



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



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

Newsletter #1

November 2019

**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. I am happy to be here on Stó:lō territory, this land rich with mountains, cedar trees, rivers and rain.

I am humbled and honoured to be working in the role of Acting District Principal of Aboriginal Education with Mission Public Schools, and fortunate to be part of the Siwal Si'wes family.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to learning partners new to Siwal Si'wes. We have Aboriginal Liaison Workers, Jacob Firlotte, Tiffany Bishop & Rhea Paul, Indigenous Student Success Coaches, Katy Brookes and Donald Cosens and the Halq'eméylem teacher at the middle schools, Camielle Laslo. We appreciate the hard work that you have already done within Siwal Si'wes and with the Indigenous students whom we all serve. To the returning members of the Siwal Si'wes family, we are grateful that you are with us for another year. This year the Elders have chosen the Wolf, or HUMILITY as the Sacred Teaching. The chosen artwork was designed and painted by SD75 student artist, Alicia Desjarlais, whose ancestors originate from Sunchild First Nation, Rocky Mountain House, Alberta. Mr. Joe Heslip, former District Principal of Aboriginal Education in Mission commissioned Alicia to paint his drum. Alicia researched animal totems and their meanings. She felt the character traits of the wolf represented Mr. Heslip. The acceptance that all beings are equal is to capture the spirit of humility. The expression of this humility is manifested through the consideration of others before ourselves. The wolf bows their head in the presence of others out of deference, and once hunted, will not take of the food until it can be shared with the pack. Their lack of arrogance and respect for their community is a hard lesson, but integral in the Aboriginal way.

Alicia says, "When I am doing an art piece, I'm in my own world, and I feel at peace. Art is very healing for me and something I've always enjoyed doing. I am very proud of the work I did on the drum. This has inspired me to carry on with my artwork. Knowing that people believe in me has made a difference in my life. Young people are watching. Believe in us and love us, it matters and makes a difference".

Thank you, Alicia for your powerful words and for giving us permission to use your exemplary artwork to represent this year's sacred teaching!

Please feel free to contact me at vivian.searwar@mpsd.ca or 604 826 6286 (extension 3320).

"All that we are is story. From the moment we are born to the time we continue on our spirit journey, we are involved in the creation of the story of our time here. It is what we arrive with. It is all we leave behind. We are not the things we accumulate. We are not the things we deem important. We are story. All of us. What comes to matter then is the creation of the best possible story we can while we're here; you, me, us, together. When we can do that and we take the time to share those stories with each other, we get bigger inside, we see each other, we recognize our kinship – we change the world, one story at a time..."

— Late Ojibwe author, Richard Wagamese



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
Deanna Dettieh:	École Mission Central Elementary
Marne Ferris:	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
Meg MacDonald:	Deroche Elementary
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)

Ey swayel mekw' wat. This year I've been appointed to teach the Halq'eméylem language at Dewdney, Deroche, Hillside Traditional, Cherry Hill, Hatzic, Albert McMahon, and Silverdale Elementary schools. An additional responsibility is to provide weekly Halq'eméylem classes for students participating in the Summit Education Program at Silverdale elementary on Friday afternoons. This program also provides me opportunity to share local cultural knowledge and offer support and guidance to reinforce and complement subject materials for these families. With the combined efforts of principal Rob Clark and Aboriginal Liaison Worker, Marla Mulholland it's become a win, win situation for us all.

I would like to take a moment to mention one of my most personally satisfying programs. This is the second year I've had the privilege of gathering weekly with many of the most enthusiastic, genuinely happy and willing group of drummers, singers and dancers at Albert McMahon. We've established a trust relationship where we're comfortable and willing to learn from each other as we simply enjoy our time together.

Each month our students have something special to look forward to. Our first major undertaking involving district wide efforts is our "Annual Orange Shirt Day". The orange shirt has become the official symbol acknowledging impacts of the Indian Residential Schools. Students gathered on September 30th/19, at Fraser River Heritage Park to remember those forced to attend Residential School, many never returning home alive as well as honour those who survived to continue their healing journey. The message on the shirts, "MEKW' STEWIQWELH SHXW-ELI" (*Every Child Matters*) needs to be read, understood, supported and defended.

