



**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

June 2020

**We acknowledge that, as a learning partners of Mission Public School District, we humbly work, learn and play on the Traditional, Ancestral, Unceded, and Shared lands of the Stó:lō people, of Qwó:ltl'el, Leq'á:mel, Matheqwí, Sq'éwlets, who have been inhabitants of this land since time immemorial and who are still here.**

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.

These past few months have been frightening, challenging and revealing. Living, learning and being in the middle of a pandemic has created economic uncertainty, amplified life stressors and social isolation and pushed us to learning how to behave differently when in the company of those outside of our close family circles. However, during these unique times, there are positive impacts too. We have learned to connect virtually, so we can see our families and friends and hear their voices, when we are unable to be near them. We have learned to appreciate special people in our lives who are away from us physically. We have learned to enjoy the simple things, like the bright blue sky, the shining sun and the smell of damp earth. We have learned to value our colleagues and their good work. We have learned humility, to be considerate and empathetic and understanding of others' situations. We have learned the wisdom of the Elders, to reach back to them for guidance and reach out to them to support. We have learned to recognize and see equity gaps of access and opportunity, and to make subsequent changes, changes that we will carry forward into tomorrow. We have learned generosity and to recognize those in need. We have learned to be more resilient and to work around these ever-changing times of uncertainty.



I am grateful for this life I have been given to cherish, fortunate to have been gifted with this journey with SD75 colleagues and blessed to be surrounded by Siwal Si'wes families. At this time, I would like to extend congratulations to all Siwal Si'wes Indigenous graduates of 2020. We hope that you carry your culture proudly into your future! I wish you a fun-filled summer filled with love and happiness. We will see you in September 2020!

**(Photo credit: Robby Williams, Indigenous Liaison Worker)**

Mekw tel sq'eq'o  
All My Relations,

Vivian Searwar

## 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 & Hillside
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:	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)

EYÉSCHÁP TE' TEMKW'ÓKW'ES – Enjoy your Summer

This year, I am looking forward to Summer Break as much as the students are. I plan spending much of that time discovering many of those local, yet remote hiking trails students describe so well as they recall seeing or doing an activity being discussed during our Halq'eméylem classes. I've included some words and phrases students may find useful or fun to have on their next family adventure in nature.

walk, to walk = imex ori:méx

go for a walk = iméxósem

going for a walk together = ts'ilhiméxósem

see, to see = kwetslexw

tree = théqat or th'qat

lots of trees together = théqet

tree trunk = s'atets

tree limb, branch = sts'extses

any plant = elhp (names for trees end with elhp)

rock = smált

lots of rocks = smelmá:lt

river = stó:lō

creek, stream = stó:telō

river flows quietly, calm = p'ep'ákwen

riverbed = stó:lō:álá

riverbank = semlóthe

beautiful sight, view = yéw happy, be happy = xwoyiwel smile = xwló:yemes

HAPPY HIKING! Stay safe. See you in September.

## Halq'eméylem — Malila (Donna Giroux)

I will start off by saying what everyone has said, these are strange unprecedented times that include the world all the way down to a personal level.

I have been teleworking from home since the beginning of April and the events that I will include in this newsletter are ECME teacher parade, Mill Lake, and Silvercreek Wetlands.

It was a fun day being in the Ecole Christine Morrison Elementary Teacher Parade. Everyone decorated their cars with balloons and phrases of how much they were missed. I taped the words of 'Ey Swayel tel Siyaye' and pictures of animals as well as balloons and streamers. It was good to see all the kids so happy and waving.

I took a trip to Silvercreek wetland and met Judy Cathers there took pictures and talked about plants and birds and the Halq'eméylem words that I knew.

The Mill Lake experience was great with Judy Cathers at the camera we did a lot of short videos but alas the sound of Halq'eméylem was not acceptable. There will be other opportunities to do these over.

Ey cha o te' Tem Qwoqwes Mekw' wat.

Have a great Summer break Everyone.



**Albert McMahon Elementary—Jennifer Sherif—Indigenous Liaison Worker**

Eager Eagles, our after school, Indigenous-based literacy program, was being very well attended before the interruption of our school year. Eager Eagles was offering a one hour, once a week opportunity for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students alike, from grade two and up – to come together to enhance their literacy in interactive ways. The program was using storytelling, Indigenous-authored books, and visual art to achieve literacy strengthening. Thank you to all of the many students and families for your support of this program!

