



The 2018 Aboriginal Nations Grad Recognition Ceremony & Banquet took place on June 7, 2018 at the Songhees Wellness Centre. Graduates were recognized for their achievements and ten district scholarships totaling \$10,450 were awarded to the following:

Dr. Rose Lenser, First Nations into Science Scholarship – Portia Vandermerwe, Spectrum Community School

Hemasaka Aboriginal Nations Scholarship – Talia George, Spectrum Community School

Violet's Pride Scholarship – Wilfredo Harris, Esquimalt High School

Judy Bourne Memorial Scholarship – Katherine Strom Trudel, Victoria High School & Benjamin Mulchinock, Lambrick Park Secondary

Freda Shaughnessy Sports/Academic Scholarship - Judy Cristante, Oak Bay High School

Cold Comfort Culinary Arts & Trades Scholarship - Jessica Chamberlayne, Esquimalt High School & Meghan Hold, Esquimalt High School

Lifting Each Other Up Culinary Arts & Trades Scholarship - Julia Fitzgerald, Spectrum Community School

Robert Warren Trades Scholarship - Nicholas Stephens, Spectrum Community School

Also awarded were 4 Grade 8 Raven Achievement Awards & 4 Grade 10 Salmon Achievement Awards

Congratulations to all the winners!



We wish to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt & Songhees Nations on whose traditional territories we live, we learn, and we do our work.

Craig Schellenberg, District Principal

It is always heartening for me to look through this newsletter to see a sampling of some of the great work being done in our schools to promote a sense of belonging & identity for Indigenous students, and to support increased understanding and appreciation of Indigenous knowledge and perspectives among non-Indigenous students and staff. The commitment to this work by our ANED staff and many others across the District is so valuable and is greatly appreciated. This month in particular we want to hold up and acknowledge Brenda Andrews, for dedicating the last 29 years of her career to the well-being and success of the young students in her care. Thank you Brenda and best wishes for the next part of your journey!

Education is a dynamic enterprise and no less so in the Aboriginal Nations Education Department. We are collaborating with Esquimalt High School to implement a Graduation Coach program. We are collaborating with the District Learning Team and local knowledge-keepers and Elders to offer six full days of professional learning sessions for grades 6-12 Science teachers, building understanding of Indigenous science and ways of teaching. We are collaborating with many schools to establish "Indigenous Gardens" and the teachings and language that accompany these. We are collaborating with local Nations and VNFC to create access to Elders-in-schools. We continue to collaborate with our valued partners at Hulitan and Surrounded by Cedar. Hulitan will be supporting professional learning for SD61 counsellors, supporting increased understanding of Indigenous family experience and ways of support. Surrounded by Cedar provided a beautiful "lunch and learn" session for principals. The list can go on and on... but the "collaboration" theme is strong as more and more educators step forward to ensure the well-being and success of Indigenous students across the District.

ANED STAFF AND THE SCHOOLS THEY SERVE:

Central Middle School:

Ray Forsberg, Academic Support Teacher
Joanne Mitchell, ANED District Counsellor

Cloverdale Traditional School:

Ken Kissinger, Education Assistant

Craigflower Elementary School:

Kimberly Kosciak, Kindergarten Teacher
Renee Diemert Rivera, Academic Support Teacher
Krystal Cook, Kindergarten Educational Asst.
Fabian Quocksister, Educational Assistant
Paul Thomas, ANED District Counsellor

Colquitz Middle School:

Paul Thomas, ANED District Counsellor

Esquimalt High School:

Rachel Trebilco, Teacher, Grad Coach Program
Danielle Payne, Academic Support Teacher
Brian Williams, Education Assistant
John Harris, Education Assistant

George Jay Elementary School:

Nicole Williams, Academic Support Teacher
Samantha Shaughnessy, Education Assistant
Leila Durzi, Family Advocate/ANED
Mitchel du Plessis, ANED Counsellor

Lansdowne Middle School:

Shawna Breikreutz, YFC/ANED

Macaulay Elementary School:

Rolando Araujo-Johnson, Education Assistant

Mt. Douglas Secondary School:

Paul Thomas, ANED District Counsellor

Quadra Elementary School:

Pam Bourque, Education Assistant
Pam Russ, ANED District Counsellor

Reynolds Secondary School:

Gary Crocker, Academic/Support Teacher
Pam Russ, ANED District Counsellor
Taily Wills, Education Assistant

Rockheights Middle School:

Nicole Williams, Academic Support Teacher
Mark Albany, ANED District Counsellor

Shoreline Middle School:

Pam Russ, ANED District Counsellor
Brenda Pohl, Academic/Literacy Support Tchr.