This year, I was asked to drum an honour song and share some words on the contributions of Canadian Aboriginal Veterans at Hatzic Middle School's Remembrance Day assemblies. For me, this was the ideal opportunity to showcase our Indigenous student hand drummers and singers. With the support and guidance of Aboriginal Liaison Workers, Rachel Schooner and Jenny Snow, the students came together and practiced to prepare to perform two songs. This also allowed me to include Leq'á:mel First Nation, Mike Kelly who is a proud family member to a long line of military servicemen to share his story. The hand drummers and singer's performance were from their hearts. They stood proud and confident, voices loud, strong and clear, drumming was soothing and controlled. It was a proud, proud moment for us all.

"Tsel xwelchesem late lhewelep"
(*I raise my hands in thanks and respect*)

Respectfully submitted
Pipte (*Peter Lindley*)

Halq'eméylem — Malila (Donna Giroux)

Ey swayel Mekw wat

Malila tel skwix the iweseleq te Halq'eméylem. This year I am teaching Halq'eméylem at the following schools:
Mondays, ESR Elementary
Tuesday and Wednesday, part time Liaison and Halq'eméylem.
Thursday, Mission Central Elementary and West Heights Elementary
Friday, Windebank Elementary.

On September 30th, 2019, I attended the gathering at Heritage Park for Orange Shirt Day. It was a beautiful day for this gathering to remember the children and survivors of Residential School.

On October 15, 2019, I accompanied classes from Christine Morrison Elementary to Weaver Creek Salmon Hatchery where we saw the beautiful Sthoqwi.

On October 25, 2019, I attended a workshop on Using Puppetry to teach language and storytelling.

Teachings included this year have been seasons and weather, Orange Shirt Day, Stó:lō New Year, the Moon and names of the months, Halloween, and Remembrance Day and Aboriginal Veterans Day, November 8.

Le Hoy
Kwetslome



Albert McMahan Elementary—Jennifer Sherif—Aboriginal Liaison Worker

I love working at Albert McMahan and am happy to be back again as the ALW there this year!

Many classes at the school, gearing up to our federal elections, had me in to present on Indigenous governance. We looked at the diversity and similarities between Aboriginal communities/groups in what their governance looks like in action. The students had some amazing insights to share on what virtues they think effective and fair chiefs and non-Indigenous community and government leaders should possess to meet the need of their communities. We will continue in many classes to work on self-governing concepts for individual classrooms and to produce charters based on a given class's needs. We will work hard to build on our circle work throughout the year.

Albert McMahan has some very creative students, and some of them will be helping to make giveaways for this year's Winter Heat event on December 5th at the Friendship Centre. We have come up with some ideas, and are starting to put them into action! This day of community giveback is a wonderful one, started by Marne Ferris, current Aboriginal Liaison Worker at HPMS, several years ago. Two grade six students from AME will join two students from my other school, Dewdney Elementary (determined by the outcomes of a mini essay application), to go to the Friendship Centre that day to help. We have so many kind, diligent grade six students at the school, and it will be wonderful to see them put their skills and kindness to use to better the greater Aboriginal community! This is also a great time to reflect and act on this year's teaching of Humility.



Our noon hour beading club has begun, and is going great! There will be an after-school program starting soon (a letter will be sent home with details and start date), which will focus on enhancing literacy using fun activities through an Aboriginal lens, so please stay tuned.

The healthy eating program is going again at AME this year. Each week, the Aboriginal room will be equipped with healthy snacks for students working in the room, or those who pop by at recess or lunch if they need a little something extra to fill their tummies. We are very

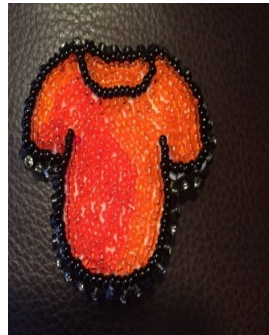
lucky to have received some donations from London Drugs and Superstore here in town to help support this program.

I can't wait to see what the rest of the school year brings at this great school!

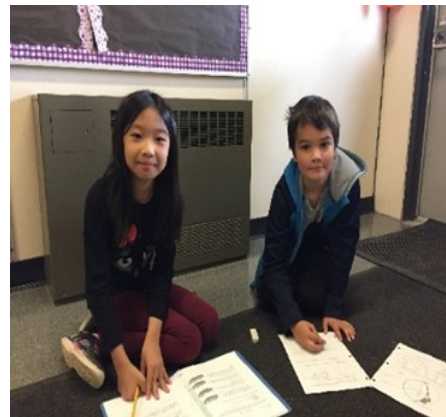


Cherry Hill Elementary School—Susan O'Soup—Aboriginal Liaison Worker

Welcome back to all our new and returning students of Cherry Hill Elementary. This year we are focusing on literacy at Cherry Hill Elementary. September and October are the months of the Wolf at Cherry Hill and the teaching is Humility. The teaching honors the virtue of the animal that are necessary for a full and healthy life. I taught in some classrooms on humility and the students were introduced to the important role the wolf plays in the teaching and Indigenous heritage through the recommend reading of an Indigenous Author. After the reading on humility, the students made a bracelet.