Last year, we were very fortunate to have local artist Peter Gong create two beautiful carved panels, Eagle and Buffalo – for the school display cabinet. Our goal was, as time went on, was to collect the Seven Sacred teachings in this beautiful art form. This year, Mr. Gong has been working on this year’s teaching of Humility, represented by Wolf, and Turtle, representing Truth. The original plan was to have Mr. Gong do some of this work in-house, but with the interruption in the school year, he will be finishing these off in his Mission studio, and will they come to us sometime in June. Please watch out for them when you visit the school. He does beautiful work!

Earlier in the year, I was able to get a \$500 grant from ISPARC (Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Council) to use towards a traditional foods and recreation after-school program. As the latter part of our school year was much different than we all anticipated, we were unable to run the program, but the funds will be available for a program next year! ISPARC is a wonderful organization, and especially now more than ever, if you are looking for some ideas for fun activities, information on healthy lifestyles such as learning more about traditional foods, etc., please visit the ISPARC website ([isparc.ca](http://isparc.ca)). It is a great resource!

I hope that you all have a great summer! Take care, stay healthy and have fun!



**Please Mark Your Calendars:**

**September 8, 2020—Schools Open—1/2 Day for all Students**

**September 25, 2020—Non Instructional Day**

**October 12, 2020—Thanksgiving**





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

I would like to welcome back all the students to Cherry Hill! We been away from our school for a while and it nice to be back. Before Spring Break Ms. Abbott and I completed our Paint Pour with the Seven Sacred Teachings art with all the Cherry Hill Students. We had the opportunity to put on a slide show for the Paint Pour art May 7 & 8, 2020 at our Drive-In movie night at Cherry Hill Elementary. I was happy to see so many parents and students who came out for the Drive In to see our Cherry Hill presentations. Ms. Abbott and I had the opportunity to show our video presentation of our Enhancement Grant at the Drive In. We have hung one painting in the school foyer with this year's animal the wolf, and the meaning of the wolf is printed on the bottom of the painting. We will continue to display the Paint Pour art in the front hall each year at Cherry Hill with the Seven Sacred teaching of the animal for the year and the teaching printed below the painting.



Judy Cathers and I started teaching the Metis Flower Bead Pins to MSS students in March, 2020. These flower beaded pins are for MSS Metis Graduates. I beaded some Fireweed Flower pins for Hero's (Nurses, Frontline Workers), these pins were created for Yukon front line workers during the Covid 19 pandemic. Judy Cathers made the teaching of the Fireweed flower and she put the pin in this pretty, little bag.



The Teepee project of the Indigenous People of the Plains and Great Lake regions was created by Deborah Krysiak grade 3/4 class. I like to wish all students a wonderful, safe fun filled summer.

### Powwow Dance



Indigenous students were given an opportunity to participate in a powwow session sponsored by Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity & Recreation Council. Students were taught by Shama Priya who taught powwow dance steps, as well as teachings about the jingle dress dance, protocols, and talking circle. It's always a privilege and honour to have Indigenous

presenters come to the school who follow the traditional teachings of their presentations; student education is enhanced by an authentic presentation.

### Archery

Grade 5/6 students were excited to have a Session of Archery with Chris Gawthorn. Students and staff greatly appreciated the opportunity.



### Inuit Art/History/Culture

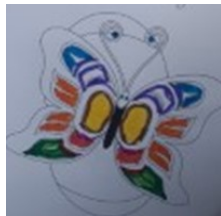


Students of Division 9 had excellent teaching from Mme Anna and Mme Wendy, learning about Inuit art, history, and culture. This was enhanced by the Indigenous Department with an afternoon of making soapstone carvings with Lyn Heyes, a local Inuit. Having Indigenous presenters in classes to present teachings passed down to them, is an important part of enhancing student education.

### Indigenous Journal/Colouring

Indigenous students received a book with beautiful colouring sheets and good teachings.

### CM Parade







# Deroche Elementary School

Alexis Christie Indigenous Liaison Worker

Ey Swayel



Ey Swayel

" Paddling Against the Current" was an appropriate theme as we entered choppy and very unfamiliar waters this year. Relying on our community, whether it was SWSW archery instruction, or our Indigenous Department Cultural Day staff, really helped us move ahead just before and during the Covid19 interruption. You can see the difference physical distancing makes in our gymnasium, as we stuck to our important habit of starting our days and events with drumming and the "Children's Blessing Song". Also, we greatly benefitted by Phil Sherwood, a Leq'á:mel knowledge keeper, coming to our school regularly to teach our students more drumming songs, and to impart his wisdom and experience from growing up in the local Stó:lō community.

