



**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

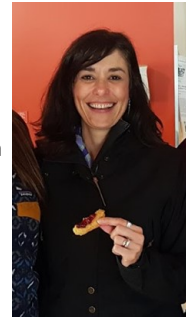
**Newsletter #1**

**November 2020**

**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. Jen Lane has joined us in the Siwal Si'wes Library once a week, as Siwal Si'wes Teacher-Librarian. She comes with a plethora of knowledge about resources and ideas on how to share the library's authentic Indigenous resources with the SD75 community. Jasmin Wells has returned to the Siwal Si'wes Family as Indigenous Liaison Worker. Jasmin currently supports students at MSS. We also welcome Glenda Scrimshaw, who is currently working as a teacher in the Band Outreach Program, offered onsite at Sq'ewlets and Leq'á:mel, providing educational services to on reserve students. Welcome Jen, Jasmin & Glenda!



Siwal Si'wes has also settled into our new home. We are sharing a space with Fraserview Learning Centre, located at 32444 7th Avenue. We have four rooms total, Room 101 the Office, Room 102 the Library and Indigenous Mentor Teacher space, Room 104 the Meeting Room equipped with a beautiful medicine wheel table, projector, fridge and other small appliances, and Room #105, the Cultural Supply Room. We are looking forward to a time when Siwal Si'wes students and families and SD75 staff can enjoy these spaces more freely.



The 2020 2021 Sacred Teaching chosen by the Siwal Si'wes Indigenous Advisory Council is the 'itqel, or honesty, taught to us by Sasq'ets or Sasquatch/Sabe. Coast Salish Artist, Ovila Mailhot created this year's image. Sasq'ets is believed to be closer to the spirit world than humans. It is believed that Sasq'ets used to walk among humans to remind us of the Creator's wish for us to remain true to our natural forms. Sasq'ets reminds us that we must be truthful to who we are. Honesty is speaking and acting truthfully, and thereby remaining morally upright. It is only by being honest that we can have integrity. Actions such as being true to our spirit and accepting who we are will guide us in being honest. To be truly honest is to keep the promises one made to the Creator, to others and to oneself. The Elders say, "Never try to be someone else; live true to your spirit, be honest to yourself and accept who you are the way the Creator made you." In terms of COVID-19, being

truthful and true to yourself, the reality is that COVID-19 is real and we want to take measures not to spread the virus to family members, friends, acquaintances or those who we do not know.

I am grateful that I wake up every morning and have a place to work, surrounded by good friends and learning partners.

Although the pandemic has amplified challenges that already were, and created challenges that weren't, it has allowed us to reflect on what is important in our lives. It has also created a space for us to clearly see inequities that exist for Indigenous students, for families and for staff. As we move into Year Two of the Equity Scan, we will be scanning current processes, policies and practices posing barriers for Indigenous learners. You can find a digital copy of the current Equity Scan on the Siwal Si'wes website. Ovila Mailhot, Coast Salish artist created this beautiful image reflective of the collective commitments shared by you, Indigenous students and families, by members of the Indigenous community and local Indigenous organizations, and SD75 Staff and Board Members. Kwas'hoy for sharing your voice with us!



Mekw tel sq'eq'o  
All My Relations,

## SIWAL SI'WES STAFF

### DISTRICT PRINCIPAL

Vivian Searwar

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Marcy Buell

### 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
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'éwlets
Peter Lindley (Pipte):	Halq'eméylem Language & Culture
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
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

**Albert McMahon Elementary—Robby Williams—Indigenous Liaison Worker**

Hey Swayel and welcome back everyone to a new year and new adventures to be had. I want to start by introducing myself as I am new at Albert McMahon this year. My name is Robby Williams and I am moving over from Mission Secondary this year to working and will be working at McMahon on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. I am excited for this new opportunity and all the fun things we will get to experience here at Albert McMahon.

I am very excited to be able to work at McMahon and our school has been buzzing with activity since we came back in September. Some of the events I want to highlight that our department have been apart of include, Orange Shirt Day, where our students within their learning pods, were able to walk around our track four times each, to bring awareness to Residential Schools and all affected by them. We have also had the opportunity to have Susan O'Soup come into two of our classes virtually to do Spirit Stones with our students. The students talked about how this was the best activity they have done all year. I want to give a big thank you to Susan for all the work she did with this presentation. Lastly, I have had the pleasure of sharing in our classrooms through story and presentations, about our culture and ways of being. It has been a true honor working with our incredible Indigenous students.

We look forward to many more presentations and projects to come. To highlight a few, we will be doing the starting steps to have a mural done in your gym by a local Indigenous artist, as well as continuing your Seven Sacred Teachings panels and the teachings that go with it. Lastly, we look forward to making a collage with all the feet we created as part of our Orange Shirt Day festivities.

In closing, as we go into this winter season, I am excited for the buzz of the holidays and all that we will experience with our students as we go through the winter months. This is truly my favorite time of year.

Once again, I am grateful to be at Albert McMahon this year and if you have any questions or want to reach out to me, I encourage you to email me or call me at the school. I look forward to continuing the great work we are doing and working with the wonderful Indigenous students of Albert McMahon.

