. They took a stand against bullying when they protested against the harassment of this student by distributing pink T-shirts to all the boys in their school. Let's help support this legacy which began in February 2007, by wearing a pink shirt!

Stay safe everyone! Please take care, wash your hands, wear your mask and practice social distancing.

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

Jasmin Wells

Ey swayel everyone!



Can't believe it's the end of January already! The end of semester 1 is now completed and we are gearing up for semester 2. This first semester was challenging for everyone to get the hang of this new process of school, I'm hoping semester 2 will be a lot smoother for not only students but staff as well!

We have been planning our Table Journey with local Indigenous artist Peter Gong which will start in March. Peter will be teaching students Indigenous drawing styles and the students involved will get to keep a drawing book. We will be creating a legacy piece for the school. Please contact your liaison if this is something you're interested in! Participation is limited!

We are still offering Indigenous homework club on days your alpha is at school. Located in room 120b from 3:15- 4:15.

Jennifer Sherif

Osiyo!

It has been another great few months at MSS, strengthening connections with the students we work with and getting to know how truly important it is to them that we're here – and vice versa, of course! The stress of Covid is ongoing, but everyone seems to be adjusting as well as they can through these hard times. It is a great thing that students will begin to attend twice a week next term so that we will get to see them more!

We are all looking forward to having local artist Peter Gong come to lead our Table Journey project in March and April. He will be guiding us in form line drawing. As an extension to this project – as the finished product will remain at MSS – students will be invited later on to transfer their knowledge and skills of this West Coast art form onto individual cedar panels. Any students that are interested in working on a panel can come see me for more information.

Beading is still being offered on a drop-in basis over the lunch hour. We will be needing help starting very soon in helping to produce beaded flower pins for grads. We need to get a lot of them made, so students can feel free to see me about this project. No beading experience is required!



Hello; My name is Ariel Gienger and I am the new Indigenous Liaison Worker at Mission Secondary School. My family originated from Winnipeg. I identify as Metis and Cree. I couldn't be happier to be a part of such a marvelous team!

A little about me: Happily married, going on five years. I am a mom of four to two beautiful girls and two handsome boys.

Riding Horses is a big part of my life, and apart of my healing. Horses also have an incredible healing power, and they help countless people every day through equine therapy. Equine therapy is emotional healing encouraged by interaction with horses. This helps people with various needs, ranging from anxiety and depression and more.

Looking forward to supporting MSS families and students :D

Riverside College—Robby Williams—Indigenous Liaison Worker

Welcome back everyone, and I hope you had a wonderful winter break. We are in full swing here at Riverside College and are excited for all the learning that has been happening within our building. We continue to push towards our certificates and learning new things each day.

Our Indigenous students have been busy, working in a variety of settings through their practicums and practical pieces through out their different programs. We have seen them flourish into professionals in almost all the trade programs here at Riverside. Our hairdressing students have recently opened the salon back up and our Esthetician students have their salon open two days a week as well. So, if you are ever in need of some services our students here at Riverside are open for business. They are some of the most dedicated and hardworking students.

Our students in our Electrical, Automotive and Community Support worker program have been busy as well in practicums and learning what it takes to be in a professional environment and are striving to accomplish there leave one certificates. Our students show each day dedication and are work.

As our students continue to hone their crafts, we are getting excited for springtime and all the new challenges to come as they go out for their next practicums.

Sincerely,
Robby Williams



Please Mark Your Calendars:

Valentines Day—February 14, 2021

Family Day—February 15, 2021

Louis Riel Day—February 17, 2021

Spring Break—March 13, 2021—March 28, 2021

Good Friday—April 2, 2021

Easter Monday—April 5, 2021



Silverdale—Marla Mulholland—Indigenous Liaison Worker

Our Enhancement Grant outdoor project has started. We have many logs on the back field of the school. These logs are being used to make benches. This is being done by the generous support of the school community. In the spring, we will be continuing the project incorporating the teaching of the medicine wheel.

Silverdale school community took advantage of many opportunities to celebrate Indigenous culture over the first half of the school year. We all had a blast celebrating Roc Your Mocs Week which was in November. It was so great to see so many students and staff participate by wearing their slippers or moccasins to school.

Furthermore, it was so lovely to see Mrs. Wamerdam's class make Christmas cards as gifts for families in the Neskantaga community. Families in this community in Ontario, Canada had to spend the holidays in hotels because of contaminated drinking water. Additionally, Mrs. Schellau's class also made some beautiful artwork of the aurora borealis courtesy of artist Michelle Stoney from Gitxsan BC. Below are some pictures of the activities mentioned above.

Currently, we are in February; time to get jammed in from snow & cold time when hands stick to things from the cold: temt'iq'és /temt'elemches, but it will soon be March which is little frog season/welek'és. Looking forward to Spring.



Stave Falls—Marla Mulholland—Indigenous Liaison Worker

Ey Swayel, at Stave Falls, we are planning for the next activity for our Enhancement and Equity Grant. We are planning a field trip to the local forest. Here we will be permitted to do a live cedar pull. This will be done with permission, along with the guidance of Hazel Gludo and Walter Knott Kwantlen community members and elders. We are looking forward to this trip. We also published an article in the local Indigenous magazine, “The Canoe” highlighting the work that was done with Kwantlen elders and community members earlier this year.