I have also taught on Indian Residential Schools of Canada with grade 5 & 6 classes. September 30, 2019 was our annual Orange Shirt Day March at Heritage Park. We had two classes who went to the march and some parents. Before the march, I went into the Grade 5/6 class to have students fill in a word or write a sentence on Indian Residential School on a card stock cut out of the wolf. The wolf is the animal from the Seven Sacred Teachings and the wolf means humility. The teachers took the card stock cut outs of the wolf to Heritage Park and we gathered and gave to Elders who attended the March at the park.



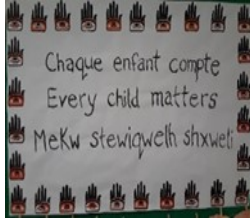
We had the honor of having Jacob Firlotte come to Cherry Hill Elementary to teach drumming & the use of cedar to grades 1 to 4. Students and staff loved having Jacob Firlotte at our school.

We had an art show on How Raven Stole the Sun by Three Crow's Production.

We also had a pumpkin carving contest for Halloween and a costume parade through our hallways and we do student recognition for Respect.

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

ORANGE SHIRT DAY – EVERY CHILD MATTERS



Christine Morrison teachers taught students regarding Orange Shirt Day and gave students opportunity to create hands-on activities in response to Phyllis' story. One of the grade 5/6 classes was able to participate in the Orange Shirt Day march which took place at Heritage Park. We would like to thank Vivian Searwar, Aboriginal Principal, for all of the work involved in organizing this event.

STO:LO NEW YEAR

Christine Morrison Elementary celebrated Stó:lō New Year once again. Malila provided teachings to classes which included the Halq'eméylem names of the moon cycles. Teaching was also given regarding why the Stó:lō celebrate the New Year in the Fall season. This is "time for things to be finished" - called "temhila'lxw". Because this season is called "time for things to be finished", now, something new is going to begin. Students also learned about Inuit Blueberry Management. Part of the celebration included dried blueberries, and baked bannock and jam prepared by some of our amazing PAC parents – it was of course enjoyed by all!



ABORIGINAL VETERANS DAY



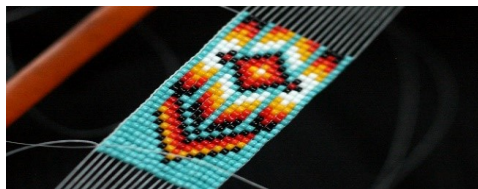
Our focus this year was the contributions made by the Cree Code Talkers. Cree code talkers were an elite unit who were given the responsibility of developing a coded system based on their language for disguising military intelligence. ***The language they had been forbidden to speak, ended up being a vital contribution in winning the war.*** Their code was virtually unbreakable. We have included a picture of the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument. There are many Aboriginal Veterans who have helped protect peace and freedom over the years. To honour them, the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument was unveiled in Ottawa in 2001. It has a large eagle on top, four men and women from different Aboriginal groups in the middle and sculptures of a grizzly bear, a caribou, a wolf and a bison around the outside. These animals have special symbolism in many Aboriginal cultures. We appreciate the tremendous contributions of our Aboriginal Veterans and the hard work and sacrifices made <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/cree-code-talkers> and <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/pdf/history/aboriginal/>

ABORIGINAL PRESENTATIONS

We would like to thank the following First Nations presenters for bringing their teachings to our school over the past few months: Florence Thomas (Elder), Lolahawk (Elder), Susan O'Soup (bead looming), Peggy Janicki (First Nations government, Blanket Exercise, and Aboriginal discoveries and inventions).



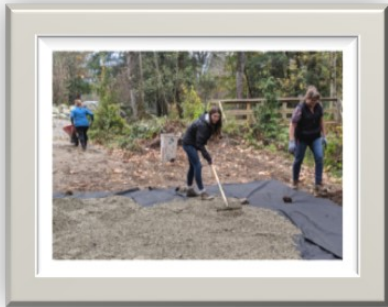
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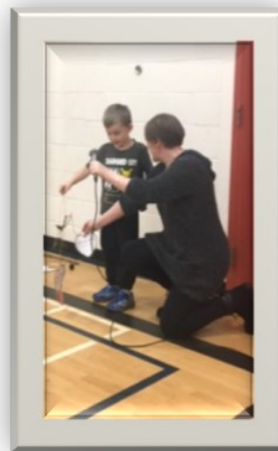
Deroche Elementary School—Meg MacDonald—Aboriginal Liaison Worker

Ey Swayel All!