Sincerely,

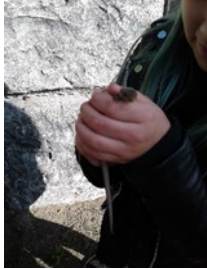
Robby Williams



## BAND OUTREACH SCHOOLS

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

The year is flying right by us, seems like yesterday we were all quarantined in our homes, speaking over the phone or facetimeing with our friends and families. We have come so far! Welcome Glenda Scrimshaw, Siwal Si'wes Band Outreach Indigenous teacher. The students at the Band Outreach Leq'á:mel First Nations have enjoyed attending this program. Everyone knows each other, making it more welcoming.



Students enjoying the outdoors. Bella with a lizard that she let go once she showed everyone.

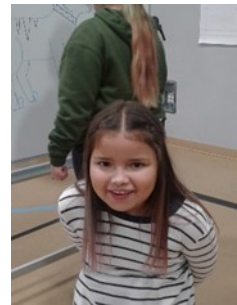
Students taking a walk on Leq'á:mel First Nation lands.



Halloween was great having Rachel and Jennifer come to see their students, whom were very happy to see them!



Anastasia and Bella working on their Christmas beading project.



### Band Outreach at Sqewlets ----- Joe Kelly—Indigenous Liaison Worker

I am very honored to have the opportunity to be a part of this amazing new program. The students are doing awesome and really enjoying coming to the class, thanks to their teacher Glenda Scrimshaw who is doing an amazing job working with the students.

For cultural work, we made dream catchers, medicine pouches and beaded keychains. I'm enjoying working with and getting to know the students and I'm looking forward to continuing working with this group.



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

This year is not the same as other Septembers at Cherry Hill Elementary, but nevertheless we are happy to be back at school. I taught Orange Shirt Day in some classrooms where the students learned about Indian Residential Schools and why we wear Orange Shirts on September 30th. This year's Seven Sacred Teaching is the Sasquatch; which means Honesty. Ms. Abbott and I have started the Enhancement & Equity Grant project.

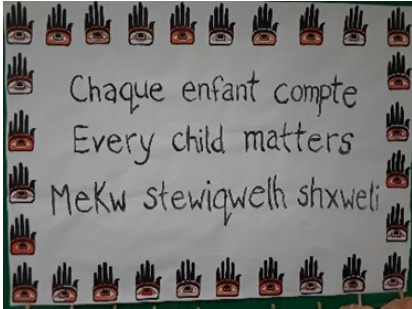
Staff put tables at the main entrance of the school for any students that brought carved pumpkins in for the Halloween contest. The winners were announced at the costume parade/assembly.

We had a fun Halloween assembly with the students coming into gym one class at a time to pass by or dance around for the Zoom camera. It was a fun day. The Cherry Hill Indigenous Beaders Club has been up and running since the beginning of September. Below are some samples of their bead work. There have been several projects completed and those who had their poppies made on time for Remembrance Day were able to wear them. Some of the poppies were given to staff with a request that they go to the local Legion as donations to the Poppy Fund for Veterans. The Indigenous Beading Club presented Mr. Sliziak with a beaded poppy. I taught the life cycle of the salmon with the students doing a directed drawing of the salmon. These are only some of the events happening at our school. It's been a super busy time since September but fun being back with all the students at Cherry Hill Elementary.

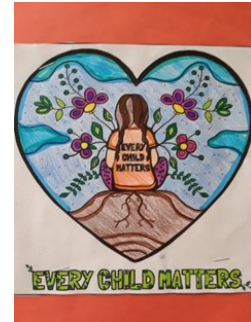


**École Christine Morrison Elementary** – Malila (Donna Giroux) Indigenous Liaison & Halq'eméylem teacher and Judy Cathers, Indigenous Liaison & Cultural Presenter)

## ORANGE SHIRT DAY – EVERY CHILD MATTERS



Students learned about the message of Orange Shirt Day, and were able to participate in various learning activities.

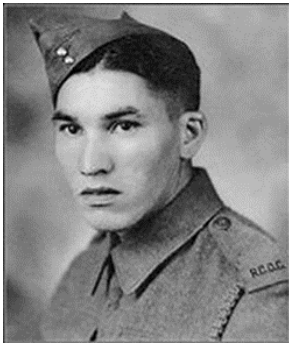


## STO:LO NEW YEAR

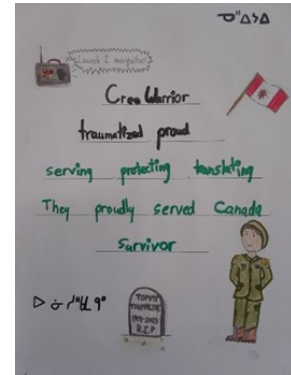
Christine Morrison Elementary celebrated Stó:lō New Year once again. Malila's teachings were passed on to classes which included the Halq'eméylem names of the moon cycles. Teaching was also given regarding why the Stó:lō celebrate the New Year in October. This is "time for things to be finished" - called "temhila'lxw". Because this season is called "time for things to be finished", now, something new is going to begin.