S.J. Willis Education Centre, Alternative Education

Denie Leger, Education Assistant

Spectrum Community School:

Emma Milliken, Academic Support Teacher
Paul Thomas, ANED District Counsellor

Tillicum Elementary School:

Gloria Cardinal, Educational Assistant

Victoria West Elementary School:

Donna Sinclair, Educational Assistant
Mark Albany, ANED District Counsellor

View Royal Elementary School:

Gloria Cardinal, Educational Assistant

Victoria High School:

Frank Conibear, Academic/Support Teacher
Joanne Mitchell, ANED District Counsellor

Community Support Services:

Butch Dick	Songhees Education Liaison
Kristely Kelly	Songhees Student Facilitator [Shoreline/Craigflower]
Charlotte Charlie	Songhees Student Facilitator [Esquimalt]
Trisha Chestnutt	Esquimalt Education Liaison
Beth Aubrey	Youth Support Worker (VNFC)

ANED Team - Board Office: Tel: 250-475-4124

Craig Schellenberg, District Principal
Sarah Rhude, District Aboriginal Art & Culture
Facilitator
Paola Bell, Administrative Assistant



ANED Staff



On behalf of ANED we would like to raise our hands and acknowledge Brenda Andrews (Aboriginal Education Assistant at Macaulay Elementary) for the 29 years that she has shared her heart and soul working with our students. She will be greatly missed by ANED staff, community and students. We wish her well in her retirement and honour her time and dedication.

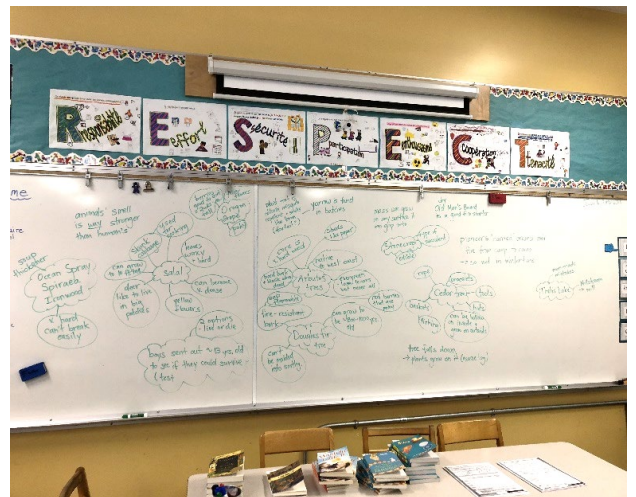


School News/Activities

École Doncaster Elementary



Aboriginal Environmental Fieldtrip with Mark Albany



Student notes a week later on what they remembered about the fieldtrip.

Submitted by: Rebecca Lampard, Grade 5 FI Teacher

École George Jay Elementary



Elder Aldeen Mason talks to a kindergarten class on Orange Shirt Day about her experiences at the Fort Alexander Residential School in Manitoba.



Grade 2 student Michael Tom plays a traditional drum song for his classmates.

École George Jay Elementary (cont'd)



George Jay recognizes Orange Shirt Day

Submitted by: Samantha Mason, Education Assistant

McKenzie Elementary

In early January 2018, the staff at McKenzie Elementary decided that we wanted to begin a new tradition to honour and recognize Indigenous Day in June. We formed a committee headed by our grade 1 teacher Trena Sutton and invited parents to help us plan for the event. In preparation for the event our music teacher Arlene Salido worked with Louise Milburn to learn two drumming songs which we were able to teach all of our students. The event was a success and we were honoured to have traditional dancers perform a ladies dance from the Kwakwaka'wakw Nation, have a selection of students share the drumming songs and feast on bannock made by elders from the T'Sou-ke Nation. We are looking forward to building this event to be bigger and bigger each year.



Students in Mr. Galton's Division 1, Grade 4 & 5 have been learning about Indigenous animal traits. Educational Assistant Paula Currie was instrumental in doing the rough cuts of the paddles before students sanded the paddles and drew the animals and then painted them using the traditional colours. These paddles were designed by students to reflect their own traits that are in common with the traits of the animals.