The Deroche Bears have had a productive Fall thus far! We have spent quality time continuing to develop our forest and stream outdoor learning site. A local business, Mission Ridge Aggregates, kindly donated three tons of gravel to assist us in doing so. We have now officially broke ground on our Medicine Wheel Sit Circle. Staff spent a couple of hours the evening of September 24th shoveling gravel to lay the foundation of the Sit Circle. Stay tuned for further updates on the Sit Circle...next we will place the sitting stones to create the circle and place our firepit in the center



For our Celebration of Learning assembly in October we focused on the Sacred Teaching of "LOVE". A few students from each division presented at the assembly. All student presenters did a fantastic job. Next month our Celebration of Learning assembly will highlight the Sacred Teaching of "COURAGE"!



The following are ongoing activities that will be starting up again next month at Deroche:

- ◇ Culture Club will meet once a week for drumming & crafts
- ◇ Girls Group, Boys Group & Leadership Group will run weekly

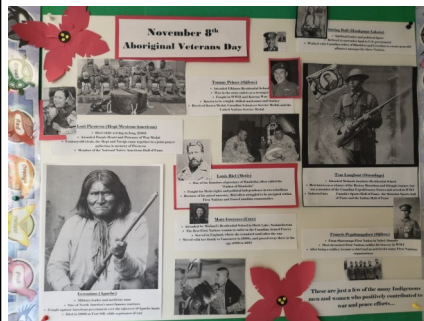
Dewdney Elementary—Jennifer Sherif—Aboriginal Liaison Worker

Osiyo.

I am very happy to be back as the Aboriginal Liaison Worker at Dewdney Elementary this year, where we have been busy! In October, we were very lucky to have 'Tipi Tony' join us again for the annual tipi raising that happens here, just past our wetlands area. Tony spoke on his tipi teachings, and was here for the whole day, with students assisting him with the busy work, from doing a grass dance to flatten the land, to placing cedar mulch, etc. Our principal Jordan Klassen was busy that day, too, doing – among other things – the weed-wacking (clearing) of the area in some very special work boots! We were very fortunate to have local Metis Elder Sam Green join us for part of the day. Sam spoke at the ceremony, inspiring us with her words on harmony, stewardship for the land, and the importance of our school community working as a family to take care of each other, the tipi and the land.



Also in October, and particularly around the Thanksgiving holiday, some classes did work inspired by Monique Gray-Smith's book "My Heart Fills with Happiness". We took time to have sharing circles, and do some art, based on the people, places and things that fill our hearts with happiness. It was wonderful to hear, as it always is, what is in the hearts and minds of our kids when it comes to their 'inner spark'.



We honoured and acknowledged Aboriginal Veterans Day both in our school-wide Remembrance Day assembly on Nov. 7, as well as with a picture board of Aboriginal people who contributed, and continue to contribute, to peacekeeping and defending others in various wars and battles. We were honored to have Sq'ewlets Chief Johnny Williams open our ceremony.

Students at Dewdney who choose to, will soon be participating once again in the Aboriginal Friendship Circle noon hour program. This year, we will be focusing on a reading club (using Aboriginal-themed content, and works by Indigenous authors), storytelling and writing, in order to enhance students' skills in fun, interactive ways. More information will be going home with students very soon

We are also gearing up for Winter Heat. This event takes place at the Friendship Centre here in Mission, and is a wonderful opportunity for students to give back to the Aboriginal community. Students will be working with me to produce giveaways for the big day, and two grade six students will be selected (based on a mini essay application) to join us that day at the centre.



Edwin S. Richards—Joe Kelly & Tiffany Bishop—Aboriginal Liaison Work-

Hello ESR family both Tiffany and myself are brand new to ESR this year, I will be at ESR Thursday and Friday and Tiffany will be at ESR on Fridays. We are looking forward to getting to know all our students.

This year we will be focussing on academics and cultural awareness.

I have been working with some of the students fixing our school drums and they are turning out great.

We are also looking forward to heaving local carver Peter Gong come to our school to do an Eagle carving project for the outdoor classroom.