## INDIGENOUS VETERANS DAY

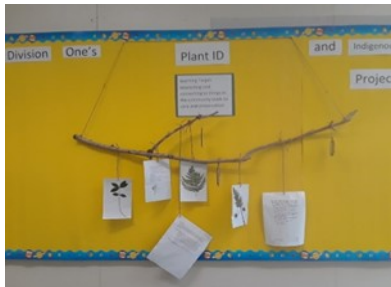


Students were taught about Indigenous Veterans Day: Stories of Honour and Heroism. Ms. Chris Schaufert, CM music teacher, orchestrated a beautiful virtual assembly honouring Veterans. She included First Nations teachings, and drumming, singing, and Halq'eméylem were also included in the assembly. Students also learned about the Cree Code Talkers, namely, Charles "Checker" Tomkins, and various activities were included. We appreciate the tremendous contributions of our Veterans and the hard work and sacrifices made.



## OTHER ENHANCEMENT LEARNING / ACTIVITIES

Boys Club with Jacob, Indigenous Plant Identification with Ms. Djordvic, masks donated to Indigenous students.



**Deroche Elementary School—Alexis Christie—Indigenous Liaison Worker**

Ey Swayel Everyone

Orange Shirt Day September 30, 2020

This September we came to school feeling uneasy about how this year's activities would take place.



At Deroche we have taken these hard times and turned them into fun activities and made the best of our new normal.



For Orange Shirt Day we made paper Orange shirts and went on march to the community Access Centre. Our Orange shirt day march was a great success ending in so many of our students smiling and engaging in this very important day. We raised our awareness while remembering the past.

For Remembrance Day we made Metis Dot Art Poppies

Hot Lunch

Hot Lunches Look a little different this year at Deroche.

We came up with a creative idea to provide Hot lunch school wide. Once per month each class receives a Hot meal at



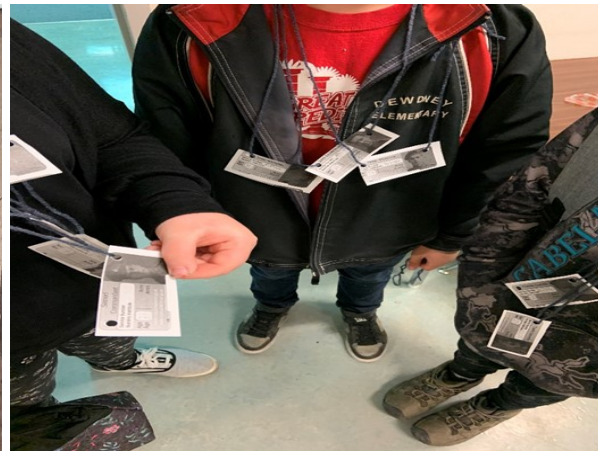
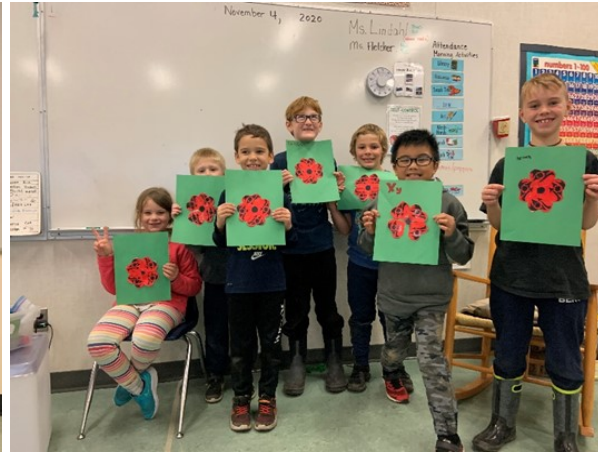
no cost to our families. We took this opportunity to engage with our students to help prepare the food while building connections.

In the Coming months we are planning on creating a Deroche Indigenous Cookbook and are interested in your local indigenous recipes.

## Dewdney Elementary—Marla Mulholland—Indigenous Liaison Worker

We, at Dewdney will be having Peter Gong come to the school in the Spring as part of our Enhancement and Equity Grant. He will be creating another two pieces of artwork for the Sacred Teachings for our school. The focus will be on Sasq'ets and the Turtle. Sasq'ets teaches honesty and Turtle represents wisdom. Ms. Lindal and I will also be working together on an outdoor mural project and after Christmas the school will be starting an Indigenous lunch cooking program funded by an ISPARC grant.

At Dewdney Elementary on September 30th for Orange Shirt Day, all the teachers invited me into their classrooms for sharing stories and teachings about residential schools. It was a very busy day and I was so happy to be able to get to know students and teachers, as this is my first year at Dewdney. I also got to pose in front of the infamous Wall of Wonder! Additionally, I was invited into classes for Indigenous Veterans Day and I got to do one lesson out in the DEN!





**Edwin S. Richards—Joe Kelly—Indigenous Liaison Worker**

I would like to start off by saying the ESR staff have been doing a great job to keep this a safe and successful transition for our students during the covid-19 restrictions that we are facing this school year. The students have also been doing a great job with these changes and are having a successful school year.