Submitted by: Joanna Snow, Principal

Oaklands Elementary

Orange Shirt Day School Assembly September 28, 2018



Grade 5 class drumming



The Ahousaht Dancers

Oaklands Elementary (cont'd)

Oaklands School Totem/Legacy Project:
Witnesses: Teachers, EAs and Parents



Artist/Carver Carey Newman

Submitted by: Amei Mai, Vice-Principal

South Park Family School

South Park Family School students had a wonderful time with Leslie McGarry at the Royal BC Museum Eagle Program. Her family's long connection with the museum really resonated with the students and made the collections really come alive. We feel so grateful for the opportunity.



Submitted by: Susanna Solecki

Tillicum Elementary



My Kindergarten class really enjoyed our Indigenous art unit! This photo shows the children during an art gallery walk, looking at and enjoying the Indigenous prints from the art box that can be borrowed from the Aboriginal Education Resource Centre. The children looked for shapes they had learned about and for animals, and then they told one another stories about the pictures.

Submitted by: Carol Mowat



Recognizing Remembrance Day

Submitted by: Gloria Cardinal, Education Assistant

View Royal Elementary



Halloween Bats
Rainbow Knott, Grade 2

Submitted by: Gloria Cardinal, Education Assistant

École Intermédiaire Shoreline Community Middle School

Students from Shoreline paddle to Fort Rod Hill to help prep for the Coast Salish pit cook demonstration put on by Parks Canada Oct. 13, 2018





Orange Shirt Day Salmon BBQ

On September 28th, we hosted a whole-school salmon BBQ where several of our Indigenous and non-Indigenous students and staff worked together to prepare a feast. We had heaps of students prepping and making fried bread, we had our culinary students prepping salads and potatoes as well as a baking the giant Orange Shirt Day cake, we had John Harris preparing salmon in a pit cook, and our foods classes making fish head soup. All of these efforts took place in the morning of the day so that come lunch time the remainder of the school could share in the feast with our school community. Danica Paul started the gathering off by giving an overview of what Orange Shirt Day is over the intercom, and students and staff came together outside to eat while either witnessing or participating in the drum circle. It is because our students and staff all came together as a team that the event ran smoothly (despite a few worries in the morning we would not be ready in time). We look forward to building on this event next year and continuing our work towards reconciliation.

Indigenous Plant Garden

As part of the Harvest for Knowledge garden program, our school has been able to plant the beginnings of its first Indigenous Plant garden under the guidance and knowledge of Sarah Rhude, Aaren Topley, and their wider team of experts and knowledge keepers from both Esquimalt and Songhees Nation, and the Saanich Native Plants nursery. Last year, and the year before, our Land-based classes started the process of learning about gardening and how to implement a garden. In October, the time finally came for our students from the Land-based class, the Biology class, the Woodworking class, and other student and staff volunteers at the school to break ground. We were able to prep the remaining of the garden area in addition to successfully planting our camas meadow. This giant endeavour took the whole afternoon with all hands on deck to complete phase one of this project. We are eagerly waiting for spring so that we can continue on to the next phase of our project. Stay tuned!

Esquimalt High School (cont'd)



Grad Mentor Program

This year our ANED department is piloting a Grad Mentor program in collaboration with the district. Specifically, the position is tracking and working closely with all our Indigenous grade 12 students to help them overcome barriers, make goals for succeeding in their academics, and helping them reach other personal goals. In addition to working closely with the students, the program creates an opportunity for all ANED grads at the school to gather for lunches and create a stronger sense of community in the cohort. Post-secondary liaisons and other community connections are invited into the school to connect with students to help them identify future paths and to answer any questions about life in post-secondary. In addition to the support of the Grad Mentor, Indigenous peer tutors regular work with students on their course work to help them complete their personal goals.

Culture Club

Our Culture club meets every Thursday at lunchtime. Both Indigenous and non-Indigenous staff and students gather to drum, occasionally bead, and eat lunch together. Recently, Sarah Rhude came into the classroom to help us wake some drums that were made on our camping trip last year. As we continue to gather, sing songs, and eat our lunches together, students build on their own confidence to lead songs or take solos. Witnessing the growth of our students is the most exhilarating feeling! We have many strong, up and coming leaders!