Constructing our "sit circle" at the back of the school was a major highlight for our staff as we worked together to make a giant medicine wheel to help us with teaching Indigenous knowledge.



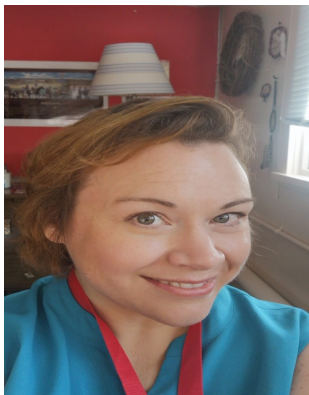
We had to cancel our Salmon Release this year, but the Department of Fisheries still came and piped into our school stream 40,000 Chum fry and as well, we were able to release fry raised in our inside aquarium. Just before Winter Break, we were delighted to see our first adult Chum entering our school grounds after overcoming many dangers to make it upstream, foreshadowing what our school would have to do three months later!



## Dewdney Elementary—Jennifer Sherif—Indigenous Liaison Worker

Before Spring Break, it was busy at Dewdney with our lunch time beading club, cultural visits in classrooms, and all kinds of fun things in between!

We were able to get an apartment-size freezer for the Indigenous Ed. Room, with the hopes of doing some healthy cooking to fill it with to share future meals together (such as the Three Sisters Soup made with Miss Biggerstaff's class). Earlier in the year, I was able to get a \$500 grant from ISPARC (Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Council) to use towards a traditional foods and recreation after-school program. As the latter part of our school year was much different than we all anticipated, we were unable to run the program, but the funds will be available for a program next year! ISPARC is a wonderful organization, and especially now more than ever, if you are looking for some ideas for fun activities, information on healthy lifestyles such as learning more about traditional foods, etc., please visit the ISPARC website ([isparc.ca](http://isparc.ca)). It is a great resource!



Local Indigenous artist Peter Gong has been working on two carved panels for Dewdney – one of Wolf, to coincide with this year's Sacred Teaching of Humility, and one of last year's, Buffalo, representing respect. Although it was hoped that Mr. Gong would be able to perform some of this work at the school, he will be doing so in his studio here in Mission, and they will be brought to the schools sometime in June. Be on the lookout for them – his carvings are incredible and they will be beautiful additions to Dewdney!

Wishing you all a wonderful, healthy summer full of fun and great family time!

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

I hope this message finds you healthy and safe! The start to 2020 has been quite different than anyone could anticipate. Here are some events that happened before the break.



Leading up to spring break Peter Gong came to ESR as an Artist in residence to work on a carving that would be displayed for the students, staff and families to enjoy for years to come! The students were able to interact with Peter by asking questions and observing him while working through his artwork.

ESR students had the opportunity to show off their research and creativity skills by working on a “Genius Hour Project” for the Passion Fair. These projects were displayed for the entire school population to observe. The projects ranged from Dolphins to Global Warming to World War II. The experience of seeing the students present their projects truly showed the hard work and dedication that was put forth. We cannot wait to see what the students will present for us next year!

During the past couple months, while we were on social isolation, we worked remotely from home through phone calls and emails to the students and families. This gave us the unique opportunity to get to know you in a different setting. I appreciate you letting us into “your home” in this way. Stay healthy and have a wonderful summer.



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

Ey Swayel,

This is unusual times that we all are adapting to. June 1st is the first time that I have been back working at Fraserview. Although many of the students are choosing to continue to work from home it is great to see the students who do attend. From the end of Spring Break, and until the end of June, I will continue to reach out to the students through email, Messenger and texting. Each staff person has designated students that we contact on a regular basis. Also, I am delivering food to students and families. As well as, I act as a liaison between the teachers and the students and their families by picking up and dropping off schoolwork and supporting them and the students in any way that I can.

This year we have about ten Indigenous students that will graduate and Fraserview is working hard on doing a 'Covid' graduation which will be held outside. I created Medicine Bags into which I put in specific inspirational word stones that best suits each student.