We have done many fun activities at Stave Falls to incorporate Indigenous knowledge in the curriculum. One activity we did was read the book, “The Elders are Watching” by Roy Henry Vickers. Afterwards, we did a landscape art activity. The theme of the book which emphasizes the connectedness of the land and the importance of stewardship, ties into the knowledge Kwantlen elders shared when they came and visited the school. Other learning activities we have done centered around Indigenous knowledge are inukshuks, pow wow dance, and learning centered around the longhouse. We are excited to see what the rest of the year has to offer!

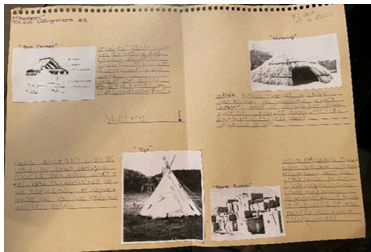


Summit Learning Centre K–9—Tiffany Bishop & Chris Gawthorn —Indigenous Liaison Workers

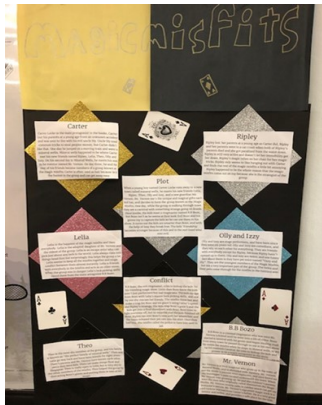
Welcome Back and Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a chance to relax and put their feet up over the winter break and spend some ‘virtual time’ with family. Now that the new year is upon us, we at Summit are looking forward to working strong and hard towards spring break!

Upcoming events at Summit include Archery for the Grade 5 and 6 students in early February and then a chance for the Grade 7-9's in the Spring. Stay tuned for some other fun and exciting hands-on Indigenous activities. We look forward to unveiling the commissioned artwork created by local Indigenous artist Peter Gong. The artwork will not only welcome students and families to Summit but deepen their connection to their school community.

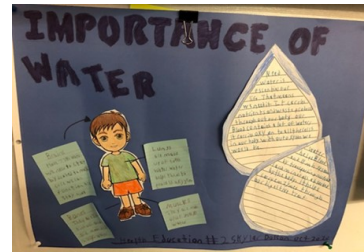
If anyone has any questions or concerns surrounding Summit, please feel free to contact us



Ryder , Grade 3



Ryder , Grade 6



Skylar, Grade 4

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



Happy New Year Everyone! How is it the end of January already, where did the time go!

Our students have been busy finishing up their courses for first semester as well as writing the Provincial Numeracy and Literacy assessments. With those now behind us we can focus on our upcoming Archery Day and our partnership with MSS on the ‘Table Journey’ Stay tuned as it is going to be an amazing project!

Just a reminder that Family Day is on February 15th and following Family Day, Pink Shirt day is February 24th. Pink Shirt Day also referred to as Anti-Bullying Day is a day where people wear a pink shirt to symbolize a stand against bullying. My hope is that we all advocate for Anti-bullying all year round and that you join me on February 24th by showing your support and wearing pink.

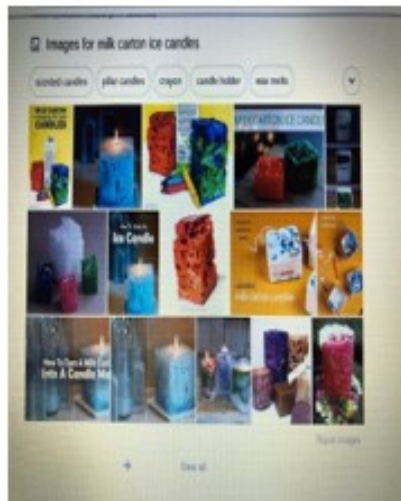


West Heights Elementary– Chris Gawthorn and Mr. Cinch—Indigenous Liaison Worker

We seem to be racing through January and we hope everyone is having a great start to 2021. Remember to be kind. Our boulders have been ordered and will arrive in February for our Harvest Garden Project. We are very excited for the school to start our creation. Once the boulders are in place we can decide the plants we want and their location.

When sunny weather arrives, we will be outside rock sitting. Classes have been working on Inukshuks. Other classes are going to be doing Ice Candles for Valentine’s Day.

Mr. Cinch is working hard and being a great support to students and staff.



Windebank—Holly Gallant—Indigenous Liaison Worker

We are now in a new year, and I am busier than an eagle after the salmon spawn, but I can't say goodbye to 2020 yet without showcasing some of the projects our students have done.

Indigenous Seasonal Decorations



A visit with The Grinch



As we begin a new year, we begin with the Seven Sacred Grandfather Teachings, as virtues taught throughout the school.

Opening the Teaching Kit, thanks Ms. Zanatta's Class!!



Love Eagle
Respect Bison
Courage Bear
Honesty Sasquatch
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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