Before



After



Please Mark Your Calendars:

Winter Break—December 21, 2019—January 5, 2020
Christmas—December 25, 2019
Boxing Day—December 26, 2019
New Years Day—January 1, 2020
School Opens—January 6, 2020



Fraserview Learning Centre—Leslie Jensen—Aboriginal Liaison Worker

Ey Swayel mekw'wat (good day everyone),

I am very excited to have an Aboriginal room this year. Dan Thiessen (counsellor) gifted me with a Salmon picture by the artist, Dean Heron, titled "Returning Salmon". I see this picture as a metaphor for the returning students and the role that we play in supporting them to "swim upstream" in all parts of their lives. I am very thankful to have this picture.



Some of the students that participated in carving with Peter Gong, as part of the Enhancement Grant, will be able to continue with carving this year. Larry Colby, (retired from the Abbotsford Public School District) has kindly brought in pieces of yellow cedar that are in paddle lengths, so we will be supporting the youth to carve a small paddle each. Larry has a lot of experience in working with Indigenous youth and communities, so this is a gift for the students to be able to continue to learn about carving. Lots of activities planned for this year!

Students at Orange Shirt Day 2019!



Hatzic Elementary—Joe Kelly—Aboriginal Liaison Worker

The Hatzic Elementary team works hard to give the best school experience to our students involving education as well as cultural awareness of Aboriginal people of Canada. We take great pride in learning about Indigenous teachings and ways of life. On Friday September 28th, 2019, Hatzic took part in Orange Shirt Day. The intermediate students walked to Heritage Park to be apart of a district wide event to honour Residential School survivors. It has become a time-honoured tradition of Hatzic Elementary.



Resource Elders

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

For further information please contact our office.

604-826-3103

HATZIC MIDDLE SCHOOL

Rachel Schooner & Jennifer Snow—Aboriginal Liaison Workers

Ey Swayel Mekw'wat-Good day everyone. Rachel and Jenny are both happy to back at Hatzic full time again this year. It has been a busy start to the new school year. We have been getting to know the new students and catching up with returning students. We would like to take this time to welcome Camielle Laslo our new Halq'eméylem teacher, and Katy Brookes our new Indigenous Student Success Coach.

This year has been off to a busy start. Students have participated in the yearly Orange Shirt Day event at Heritage Park. All Indigenous students were given the opportunity to attend and after the event students wrote messages on wolf cut outs that will later be used to create an art piece that will be displayed at the School Board Office.



Cans for Candy!! We traded candy for nonperishable food items that will be used to create food hampers for local elders within our community. The kids had a great time decorating boxes and helping us collect food for our elders.

Me to We organizers hosted a Sacred Circle event that taught leadership skills through an Indigenous lens and focused on connecting to the communities in the surrounding area.

Workshops were held on the territories of the Sq'ewlets, Qwó:ltl'el, and Leq'á:mel peoples.



We have started our drum group up again. We are very fortunate to have local Stó:lō teachers in our school, Camielle Laslo, and Tasheena Styran who have graciously assisted us in our drum group. Students from MSS also join us from time to time and we will be drumming as a group for our upcoming Remembrance Day ceremony to honour our veterans.

We would also like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the Snack Pack Society for providing us with healthy food for our students here at Hatzic.

We also received a \$500.00 food grant from The Mission Community Foundation. The combined donations from both organizations have allowed us to provide food for all hungry students in our school without depleting our targeted funds for Indigenous learners.

Heritage Park Middle School—Marne Ferris & Jacob Firlotte—Aboriginal Liaisons

Tempo':kw , Sts'ailes Spring Salmon. This type of salmon begins to run in October and is smoke dried in smokehouses during October.

Ey swayel to everyone reading this. Hope everyone had a safe and happy summer.

We are so happy to see all of our older students and to welcome the new.

Speaking of new, I am so happy to let you know that we have a new Aboriginal Liaison Worker whose name is Jacob Firlotte. Welcome to Jacob.

Jasmin Wells is now working in a different area of the school as a Youth Care Worker, which is great because we can still work together at times.

We have been working on ideas for this year and are looking forward to having Lisa Shepherd, Metis Artist, back to work with us once again. She will be teaching a Jigging class and giving us some Metis History. Every student in the school will have an opportunity to take part.

Jacob is from Abbotsford and appreciates being culturally involved with his Stó:lō family. Aside from athletics, Jacob enjoys family time, gardening and reading.