Thank you to Peter Gong for the beautiful 'Mother Wolf and two Wolf Pups' that will be in the Fraserview Indigenous Room. I am hoping to have a sign that says 'Wolf Den' with an explanation of the meaning of the picture for the Indigenous room. The Indigenous room is like the den that wolves raise their pups in, it is a safe place and in this place and around this place the parents, as well as, the other adult wolves care for the pups, but they also teach the pups how to live with each other so that the whole group thrives.



I hope that everyone has a safe and fun summer! See you in September!

Hatzic Elementary—Joe Kelly—Indigenous Liaison Worker

I hope this message finds you healthy and safe! The start to 2020 has been quite different than anyone could anticipate. Here are some events that happened before the break. In January, we had our Aboriginal Run/Walk for wellness. This has been a Hatzic tradition for the past 4 years. It is a great event. This year, for the first time, we held it at Heritage park. We bussed to the park and did a nature walk around the park. The ceremony was opened with a drumming song to start our event. Then we ended with bannock! During the month of February, we were fortunate to have Peter Gong come to our school and draw the seven sacred teachings on drums that grade 6 students helped make with me, one will be hung in each class as a useable teaching tool. We are hoping to keep the tradition of gifting grade 6 students with drums, we have had the grade 5 students gift the drums that they made and painted to the grade 6 students. They turned out amazing, I have added pictures below. During the past couple months, while we were on social isolation, I worked remotely from home through phone calls and emails to the students and families. This gave me the unique opportunity to get to know you in a different setting. I appreciate you letting me into “your home” in this way. Stay healthy and have a wonderful summer.



**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 students and families of Hatzic,

We hope this message finds you well during this new and ever-changing way of life. We have been working diligently to continue supporting students and families throughout this unprecedented time. Before spring break, we completed our final pieces to the work on the MMIWG subject. The Butterflies in Spirit performance was incredibly powerful and enlightened many on this current issue. Following that, teachers, students, staff and community members participated in the march we held in our gym. Our drum group opened the event with the Women's Warrior song and continued with songs in a drum circle while participants in the march completed their 7 laps around the gym. Another huge accomplishment was the annual Halq'eméylem translation contest that was held at the Chilliwack UFV campus. Our group of 5 students represented Hatzic Middle with utmost pride and gave breath to the language once again.



Since working from home following spring break, we have updated and modified our job duties to provide appropriate supports to our students and families. Our community and school have come together to provide various avenues of ongoing food support. Hatzic Middle School provides healthy, home cooked "Feel Good Meals" weekly that have proven to be a positive experience for everyone involved. The rest of the year is uncertain, but we will continue to provide ongoing support through whatever comes our way. We wish you all health and happiness throughout the summer and hope we get to see your faces in September.





## **Heritage Park Middle School—Jacob Firlotte & Katie Cochran—Indigenous Liaisons**

Spring Break was enjoyed by many, although, our community shared the same feeling of what will life look like once spring break is over? We knew Covid-19 had affected so many of our families all throughout our school district.

During the pandemic and unprecedented times, Katie and Jacob, our Raven's Perch team at Ecole Heritage Park Middle school, were able to support their students and their families in a variety of ways. While working remotely from home, Katie and Jacob connected with families through emails, texts, many phone calls and sometimes, periodically, they were lucky enough to see students face to face. Some families also received a weekly social distancing visit from Katie.

The Raven's Perch, Google classroom also became a hotspot for our students to socialize amongst themselves. The goal was to create our lunch time hang outs into a virtual form and tried to keep a daily discussion within the virtual classroom itself, Jacob would post daily forum questions to promote a range of discussions and on Tuesday's we would do our virtual hang out.

They also helped students with homework and online learning, Katie and Jacob delivered weekly paper copy packages to families where online learning was more difficult. The starfish program continued, and the backpacks turned into two grocery bags full of food and activities, Katie delivered these weekly. For the month on May, families were also able to receive homemade meals from the Cafeteria team at Hatzic Middle School. They were packed with flavor, love and a sweet treat! Our families were so grateful, sometimes holding back tears and hugs. Everyone came together, and together we leaned on each other to work through Covid-19, Pandemic of 2020.



### Hillside Traditional Academy—Alexis Christie—Indigenous Liaison Worker

I have really enjoyed getting to know you. During the months I was at Hillside we created papers medicine wheels. After Spring break, we had to change our ways, and be creative, coming up with new fun ways to engage and teach our students. I utilized my time creating Cultural Art Kits that were composed of 13 Activities. All 13 activities included all supplies needed to complete the kit. At the end of June each student will have received a medicine Wheel Drum. I hope you have enjoyed the Cultural Art Kits and getting to me, as much as I have you! I hope everyone has a wonderful and safe summer and it has been a pleasure to be part of the Hillside Family. In the coming year it is my hope for the school to make its own set of indigenous drums; each class will have the opportunity to be part of making a drum that will belong to Hillside and be utilized in the years to come.