I've enjoyed getting to know the students at ESR this year and I'm planning on getting them to help me put designs on and paint our school drums this year. I would also like to say thank you to all the staff and students that are doing their part to keep everybody safe this year.

My name is Glenda Scrimshaw, I am from Treaty 10 territory in Northern Saskatchewan. I recently moved to British Columbia in 2019. I have a passion for Indigenous education as well as teaching and learning. My educational journey has allowed me to be a part of the Band Outreach school. I am deeply humbled and honoured to be a part of such a beautiful program.



The Band Outreach school has been an amazing experience, the students and community have been so welcoming. Currently, the students are working on adjusting to the digital world through their computers and utilizing the digital world as a part of their educational journey. We are learning many different platforms meanwhile staying connected as much as we can when we see each other.

Out in Sq'ewlets the students took me out and showed me their community, we discovered many eagles and went on a search for Eagle feathers. A few students showed me some traditional medicine that was found deep in the forest while we went on our walk, in search of feathers.

Out in Leq'á:mel we went on a nature hunt, we picked significant things that stuck out to us, from here we derived a creative story about the forest around us. As we sat and discussed what we had found, we realized that everything has a story, as do each of us.

Covid19 has brought us together, to walk and share our stories together. Looking forward at the next few months we hope to create our digital story to share with you all. Thank you for this humbling opportunity to learn, to grow, and to work together.



Mahsi Cho all my relations,  
Glenda Scrimshaw

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

Ey Swayel,

School has been very different on many levels for everyone.

In September, I was able to meet most of the students and their caregivers at our intake meetings. This year we have a lot of new students which we have all welcomed. The staff and students have adapted very well to the new regulations and routines at the school. Bruno, the resident therapy dog was able to return in late October to Fraserview to the delight of the students. Bruno was greatly missed.

There are a few students who have chosen to have lighter schedules and do their schoolwork from home. I am in regular contact with them and I drop off and pick up schoolwork from some of these students.

I am doing cultural activities in the classrooms. In September, we did medicine bags. This week and next week we will be doing loom bead bracelets. The teachers enjoy doing the activities as much as the students.



Fraserview has set up a coffee and snack station in the gym for the students to use in the morning and on their breaks. In the mornings I and other staff 'hang out' to greet the students and check in how they are doing. Each Wednesday, three older youth from the community bring in boxed breakfast for the students. For the rest of November and December I will continue to do cultural activities and connect with the students.

Be safe and I wish all the best for everyone!

## Hatzic Elementary—Jacob Firlotte—Indigenous Liaison Worker

Ey Swayel, P'al-Lokwtel tel skwiw. Hello, my name is Jacob and I'm grateful for the opportunity to be the Indigenous Liaison Worker with Siwal Si'wes at Hatzic Elementary. I grew up in Abbotsford and my maternal lineage is from the nation of Sts'Ailes which is a short lovely drive east of Mission. My ancestors have called this area home since time immemorial and the people here are my passion. I'm here to support my students and staff as best I can, in as many ways as I can.

The Indigenous students at Hatzic have done an amazing job acclimating to all the new Covid protocols ! Given everything, the students have done really well academically! They are supplemented with mental and emotional in class support since there is less group activities allowed with Covid protocols. With limited group sizes for activities, students have done an abundance of small activities such as beading, drawing, mindful meditations, gardening, and even helping to sanitize classroom door knobs for the safety of everyone! It is very exciting to see the students grow into Siyamo:lh (little leaders), truly inspiring.

Teachers throughout the school held amazing activities to help students engage with Orange Shirt Day, learned where it started, what happened, and how we need to move forward. It was satisfying to hear that a lot of student knew about residential schools and that they knew one was only a few kilometers away (St. Mary's).

As the year rolls on, students will gradually learn more about the philosophies of the Stó:lō people with a gradual introduction of teachings in class.

Older Students will also have the opportunity to practice archery in the new year with the help of Chris Gawthorn, a fellow Siwal Si'wes Liaison.

Siwal Si'wes is the Indigenous department in the Mission school district and means "Our Forefathers Teachings" in Halq'eméylem. Halq'eméylem is an Indigenous tongue of what we now know as the Fraser Valley.

Later on, all students will be able to witness Skokaylem, a renowned Tsleil-Watuth artist, craft an amazing piece of work for the school. A recent work Skokaylem completed was in downtown Vancouver for the Vancouver Mural Fest, providing medicine for Indigenous people in the downtown east side who are heavily entrenched in their own traumas in conjunction with intergenerational trauma. Students will get to learn first hand from this highly sought after, talented, and dedicated leader and artist.

It's going to be an awesome year and I'm thankful for all the support from staff, students, and their families !

Take care and have a great day.



### Resource Elders

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

For further information please contact our office.

604-826-3103

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

Ey swayel mekw'wat, good day everyone. We are happy to be starting off the school year in house. With the last school year finishing in such a different way, we sincerely appreciate being able to see students and staff in person!



The photos above are from Orange Shirt Day and our Every Child Matters display. Normally we would all be marching outside together in solidarity to honor residential school attendees, but as we know this year is a little different. This year, we created a display, had Sts'ailes drumming and singing, and held conversation surrounding residential schools, the sacred teaching of Honesty/the Sasq'ets and held a moment of silence.