Hillside Elementary—Marla Mulholland—Aboriginal Liaison Worker

At Hillside we have started Halq'eméylem in full swing in Ms. Rossel, Ms. Deste, Ms. Saba, Mr. Davies, Mr. Phillips, Ms. Tiessen, Ms. Fernie, Ms. Sloboda and Ms. Lehman's classes. Pipte has a very busy morning here! Sometimes we drum, sometimes we read stories and other times we do directed drawing, but whatever we do, we always like to make it fun. Kwas Ho:y! to Pipte for all the work he does at the schools. I also went into Ms. Sloboda, Ms. Rossel, Mr. Davies and Ms. Lehmann's class to teach about the medicine wheel. Student's learned about the different quadrants and how these all work together in harmony.



Ms. Rossel's Class-Wolf Artwork & Medicine Wheels



Mr. Davies Class-Halq'eméylem booklets from Pipte and Totem Poles

To:lmels ye Kilaksten/ Knowledge of Peggy Janicki

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

Éy Swayel Everyone!

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

Summer had fishing and BCTFs' Summer Conference in Kamloops. Sadly, because of the rock slide near Lillooet, BC fishing was only open for 3 days. So, our family was unable to wind-dry salmon this year. Also, I attended the conference as the new Aboriginal Contact for Mission Teachers Union (MTU) and as a continuing BCTF Facilitator.

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

- Christine Morrison Elementary had me teach the Nlaka'pamux Blanket Lesson for Sept 20 Pro-D. It is a lesson found on BCTF's website.
- BCTF AEA PSA (Aboriginal Education Association) had me co-teach “The Gladys We Never Knew” curriculum as well as help assemble 400 swag bags!
- SWSW hosted Monique Gray Smith at the Clarke Theatre and I was so happy to help out!

BCTF +/- or MTU

- I taught at Vancouver Island University (VIU), New Westminster Secondary, and continue to write and edit curriculum “Gladys Secondary” and BCTF workshops.
- I have attended BCTF Zone Meetings in Richmond with MTU, MTU Executive meetings, and helped at MTU's World Teacher Day breakfast.

Early September, Judy Cathers, Chief Johnny Williams, and I gathered bulrush for this year's Cultural Days. It is always fun to match educational rounds with seasonal rounds.

I was able to be part of the 1st meeting with the Ministry of Education and the beginning of Mission SD#75's journey with the Equity Scan. It was also a chance to be with our own Mr. Joseph Heslip again!!!

As part of the Siyaye Yoyes Regional Committee we are getting ready for the Annual Aboriginal Youth Leadership Conference for Nov 19, 20, + 21 in Newlands Golf + Country Club in Langley.

I've been teaching in classrooms a role-drama history lesson around Governance in Christine Morrison Elementary, Seven Sacred Teachings at Stave Falls, Fishing at McMahan, and Indigenous Contributions at Christine Morrison.

The big news for Teachers is I have created and shared my “Indigenous Mentor Teacher” WEBSITE! Which I am finding to be fun and terrifying at the same time! I had sent out an email to Teachers and Teacher-Librarians. If folks go onto the “Learn 75” page they can search for my website very much like Vivian Searwar has the “SWSW Family” website.

There is more news, but so small a space!

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:l'tl'el, and Leq'á:mel First Nations.



École Mission Central Elementary—Deanna Dettieh—Aboriginal Liaison Worker

Well the hot days of summer have gone, and our spectacular fall has arrived. The leaves are changing color and the air is crisp. It has been busy here at Mission Central with putting our heads down and getting right to work. And when we bring our heads up to look around in wonders of where September and October have gone. Students and staff have been busy beavers getting so much done in the two months we have been in school.

In Mme, Anais, Mme. Destouches and Mrs. Dhillon's class were learning about patterns and how patterns are found everywhere. The students got to see how Indigenous cultures uses patterns in every day uses. For example: earrings, neck chokers, beautiful Regalia's while performing, weaving, and artwork, to name a few items. These students got to make a patterned keychain.



With the start-up of Halq'eméylem here at Central, all students look forward to having Malila come into their classrooms. Students are given their names in Halq'eméylem, learn about the four seasons, the different animals around us, Halloween and Remembrance Day to name a few topics all taught in Halq'eméylem.



Students enjoy having to come into the Cultural Room to hang out and either make a simple keychain, play a boardgame, or talk with others about that about what is happening around them. It is a joy to have the many different faces come in to say hello.