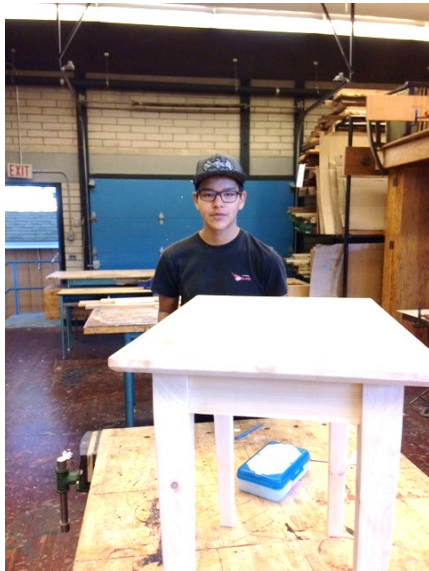
Submitted by: Rachel Trebilco, Aboriginal Support Teacher/Counsellor, Grad Mentor

École Secondaire Reynolds High School



Rise Up

Art by student Dexter Rowe, Grade 9



Joseph Brown

Submitted by: Pam Russ, Aboriginal Counsellor



S.J. Willis Education Centre

Students at SJ Willis Alternative have truly enjoyed their experience making drums with the expert guidance of Sarah Rhude. Sarah has shared so many wonderful cultural stories which has encouraged students to share their own histories. Some students had experience with drum making and others enjoyed it for the first time. The activity, which was spread out over 6 weeks, encouraged group participation and teamwork. Students were incredibly proud of the designs they painted on the drums. One student commented that this was "one of the coolest things he had ever done at school".

Submitted by: Tamara Jones & Sarah Thornber

Landbased Learning Gardens! Gardens! Gardens!

Spectrum Community School Camas Meadow



Colquitz Middle School

May 28, 2018

Indigenous Garden Blessing

"I just wanted to pass along a thank you for the garden blessing ceremony today. I'm grateful that I could be a witness to this beautiful event. If you could pass along my gratitude to the elders it would be appreciated. I could have listened to Elder Maryann all day - she oozes warmth and light - a perfect fit for a garden blessing to be sure."



École Secondaire Victoria High School
Medicine Garden



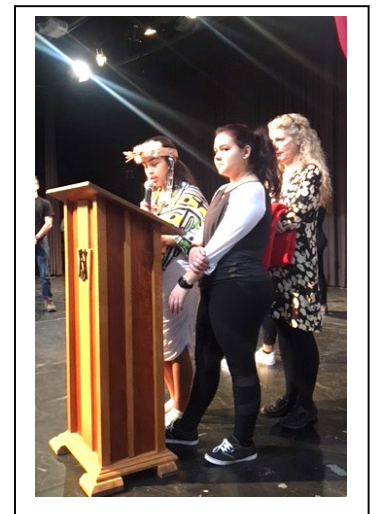
Harvesting with students from Frank Conibear's First People's English class



2018 Grade 10 Salmon Achievement Award winners.



Orange Shirt Day Truth and Reconciliation Assembly



ANED Staff In Action

September 17th 201 ProD Day - Reynolds Staff on a *Walk Around Victoria Tour* with Aboriginal Counsellor, Mark Albany



Teacher Comments:

"Mark was an excellent guide, who skillfully engaged and led our group of teachers through an informative and thought provoking downtown tour."

"This walk challenged us to think critically about the sites we normally casually walk by without a second thought."

"Contrary to most 'tours' Mark didn't lay it all out on the table and wait for us to 'oo' and 'ah,' he allowed us to draw on our previous knowledge, and connect it to what he had to show us."

Submitted by: Shannon Dhillon
Social Studies, Psychology, and Criminology Teacher

Place-Based Learning: First People's Downtown Victoria Tour with Mark Albany

I have always appreciated Mark Albany's authentic, articulate and enthusiastic manner while sharing his depth and breadth of knowledge about First Nations culture and history. The downtown tour of Victoria with a focus and context of Reconciliation, was exceedingly educational, eye-opening and emotionally challenging. I now have a much broader and richer understanding of the history of downtown Victoria from a truly multicultural, including First Nations, perspective.

Thank you, Mark.
Heather Benson

Mark is a charismatic guide who makes learning exciting. What I love most is his refusal to tell us everything. If we have questions, we are responsible for figuring it out. Our focus was on seeing things we don't

usually see and this really called us to place ourselves into the history of our landscape. We are surrounded by evidence of colonial violence and there is no time to turn a blind eye. Looking around at my colleagues, I can see we all want to help make change happen.