The next photo shows our new way of holding our drum group, outside in the lovely Indigenous garden Lyn O'Grady works tirelessly on. We had Johnny Williams, Chief of Sq'ewlets, be our drum group mentor and teach us an honour song in which we will continue to practice. The photo above shows off some of the amazing bead work students are consistently working on. We have had lots of fun with the new looms and practicing our traditional Metis beading.

## Heritage Park Middle School—Katie Cochrane & Sukhi Pangli—Indigenous Liaisons

Ey Swayel students and families at Ecole Heritage Park Middle School.

We hope this message finds you well - the startup and back to school for this year is something none of us have ever experienced before or thought we would have to go through. We wanted to start off by giving a shout out to all the students and say job well done, you all have had to re-learn what going back to school means. We are amazed by your strength and how well you all have adapted to our new normal due to COVID.

We have an Indigenous Liaison Worker who has joined our team at Heritage Park this year. We are so grateful to have Sukhi join our team. Sukhi Pangli comes to us from Mission Secondary School. She has been a part of the Indigenous Education Department for the last three years. Sukhi's assertiveness, organizational skills and calm demeanor will be a great addition to our school, we know she is going to make so many new connections with our students this year.

The beginning of the new school year has allowed us to get creative and adapt to new ways of doing things here at Heritage Park Middle. On Orange Shirt Day, we really wanted to make sure we shared the meaning of the Residential school system and history of our community broadly while including the whole school. Our Indigenous Student Success Coach created a teaching plan to share with our teachers as well as students. We had a chance to display their thoughts and artwork on paper. A beautiful art piece, that we've called "Orange Shirt day Hands" was created. Every single student at Heritage Park Middle had a chance to take part in this project. With the pieces created we were able to make three beautiful banners that were displayed in the foyer at our school. We want to thank you all who took part on this special day.



We have created a safe space in the Ravens Perch where all students are welcome to come and work with the Indigenous Liaisons if needed. We have also been providing hot lunch and snacks to students daily. Next month we plan to welcome the new students in Grade 7 with a luncheon. This will help us connect with new faces and give students the opportunity to connect with one another. Due to COVID some of our winter plans may look different this year. We are always looking for creative ways of incorporating culture while maintaining safe protocols.

We also wanted to take a moment to thank all parents and staff at Heritage Park for being understanding and patient with us and the students this year with all the changes we have had to make.



## Hillside Elementary—Jacob Firlotte —Indigenous Liaison Worker

Ey Swayel, P'al-Lokwtel tel skwiw. Hello, my name is Jacob and I'm grateful for the opportunity to be the Indigenous Liaison Worker at Hillside Traditional Academy. I am at Hillside Academy every Thursday. I grew up in Abbotsford and my maternal lineage is from the nation of Sts'Ailes which is a short lovely drive east of Mission. My ancestors have called this area home since time immemorial and the people here are my passion. I'm here to support my students and staff as best I can, in as many ways as I can.

Our Indigenous students at Hillside have done a seamless job transitioning throughout all the new Covid protocols, it is amazing to see them grow into Siyamo:lh (little leaders). The students held great discussions in class for Orange Shirt Day. They discussed where it comes from, why it's important, and how we can move forward. Students have also been engaging with their creative magic by beading, coloring, and drawing ! Way to go Hillside !

The upper grade classes will have the opportunity to learn archery with the help of fellow Siwal Si'wes Liaison Chris Gawthorn come the new year. Siwal Si'wes is the Indigenous department in the Mission school district and is Halq'eméylem for "Our Forefather's Teachings." Halq'eméylem is an Indigenous language in the land we currently refer to as the Fraser Valley.

Each student will have the chance to study the amazing Chilliwack (Cheam) artist Xémontélót. Xémontélót not only has amazing murals at the Cheam Multiplex, Sardis Elementary, Lookout Society Housing, Pleasant Elementary, Commercial building (Vancouver), and many more places but she is also an author ! She illustrated and co-wrote Semá:th Xo:tsa: Great Gramma's Lake with Chris Silver, Kris Foulds, and Laura Schneider. The book is about how Sumas Lake (Semá:th Xo:tsa) was drained for farmland. I'm excited to grow with the students and staff at Hillside and I hope you have a great day !



## Siyamo:lh Sq'ep

Ey Swayel, P'al-Lokwtel tel skwiw. Hello, my name is Jacob and I'm grateful to be running a boys club at a variety of elementary schools throughout Mission. I have named the boys club "Siyamo:lh Sq'ep" which means Young-Leader Gathering. Through this group our young men will have opportunity to



grow into strong leaders backed by the virtues and philosophies of our Stó:lō people. Our young men will learn practical life skills such as emotional regulation through communication and mindful meditation, learning to care for plants to grow your own food through gardening and studying relationships between plants in nature, and staying fit through training with the help of my prior career as a professional football player in the CFL. Currently Siyamo:lh Sq'ep is at Mission Central, Christine Morrison, Windebank, and Stave Falls Elementary.

## To:lmels ye Kilaksten/ Knowledge of Peggy Janicki

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

Éy Swayel Everyone!