Halloween was a ghoulie, spooky treat. Students digging into pumpkins. Some students got to estimate how many seeds & counting how many were actually in the pumpkin. Others got to guess the flavour of the pumpkin seeds, baked in various flavours.



Strong Start had a Chefs Cook-off with different Cultures. Greek, Italian, East Indian, German to name some of the different dishes.



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

Welcome back to the 2019/2020 school year. This year Robby Williams, Rhea Paul and Sukhi Pangli have the honour of serving the students here at Mission Secondary as the Aboriginal Liaison Workers. Don Cosens is new this year and he is the Indigenous Student Success Coach for the students at MSS/Summit (10—12), Fraserview and Riverside. The bulk of his work will be at MSS. Primarily, Don's work will focus on student academics with the main goal of increasing graduation success rates for indigenous students. It has been a busy start to the year for us and our department. We would like to share the activities we have been involved in.

We started this year off with Every Child Matters Walk. During this event students from all over the District come together at Heritage Park, the former location of Saint Mary's Residential school. Our students heard from dear Elders about their experiences in residential schools, how it has impacted their families and lives today and why reconciliation is so vital to our people.

We would also like to respectfully mention that the wonderful Elders-in-Residence program has continued this year. We are happy to share the opportunity to have Bill and Priscilla Wells in our building two days a week, working with our young people, sharing their wisdom and making a real difference in the lives of our students.

Our students had the opportunity to hone their leadership and teamwork skills during the Sacred Circle, ME to WE Field trips that took place from October 2nd to October 4th hosted by Kwantlen, Leq'á:mel and Sq'éwlets First Nations. The students actively participated in interactive workshops and cultural teachings on the traditional, ancestral, Unceded and shared territory of the Kwantlen, Leq'á:mel, Matheqwi, Qwó:ltl'el and Sq'éwlets First Nations. They shared their knowledge, demonstrated their teamwork skills and learned about new ways to communicate what they have learned about themselves and others to increase their positive impact in the world. These leadership workshops and programming were developed by community members as well as our districts' partnership with ME to WE. We have much gratitude and appreciation for the delicious lunches that were provided by each local band that we were visiting. The students appeared to feel empowered as young leaders within our communities and shared some new ideas of how they were going to create change. At the end of the day, the students communicated that they enjoyed spending the day connecting and learning.

We have several events coming up for our students that we are very excited about. From November 19th-21st, students will be at the Newlands Golf and Country club for the Strengthening the Circle Leadership Conference. Our students have the opportunity to learn about Indigenous culture through guest speakers, workshops, and spending time with our Elders and teachers.

We are excited to see what this year will bring and look forward to working with the amazing students at Mission Secondary. If you have any questions, concerns, comments or partnership ideas, please do not hesitate to contact any one of us at any time.

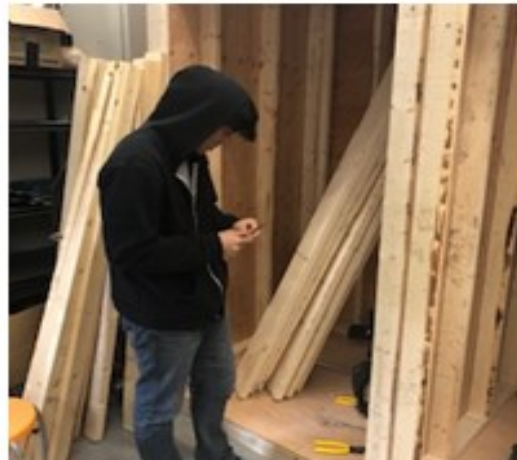
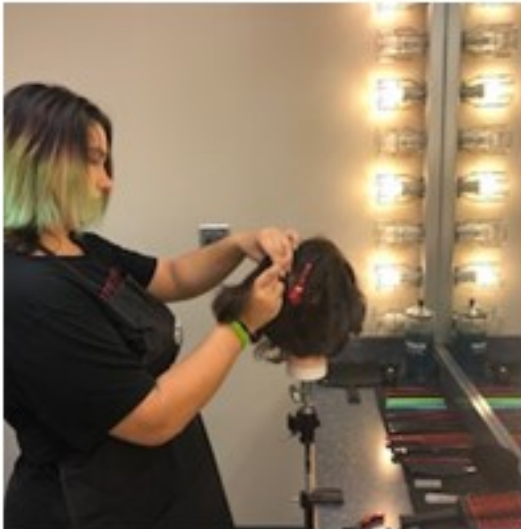
Kindly,
Robert Williams, Sukhi Pangli, Don Cosens & Rhea Paul!