In gratitude, Julianne Cameron



ANED Staff who presented at the Building Relationships: Moving Forward Together October 19, 2018 District ProD Sessions

Schoolyard Gardens Series – Skills & Stories to Grow Your Garden (Gr. 6-12)
Presented by **Sarah Rhude** Aboriginal Arts & Culture Facilitator

Victoria Through a Songhees Lens (K-12)
Presented by **Mark Albany**, Aboriginal Counsellor

Trust & Relationship: Sharing the Work of Aboriginal Student Success (Gr. 6-12)
Presented by **John Harris**, Aboriginal Education Assistant Esquimalt High School

Upcoming Events

GVTA TAPESTRY CONFERENCE

February 15, 2019

For more information go to:

<http://tapestryconference.weebly.com/>

VANCOUVER ISLAND PARENT CONFERENCE

Saturday, March 2, 2019

For more information please visit: www.vipc.ca

GATHERING OUR VOICES 2019 ABORIGINAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

March 19-22, 2019 Port Alberni, B.C.

<http://www.gatheringourvoices.ca/>

Community Connections

We would like to thank and acknowledge Robert Sault, who is Mohawk from the Six Nations of the Grand River, for making drum sticks for use in our schools!



“My drumsticks are taken in a good way from the beaches, they are not dowel sticks. They all have character and if they could speak, a story as well. I wanted to tell you this as they are all so unique in their looks, just as we are. They are lightly sanded and lightly oiled as well to seal in all the prayers. I go to the beach, lay tobacco down and say prayers to the spirits of the water and the wood. I pray as I am making them and smudge all sticks when I have completed the work. Thank you for the opportunity to create the drumsticks for you.” Robert Sault

Journeys of the Heart: Hulitan Family & Community Services

The Journeys of the Heart Program is now accepting new participants for the 2017/2018 school year at both Ruth King & Shoreline Middle Schools. As an Aboriginal Organization, we believe that it takes a whole community to raise a child. The Journeys of the Heart program helps families to build and strengthen their child's foundation for learning. Staff will work with the child and their caregiver to determine their child's individual learning styles to help make learning fun. We believe that a child's identity is very important to their self-esteem and children who have a firm sense of identity do better in school. Cultural identity is a key part of the Journeys of the Heart curriculum.

Let's work together and celebrate our Indigenous heritage while building our children's self-esteem and knowledge base so that they may enjoy their lifelong learning experiences. The program is free and siblings are welcome. We are ready, we just need you. To find out more about our program or to register please contact: **Sarah McDonald 250-384-9466 ext. 251**



Unity Drummers and Singers

Sing to Live to Sing

Everyone is invited to attend. For announcements, go to their Facebook page under **Unity Drummers**

Victoria Native Friendship Centre



231 Regina Avenue
Victoria, BC, V8Z 1J6
Telephone: (250) 384-3211
Website: www.vnfc.ca

Little Paws Preschool

We are always taking applications for our program. Applications and parent manuals are available at www.vnfc.ca or visit our main reception at 231 Regina Avenue, or call Rebecca Mabee with any questions and/or to tour the preschool. Little Paws Children programs recognize that children are gifts from the Creator and these youngsters will be our future leaders. Little Paws provides a culturally appropriate space for children of all Nations to grow and identify with their Aboriginal roots. Our centre offers a 'hands on' approach to learning and the program is designed to enhance children's creativity, interdependence, independence and to expand self-expression. Little Paws teachers encourage children to think for themselves, make decisions and work towards positive outcomes. The staff acknowledge that each child is unique and works with the child's own patterns of social, emotional, spiritual and physical development, giving them the opportunity for success in the academic world.

**Contact Rebecca Mabee
at (250) 384-3211 ext. 2225**

Hours of Operation:

Early Morning Care: 7:30am-8:30am
After School Care: 2:45pm-5:30pm
Pro-D Day Care: 7:30am-5:30pm

Did You Know?

GVSD Aboriginal Student Numbers Sept. 2018:

Students identifying with Aboriginal Ancestry: **1547**

- Métis: 317 (20%) *(Aboriginal students make up 8% of the student population)*
- Non-status: 429 (28%)
- Status Off-reserve: 649 (42%)
- Status On-reserve: 165 (11%)
- Inuit: 17 (1%)

Don't forget to visit us on the Aboriginal Nations Education website where you can find community events, parent information, library hot picks, teacher/curriculum and library resources, graduation/scholarship information and much, much more!

<https://aned.sd61.bc.ca>

The 2019 Aboriginal Nations Grad Recognition Ceremony & Banquet...



is scheduled to take place on Thursday, May 30, 2019 at the Songhees Wellness Centre. For more information about the event and scholarship applications, go to our website: <https://aned.sd61.bc.ca/graduation.aspx>



Aboriginal Grad Class of 2018