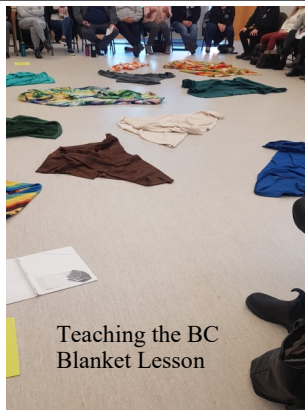
### Camielle Laslo—Halq'eméylem Teacher @ HMS

Ey swáyèl mekw' wat (Good day everyone),



I hope you are well and enjoying the sunny days. Halq'eméylem at the Hatzic Middle School and Ecole Heritage Park Middle School has been ongoing with online learning since the pandemic with COVID 19 started. I have learned a lot since this pandemic started as well. At Hatzic Middle we are using Microsoft Teams and at Ecole Heritage Park, we are using Google Classroom; therefore, I had to learn how to use both platforms to deliver my lessons. Plus, I have adapted and created new lessons to be user friendly so that students can learn and use some language at home. One resource that I have been using includes [firstvoices.com](http://firstvoices.com). This website has our alphabet, some words, and some phrases that are recorded and uploaded onto the website so that one can hear the sounds, words, and phrases. I hope everyone is doing well. Xólmthet qas te eycha te swayel! (Take care of oneself and have a nice day!)

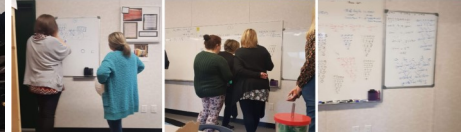
Sts'ó:wuselwet  
Camielle Laslo  
Halq'eméylem Teacher, Middle Schools



Teaching the BC Blanket Lesson



Math regional meeting with Dr. Peter Liljedeh



### Secret of the Dance: Part 1

Apr 15, 2020

Flip Code: [4cctdf14](#)

[Add Topic Guests](#)

What dance is secret?  
What does "defied" mean?  
What is an "Indian Agent"?

FLIPGRID Teaching

To:lmels ye Kilaksten/ Knowledge of Peggy Janicki to:lmels means “wisdom or knowledge” as shared by Pipe.

Éy Swáyél Everyone! I have been training, co-teaching, creating, co-planning/organizing, all through into our new model of Teaching.

Much of my work can be divided by before and after COVID-19. The work before spring break was with Equity Scan, Cultural Days at Hatzic Elementary, West Heights Elementary and Albert McMahon Elementary, school staff meetings, Teaching, Teacher-Librarian meetings, meetings with individual Teachers, fellow Mentor Teachers, and staff. The work after spring break suddenly pivoted towards online opportunities.

One of the challenges I have had is taking time to be sad about the projects I, along with others, had planned for after spring break. One of those ideas, that has taken hours of planning and preparing for was to host BCTF's Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada Giant Floor Map at Hatzic Middle School Library for much of May. So, we grieve and carry on.

Since the beginning of April it has been about Access Copyrights, Teams, Zoom, GoToMeeting, my Indigenous Mentor Teacher website, and Flipgrid! Also, as part of a MTU (Mission Teacher's Union) initiative “The Secret Pocket” we have had to work around all the ways to be.

I have continued to create and share my “Indigenous Mentor Teacher” WEBSITE! If folks go onto the “Learn 75” page—>”My Groups”—> type in the Search box “Peggy” and/or “Janicki” —> enter —> my website should pop up!

Also, please contact me for my FlipGrids. One set of FlipGrids is “Read Aloud” with Robot Beaver, Secret of the Dance, and Stoney Creek Woman.

One last note, folks may or may not have heard, BCTF had an online AGM and I have won the position on the Executive as Member at Large - Aboriginal.

Talk soon,

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 Coaches—Donald Cosens & Katy Brookes

Ey Swayel, Siwal Si'wes families,

It has been far too long since we have seen any of you “in real life”. We dearly miss seeing your children at school—their smiles and successes are the thing that keep us inspired every day. We hope that as you are reading this, you and your families are starting to feel more peace as we begin to open up our circles, and some are able to return to much-needed work. We hope you are able to step outside into the sunlight and enjoy the small blessings that are found in this difficult time; the sounds of birds calling, the clearer air we breathe, the flowers blooming and preparing to bring summer fruit.