Riverside College—Tiffany Bishop—Aboriginal Liaison Worker

Welcome Back to what is a great school year thus far and what will continue to be! My name is Tiffany Bishop and I am new to the Mission School district this year but have previously worked in the Kamloops/Thompson School District for six years. I am very excited to be a part of the Siwal Si'wes family and I look forward to seeing what wonderful things our students and their schools are doing throughout the year.

Here at Riverside College the students are enthusiastic about their programs and determined to succeed!



We are continuing this year with the Seven Sacred teachings artwork that has been sketched and painted by Mr. Peter Gong in the main hallway at Riverside! Along with many other exciting things to come.....stay tuned!

Silverdale—Marla Mulholland—Aboriginal Liaison Worker



Drumming in Mrs. Taylor's class

At Silverdale, we started the year with some wolf cardstock activities. In Ms. Warmerdam and Ms. Taylor's classes we learned about the wolf and the 7 Sacred teachings! We have also started Halq'eméylem with Pipte in Mrs. Warmerdam, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Schellauf and Mrs. McGowan's class every Friday! All of the students are so excited to learn Indigenous content in their classes and they love drumming! In Mrs. Warmerdam and Mrs. Taylor's class we also learned about talking sticks and how they are used by First Nations people. Lastly, in Mrs. Taylor's class we learned about the Medicine wheel and what it symbolizes.



Stave Falls—Marla Mulholland—Aboriginal Liaison Worker



At Stave Falls elementary we are starting to incorporate Indigenous knowledge into the classroom. In Mrs. Glasgow's class we learned about the Medicine Wheel and made beautiful suncatchers.

In Ms. Gregson's class we learned Halloween words in Halq'eméylem and coloured in our Halq'eméylem books.



Summit Learning K-9—Marla Mulholland—Aboriginal Liaison Worker

At Summit Learning Centre we have Halq'eméylem every Friday afternoon with Pipte. The Summit students enjoy drumming and learning the language. We also have a drum workshop coming up in December in which students will be making drums with Darren Charlie. We are looking forward to it.

Directed Drawing of the eagle with Pipte



Summit Learning—Tiffany Bishop 10-12—Aboriginal Liaison Worker

Welcome back everyone to another exciting school year! We are in Portable 7 on the Mission Secondary School campus. Art Smarts is off to a great start with a ton of fun and exciting activities taking place including a field trip to Fort Langley and a Caving adventure. Tutorials are available to our students on Mondays 10-11 am and 2-3pm and on Thursdays from 2-3pm. Leading up to Christmas we will be having weekly themed tutorials to get everyone in the Christmas spirit!

Our Trick or Treat tutorial was a huge success with pumpkin decorating and a pizza lunch.



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

The start to this year has been fast and furious. With students, we created Buffalo for our show case. Orange shirt day was a wonderful school event including a community walk at the school. Classes are again working on the Seven Sacred Teachings throughout the year. The school has developed its Core Values, **KIND** - Hummingbird, **SAFE** – Otter, **RESPECT** – Whale, **RESPONSIBLY** – Squirrel. These are worked on daily. Some classes have done bent-wood box work and we are in the process of starting **The Sense of Belonging Mosaic**. On Thursdays Halq'eméylem is in full swing with Malila.



Windebank—Holly Gallant—Aboriginal Liaison Worker

Highlights:

Thank you, **Dallas Yellowfly** for the amazing, interactive story telling of How Raven Stole the Sun. It was a fabulous afternoon.



Thank you, **Madelaine McCallum** for sharing the world of Metis Jigging and First Nations Pow Wow with us here at Windebank. We love your energy and style! Our school really enjoyed the days you visited.



Peter Gong will begin the installation of the Seven Sacred Teachings Animal Symbols in the new year.

The year has started with a successful bang, and we are close to 70 enrolled Aboriginal Students.

Thank you, **Alison Sward** for being my Aboriginal Teacher Connection/Liaison to the staff. This is such a great idea to have someone share information when I cannot attend meetings.

Mitakuye Oyasin,

Holly Gallant



NEED TO REACH US?

Please call:
Phone: 604-826-3103
Fax: 604-820-2850
marcy.buell@mpsd.ca
Website— *http://aboriginal.mpsd.ca*



SD75 Siwal Si'wes Aboriginal 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 Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement?**

Come and join us!
**We meet for lunch every second
Tuesday of each month in the large
boardroom of the School Board Office,
33046 4th Avenue at 11:30am.**

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