I have been busy not fishing, learning, co-teaching, creating, co-planning/organizing, and sharing!

Summer was but a distant memory! Sadly, there were no sockeye salmon fishing this year, so our family is super devastated by such an event. So, that means we are slhits'es poor! I have been busy with BCTF in my new position on the Executive and attended BCTF Summer Conference online.

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

-I was invited to Teach at Mission Central Elementary's Pro-D for Sept 25 Pro-D. It is a lesson found on BCTF's website.

- This is my first year not being a BCTF

Facilitator. So, I was over-the-moon happy about attending the Teacher-Librarian PSA Pro-D.

BCTF +/- or MTU

-I have had so many meetings that I feel like my eyes may fall out afterwards. There are various meetings: BCTF Executive, MTU Executive, BCTF Zones, BCTF Rep Assembly, Adult Education Advisory, and Special Task Force.

Projects in progress are the new “Salish Weave” art project and BCTF's (along with Chilliwack Teachers Union “Teacher Inquiry Project”, Chilliwack Museum, and Stó:lō Nation) Project of Heart (POH) Canoe.

The “Salish Weave” project is an art-based project. So far we, Vivian Searwar, Jenn Lane, & Rebekah Stenner, are brainstorming schedules, resources, and ideas. So please stay tuned as the year progresses.

The POH Canoe is an actual canoe! Rick Joe, my husband, and I were able to pick it up from Comox Valley School District over the summer. We asked Uncle Steven, previous Lieutenant Governor Steven Point, to brush the canoe to “clean” it and prepare it for its next part of its journey. I, along with the help of Sheri Montgomery and Jenn Lane, are learning how to use SD75's new 360 camera! For me, it has been a looong learning journey and reminds me to keep a “Good Heart, and Good Mind”. The hope is to create online resources and images for Teachers to use.

Since last year I have continued to build my “Indigenous Mentor Teacher” WEBSITE! It is where I live, really. All the things I come across and all the things I learn I put onto this website.

I have added a TEAMS page “Peggy Janicki's OFFICE time”. Please feel free to add ask questions or meet with me via TEAMS from here.

There is more news, but so small a space! Stay SAFE !

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.*



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

Welcome back to all the students and staff at Ecole Mission Elementary School! As we adjust to our new normal, the students are excited to be back learning with their friends. Our school honoured Orange Shirt Day by participating in a virtual assembly and decorating Sabe footprints while learning about one of the seven teachings, Honesty/The'itqel.



Our school is also participating in the Terry Fox Run, which has been organized a little differently this year to respect social distancing guidelines. The students are participating by running laps around the school and each lap is being counted towards a final total to complete the run.

We spent time to pay our respects for Remembrance Day through a virtual assembly. Many of the students participated by creating and decorating Poppies which were placed for display in the hallway.



Some of the Kindergarten students have been busy working on Button Blankets.



**Wishing everyone a safe and happy fall. Please take care, wash your hands, wear your mask and practice social distancing.**



**Mission Senior Secondary—Jennifer Sherif & Jasmin Wells—Indigenous Liaison Workers & Don Cosens—Indigenous Student Success Coach**

**Jasmin Wells**

Ey swayel!

Many of you may remember me, as I have previously worked at both Heritage and Hatzic Middle. At the beginning of November, I started working at MSS and it has been wonderful to connect with many students I haven't seen in a while!

I am located in room 113 if anyone needs to connect, a quiet space, or something to eat!

**Ts'ah ts'ah, Jennifer Sherif, Tsalagi**

Osiyo!

I am happy to be one of the new Indigenous Liaison Workers at MSS this year. This is my third year with the Mission School District/Siwal Si'wes, having worked at two elementary schools previously to moving to the high school.

It has been a very busy fall, getting to know the wonderful students here and planning for the year.

The Indigenous education team here has been planning an exciting art project with local artist Peter Gong. If your child has an artistic flair, is eager to explore their creative abilities, is interested in learning more about Indigenous art (in particular, form line drawing) and would like to work on a legacy piece for the school, please have him/her/them speak to one of us. Participation will be limited to twenty.

Beading is being offered during the lunch hour in room 120B. Students are welcome to drop in and learn more about different forms of beading. Right now, students are learning how to create beaded pendants using cabochons, and they are picking it up fast! We will be working on Christmas ornaments starting soon. All are welcome.

Homework Club is offered after schools on days students are attending for their alpha. Help is available across subject areas from 3:15 – 4:15 pm.



**Riverside College—Robby Williams—Indigenous Liaison Worker**

Riverside Newsletter

Welcome back everyone to a new year and new adventures to be had. I want to start by introducing myself as I am new at Riverside this year. My name is Robby Williams and I am moving over from Mission Secondary this year to working Tuesdays and Wednesdays at Riverside. I am excited for this new opportunity and all the fun things we will get to experience here at Riverside this year.

So far this year has been a whirlwind of activities as we trek forward into our new world of Covid 19 and living within a pandemic. Here at Riverside our students have had the opportunity to start their Trade programs and receive face to face instruction.

Some of the events that our students have been able to participate in this year at the school, have been events such as an all candidate forum that the school hosted virtually, where students came up with questions for the local provincial candidates. Another event they have been able to take part of is our Remembrance Day virtual assembly where they were able to remember all that was done for them in times of war, so that they may live free here in Canada.