The COVID-19 school closures have been especially hard on students transitioning to the next phase of their education. They have made it impossible for us to continue to offer our usual tours of the school, parent and student information sessions, and other activities that we usually offer to Grade 6 and Grade 9. Staff at MSS, HMS and EHPMS have been working on creating virtual tours of the school where students can explore the hallways, see some of the key rooms and “meet” some key staff. Keep watching the school websites for these videos to be posted.

We want you to know that even though we can't meet you soon to be Gr. 7's and 10's, we are starting to feel like we know them already. Over the past weeks we have met with staff at all the elementary and middle school in Mission to talk about each and every transitioning Siwal Si'wes students: who are they, what are their strengths and challenges, what will they need to be successful in their new school? It has been eye-opening and heart-warming to hear how deeply staff care about your children, and how much they know about each child's specific keys to well-being and learning. We have been putting all of this information together to share with teachers, administrators, and counsellors so that when your child comes in, everyone is ready to meet their needs.

Most of your transitioning children will not get the leaving ceremony or graduation they envisioned, and we share your disappointment. While many school districts have moved to an online only graduation ceremony, the staff at MSS have worked hard to ensure that our grade 12 students have a graduation ceremony that meets with the COVID-19 restrictions and makes sure that we reward the hard work that our graduating students have accomplished. We realize that this is not an ideal end to their formative years of education, but this is the best that we could do under the current circumstances. For the last several weeks, our student drum group has met to practice two songs that will open the ceremony, and we are proud of the strong voices of our students working together to honor the graduating members of our community.

We know these changes can bring some anxiety to students and their parents, and we want to reassure you that whatever next year brings, we are committed to making sure our new incoming students feel welcomed, safe and successful as they start the next big piece of their education. If you have any specific concerns about your child's transition to middle or high school, please don't hesitate to reach out to Katy or Don—it's what we are here for!



Katy Brookes (Indigenous Success Coach – Middle School)  
HMS, EHPM, Summit -- 604-226-4919



Don Cosens (Indigenous Success Coach – High School)  
MSS, Summit, Riverside, Fraserview – 604

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

Ey swayel all. We have entered a whole new decade, 2020. Time is surely moving on by a little faster than we may think. The students have been busy at Mission Central. Mme, Diane's class done Button Blankets.

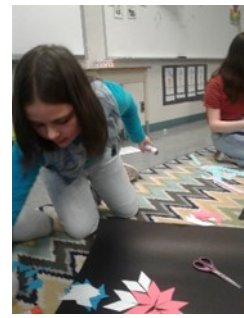
Students in Ms. Storey's gr. 5/6 class had done a great job presenting their projects.



The gr. 5/6 students in Mrs. Hjort-Olsen and Ms. Storey's class, had the great pleasure of having Ms. Gawthorn come into Central to take part in Archery. The students had a great



It has been a busy week for the Gr. 5/6 students in Mr. Sylvain, Ms. Storey and Mrs. Hjort-Olsen's classes. These students had the great pleasure of having Mrs. Tosoff come into each individual room to give a presentation on A Star Blanket that was also a math project. The students enjoyed the presentation by Mrs. Tosoff.



Mrs. Karpowicz and Mrs. Dhillons students got to do Button Blanket Dolls.



**Mission Senior Secondary Indigenous Liaison Worker Marne Ferris**

Temqoqo (June, Highwater time)

When the rivers are high with melted snow water.

Surprise, I have been working (casual) at MSS since we came back to work after spring break. It's been a few years since I have worked at MSS and it has been nice to see some old friends. What a different time it has been with working from home and calling home to check on families. I think people are more relaxed and taking a bit more time to enjoy the simple things in life and even reconnect more within each household. There is always a silver lining somewhere even in these confined times....we may have to look a little harder that's all. I really look forward to seeing so many of my old friends next year as in my new position (casual) I can go anywhere as needed lol.

One of the projects that some of the Siwal Si'wes staff have been working on is making drums. Some of our students had signed up to make them and because of the Covid 19 we were unable to have the students take part. The Indigenous Liaisons made some from home and these will be going to those students. One of the problems I had was my pup and kitty were very curious. It was a lot of fun and very meditative to make these. They are full of love and best wishes, perhaps a bit of kitty and puppy blessings as well.

As this year of really learning to work as a community comes to an end. I wish you a safe, united, relaxed and sunny summer and can't wait to see everyone in the fall!

HUGE AIR HUGS TO ALL

We are all  
One energy,  
One soul, one  
Song and one  
Drum

Richard Wagamese  
Stories and Ceremonies for a planet  
(excellent book to read this summer)

**MISSION Secondary SCHOOL - Robby Williams**

As another school comes to an end, I like to share about some amazing events and opportunities that our students had the chance to participate in. One of these in February we were able to take 30 students to UBC Aboriginal View day. During this day our students were able to see the long house, explore campus and get to view different disciplines that UBC has to offer. They were treated to an amazing lunch and a world class hoop dancer. UBC view day an event that students talked about for the rest of the year and was an amazing opportunity for our students.

I would like to also take time to congratulate the Grad class of 2020 and all the accomplishments they have achieved during this unusual year. They have made a lasting impression at Mission Secondary and I wish them luck as they move on from Mission Secondary. I also want to congratulate all of your scholarship winners.

As I conclude on another year at Mission Secondary I want to thank every staff and student of Mission Secondary for another wonderful year and I wish them all the best in the future as I move on from my time at Mission Secondary. As I won't be at Mission Secondary next year I am still in the district and wish my wonderful students and their families the best in the coming years. Thank you Roadrunner Nation for amazing memories and wonderful community.



**Thank you for an Amazing Year and I wish you a wonderful summer.**  
**- Robby**



## **MISSION SENIOR SECONDARY—Indigenous Liaison Worker—Rhea Paul**

It was an eventful and awesome year working with the students at M.S.S.! 2020 brought an unexpected event with the Covid-19 pandemic, but this year was also pleasantly eventful and involved a couple of field trips, one to the University of British Columbia and the other to the University of the Fraser Valley. These field trips provided Indigenous Students with a campus tour and information about the variety of programs they have to offer.

In February, Don Cosens and I had a lot of fun taking the students to UFV. The field trip began with a tour of the picturesque Chilliwack campus and we learned a lot about the different Trade programs that UFV has to offer. We were grateful to be provided with an amazingly delicious lunch and we were able to see the beautiful Indigenous wing of the University called the Gathering Place. UFV's Gathering Place was inspired by a Stó:lō Longhouse, and includes a recessed floor which is symbolic of our connection with Mother Earth.



The second half of our field trip continued with a tour of the Abbotsford campus. Our students completed a scavenger hunt which allowed them to explore the beautiful grounds. I highly recommend future graduates and interested students to attend either of these field trips because they provide a wonderful experience to learn about future opportunities. Since the outbreak, we've been supporting our students remotely, from home. We worked together as a team to help ensure that our students are supported in a multitude of ways such as wellness check ins, homework support and grocery drop-offs.

As this school year is wrapping up, there are exciting new projects to look forward to in the next school year, such as the carving table project. Stay tuned for more information about that.

I would like to send a huge shout-out and **Congratulate our Graduates** this year for achieving a wonderful milestone!! Stay safe, practice social distancing and all of the best to everyone this summer!

**Riverside College—Tiffany Bishop—Indigenous Liaison Worker**

June already where has the time gone!

At the end of February, Peggy Janicki joined our Hairstyling and Esthetic students for a weaving project. One of the lessons that was taught during the weaving was to have a GOOD HEART AND A GOOD MIND. This truly resonated with the students as the fields that they have chosen require you to show up and be present for the clients you are seeing. The hard work and attention to detail that was put into the projects was absolutely stunning and if the students carry those same attributes with them into the work force they will without a doubt be successful!

Over the past few months our normal was turned upside down in a way that no one could have for seen coming. With converting to online learning, zoom meetings, missing out on practicum experiences and hands on training our students at Riverside have persevered through and made it to the end!

With graduation only a few weeks away we are now getting back on the machines for training and into the studio and shops for hands on training, social distancing of course! I am so very proud of all the students and staff at Riverside for preparing our young people with the tools that they will need to succeed in their future careers!