Going forward we are looking forward to our students going out on work experiences as well as ramping up for Christmas and other festive activities to come.

Sincerely,

Robby Williams



**Please Mark Your Calendars:**

Winter Break—December 19, 2020—January 4, 2021  
Christmas—December 25, 2020  
Boxing Day—December 26, 2020  
New Years Day—January 1, 2021  
School Opens—January 5, 2021



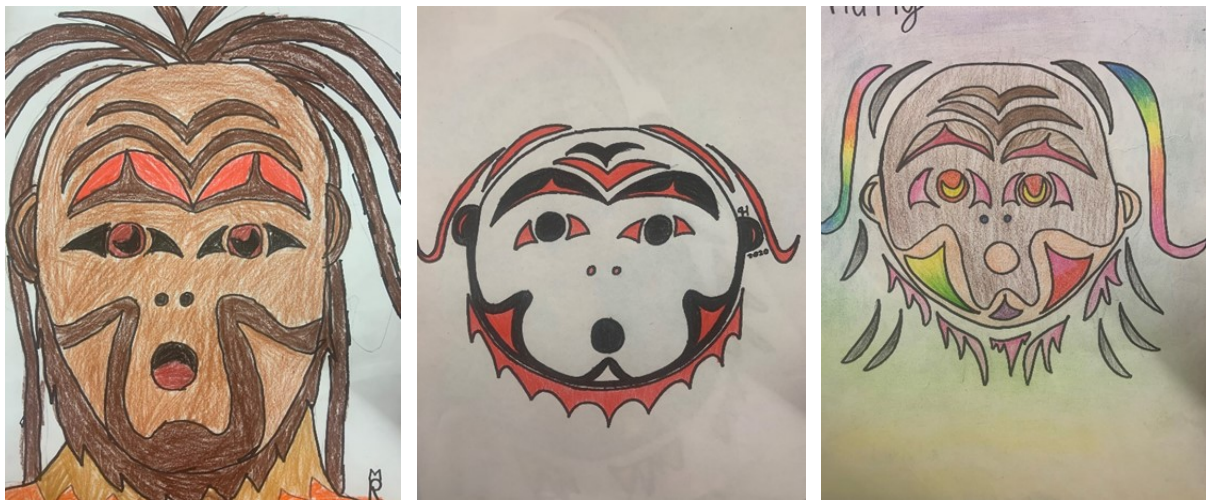
Silverdale—Marla Mulholland—Indigenous Liaison Worker

At Silverdale, we plan on creating an outdoor learning area with an Indigenous focus on the medicine wheel as part of our Equity and Enhancement Grant. This will create more opportunities for outdoor learning on the land with more connections to the environment and an area for elders to come and teach.

In September, we taught students about Orange Shirt Day. We read books about Phyliss' Story, as well as Stolen Words, and Not My Girl. These books were followed with activities that help students understand the impact of Residential Schools. One of the activities we did compared different characters in the book and how each character felt, what they thought, and the actions they took. This creates compassion and allows students to view situations from the lens of another.

We also had the opportunity to invite special guest presenter Ovila Mailhot who did a session with Ms. McGowan and Ms. Schellau's class over Zoom. The students really enjoyed this intimate learning session with a very knowledgeable and talented Indigenous artist. Students were amazing! Thank you to Mr. Clark for your assistance with this project.

Lastly, teachers and students at Silverdale welcomed me into classes to talk about Indigenous Veterans Day (November 8th ). Here at Silverdale we want students to know that Indigenous people contributed to the war and we appreciate all that they did!



Directed Drawings with Artist, Ovila Mailhot

Sa:sq'ets



By Division 2

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

For the Stave Falls Equity and Enhancement Grant we are focusing on learning with Elders from Kwantlen First Nations. They are working with the school to incorporate First Nations learning with the projects related to the four cedar logs donated to the school by Mission District of Forestry. Future plans for this project include creating shirts with the dye made from the bark of the cedar with a school logo of a tree, as envisioned by Hazel Gludo, Kwantlen Elder and Plant Knowledge Keeper. We will also be organizing a live pull for the students so that they may experience a live pull straight from a live cedar tree with Kwantlen Elders.

In September I was invited into teacher's classes for Orange Shirt Day where I read the stories *Not My Girl* and *Grandpa's Girls*. We also had Darren Charlie come to the school to share his teachings and bless the seven elk hide drums he made for the school. He taught the students several songs and shared stories about the salmon and the whale in the Fraser River and up to Harrison.



**Summit Learning—Tiffany Bishop 4–12—Indigenous Liaison Worker**

Ey Swayel Everyone, welcome back to another, what will prove to be a, memorable school year. At Summit, our Silverdale campus, and its many learners and staff have found their groove and are moving forward with positive attitudes, kindness and patience. One of the walls in our Summit classroom has a poster titled “Which animal do you connect with today?” from the book, *The Six Cedar Trees*. Whenever I have a student come in, we read the poster together and ask ourselves the question, “Which animal do I connect with today?” It is our way of knowing how we are going to learn that day.