Here at Riverside we want you to remember one thing.....**Be Remarkable!**

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

**Ey Swayel,**

**I hope all our Summit and Silverdale families are taking care during this time. Before Spring Break we had no idea that our students and families would not be returning to school, until partial re-opening in June. This has been a trying time and I hope you have felt connection and support from your teachers, principal and school staff. As the Indigenous liaison I have made many connections with parents, guardians and students whom I had not yet had the pleasure of talking to and get to know. I am grateful for this time I have gotten to know all of you. This month for Summit and Silverdale I had the pleasure of going to Peter Gong's studio for a piece of art that is now in the Indigenous room. Hopefully, as schools slowly re open you may be able to come and see it in the room. I got a chance to learn and talk with him, which was wonderful.**

**I hope all of our families have a wonderful summer as we conclude the year of the wolf in Mission School District and hope to see you next year.**



**Stave Falls—Marla Mulholland—Indigenous Liaison Worker**

Stave Falls Elementary has a focus on outdoor learning. Therefore, we had planned to continue with Indigenous education in this area with 4 cedar logs we have stored at the school. Originally, we had planned with Kwantlen First Nations and Cheryl Gabriel to have Elders come to our school and cedar carvers to carve these logs and teach the children. We had planned to have them strip and use the cedar for making items that Indigenous people had used cedar for over the years. Items such as bracelets, baskets, weaving and carved signs. Concerning the events around COVID 19 and having Elders come to the school, our project will likely take place next year. We are preparing for this by gathering resources and carving tools for this project. Since the majority of work on this project has been postponed we decided to instead this year work with Darren Charlie to make beautiful elk hide drums that will be for use for all classrooms and outdoor learning. We are also in the plans to work with Malila Giroux and Pipte Lindley to name the plants of the outdoor forest with signs in Halq'eméylem for children and staff to know and learn. We will start work on this while the weather is nice and plants are in bloom. As we come to the end of the year and summer is here we at Stave Falls hope all families stay safe and have a great summer as we conclude the year of the wolf!



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

How is it that we are in June already and summer is right around the corner! I hope that everyone has been keeping safe and healthy over the last few months. At Summit our students have continued to work on their courses with hard work and determination. Even though we were not able to connect for tutorials we were still able to connect virtually, through phone calls and emails to keep our students on track!

Currently we are getting our students ready for graduation by helping them pick up their grad gowns and picking their times for the graduation ceremony! It is such an honor that we will still be able to see our students walk the stage “virtually” and receive the recognition that they truly deserve for all their hard work and perseverance!

Summit courses will remain open until June 25th at 3pm and then will be closed for the summer! I wish you all a fantastic and safe summer break and look forward to seeing you in the Fall!



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

Well we are near the end of an interesting year with new and different ways of learning. We have all done an amazing job of coming together and supporting each other and our community. Well done West Heights Families students and staff. Cinch has missed you all too. We have been working hard to support our community delivering food, providing educational support and emotional support. We have also been getting things ready for next year. I have new puzzles, games, books and projects to work on. Exciting stuff. Our parade was amazing it was so great to see all the faces. My flower box is hung and filled with joy. I am looking forward to next year with excitement, let the archery begin. I hope everyone has a safe joyful summer. Explore the great outdoors and enjoy family time



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

*First, I would like to congratulate Ms. Condon on her assignment to Heritage Park Middle School. I wish you all the best on this new and exciting journey. I will always cherish some of the moments we have had together. Thank you for your support, and unconditional regard.*

*I've received my assignment for next year and I will be returning to Windebank. I'm looking forward to getting to know our new Principal Dr. Clarke.*

### **Indigenous Student Awards**

*I hate that we will be missing our annual awards dinner together ! I will be delivering the Grade Six's paddles and awards to your homes. The rest will be mailed out. You have all done an amazing job this year adapting to this pandemic. I think everyone deserves and award for that, especially the parents.*

### **Peter Gong**

*We were unable to complete the project as usual. Peter did however complete it from home for us. Here is our beautiful Wolf Panel representing the teaching of Humility.*



*I am very glad to be back in the school hanging out with the students that are in attendance. It feels so good to be physically moving again each day. My back, hips and eyes have been giving me trouble sitting everyday with so much screen time. I hope everyone staying at home is well and healthy, you are all on my mind every day. Please remember in between my check ins, if you need anything, call me.*

*I don't know if anyone is sure what September will look like, but I am thankful we have the choice to be back in school working with students. I hope to see many more of you all in the fall. Universe willing, we have been talking about some great activity based ideas for the enhancement grant for next year.*

## **NEED TO REACH US?**

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