At our MSS campus location, we have chosen to beautify our space by bringing in an art piece by the ever so talented Peter Gong.



Peter Gong, the artist, is a member of the Squamish Nation and a direct descendant of the Whonnock People who have lived on the Stave and Fraser River for many years. Peter grew up on Whonnock Reserve #1 on the Fraser River and was introduced to West Coast native art as a teenager by Uncle Jack Miranda. Peter has been creating art full time since 2011 out of his studio in Mission, BC

*“With salmon, being a keystone species and the main food source for the First Nations people here in BC the cultural practice of catching and preserving for the winter months was a main activity of my ancestors. The rich resources available to the First Nations people on the West Coast al-*

*lowed for much leisure time in the winter months. This free time allowed for the strong cultural practice such as the development of one of the highest forms of art by humankind. This was a direct result of having an abundance of salmon as a food source.” Peter Gong*

**Camielle Laslo—Halq'eméylem Teacher**

Ey swayel mekw' wat (Good day everyone),

It's great to be back teaching Halq'eméylem this year. My schedule looks a bit different than last year and I am teaching at Hatzic Middle School for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2. Then I will be moving over to Ecole Heritage Park Middle School for Quarter 3 and Quarter 4. The students have been great and we have done some topics that include: Kwelech (greetings), Xw'e it te swayel? (Weather), Iwesawtxw (Classroom), Skwayem (Numbers), Tl'exal (Feast), To:tilt (Actions), Smeyeth (Animals) and Silolem (Seasons). Plus, I've taught some local stories and explored some of the sxwoxiyam and sqweltel of our lands. Last quarter the students participated in games such as bingo, memory and then they created a puppet show! Its been a great start to the school year. Eycha te swayel (have a nice day).

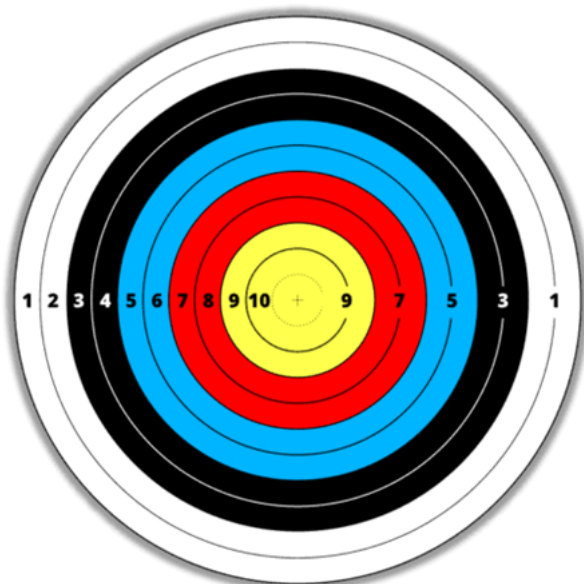
Sts'o:wuselwet  
Camielle Laslo  
Halq'eméylem Teacher

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

This year has started in a different way, but we are embracing the changes and moving forward. I am very happy to see everyone and to support our new ways of being. Sasq’ets – Sabe is our teaching for this year. The teaching of Honesty.

West Heights has been busy with events, Archery for students and staff, the opening of the inclusive playground, talking sticks, orange shirt day.

My window box has had many changes already as we move into the winter season.



## Windebank—Holly Gallant—Indigenous Liaison Worker

Ey Swayel, I can't believe we are already so close to the Winter Break. The time is flying this year.

Thank you to the following teachers for participating in the Sasq'ets teachings and cutouts.

**Mrs. Dyer**  
**Mrs. McStay**  
**Mrs. McConachie**  
**Mr. Manchanda**  
**Ms. Sward / Dr. Clarke**



Thank you to Jacob Firlotte for coming and facilitating the Siyamo':lh Sq'ep, Young Leaders Gathering. What an amazing program for our boys to grow and learn in an Indigenous way. The boys participating will be working on the Peace Garden, doing everything from weeding to planting Indigenous plants.

We have so many projects under way, Indigenous Ornaments for the Seasonal Tree in too many classes to count, the Four Directions Socials Unit, the Four Strand Metis weaving and Salish Weaving Coin Bags .

Salt Dough  
Ornaments



Four Strand Metis  
Weaving and Stó:lō  
Coin Bag



Windebank Warriors, what does being a Warrior mean in Indigenous Culture? Above all, a Peacekeeper. The warrior, for us, is one who sacrifices himself for the good of others. His task is to take care of the elderly, the defenseless, those who cannot provide for themselves, and above all, the children - the future of humanity. Sitting Bull, Hunkpapa Lakota Sioux

I hope this upcoming Winter Break finds that you are all happy and healthy and the New Year is better for us all.

Mitakuye Oyasin, Holly Gallant

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### NEED TO REACH US?

**Please call:**  
**Phone: 604-826-3103**  
**Fax: 604-820-2850**  
**Email: [marcy.buell@mpsd.ca](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue at 11:30am.**

**Contact & RSVP: Marcy Buell at [marcy.buell@mpsd.ca](mailto:marcy.buell@mpsd.ca)  
604 826 3103**